

THE UNCHANGING WORD

May - June 2018

Issue 7



The Bible for Everyone in Fiji

Maumi New Testament

God's Word into Dialects



The Maumi New Testament Project began in 2012 with the translation and launching of the book of James. It continued down the years with the completion of different books and a few more portion launched. Reviewed work for all the books were done by the review team for two years up to the end of 2017. Consultant and stylist checks too were carried out early this year.

Proof reading was scheduled to take place on April 19th-20th and on this date, fourteen men and women from the Maumi community came together for two days and proof read all the books of the New Testament.

It was a joyous moment to see and be part of what appears to be an uncertain and long journey from the beginning is now certain and destination within reached. When talking to several men and women who were there at the end of the two days of proof reading; when asked about how they felt about seeing and reading the full New Testament in their own language, they were all saying, "what a great day it is to be alive and see, touch and read the Word of God in our own language and also see our dialect written and preserved in the Word of God." To God be the glory and many thanks to Bible Society of the South Pacific, the Maumi community and international donors and supporters for the great partnership in the Maumi New Testament Project.



Testament

This New Testament is due to be launched this year or early next year.

Ba Translation Project



On the 19th of March 2018, the four member review team of the Ba Translation project got together again to begin reviewing the draft translation of the Gospel of Luke. This same team had worked on the Gospel of Mathew in 2017 completing the draft review, which is currently under consultant checking now and is earmarked for printing in the last quarter of this year 2018. They worked for three days (19-21st March) and finished Luke chapters 1-8. The overall plan is to review the whole book of Luke in a 3 x 3 days sitting, reviewing eight chapters per 3 days of sitting. The review work took place in the Liberty Baptist Church in Ba.

The Reviewers team are:

- 1. Meli Naivalu of Nailaga villlage
- 2. Eparama Navuru of Natalacake village
- 3. Mosese Soro of Sorokoba village
- 4. Marika Waqanivalu Project coordinator of Bible Society, Fiji Mission



FIJI'S OWN 2018 COMMONWEALTH WEIGHT LIFTING MEDALISTS

Golden Girl Eileen Cikamatana visited Bible Society of the South Pacific Office in Luke Street, Suva, Fiji.

Fiji's only Gold Medalist at the recent Commonwealth Games in Australia has been on a role, smashing record after record. This robust girl, has a love and passion for Weighlifting and is the Fiji Weighlifting Associations most decorated weightlifter.

At the tender age of 18 she has won several prestigous titles on the World Stage. This girl is a warrior, so in engaging her, we wanted to show the world that sports players are men, women, boys & girls that often have to dig deep into their core and rely on this super source for their strenght.

Physical, mental and emotional strength are often the key recipe, however, having that extra element of Spiritual strength gives sports people so much more capacity to push beyond their expecations and rise above the limits. Eileen is the

epitome of this.

Here's what she had to say:

BSSP Fiji Mission: What is your favorite Bible Verse?

Eileen: Luke 1: 37 ... "For with God nothing is impossible"

BSSP Fiji Misison: Why have you chosen this verse as your favorite Bible Verse?

Eileen: You can do anything if you believe in yourself, and with God leading & guiding your way, then in Him, anything is possible.

While talking to her sister Roselyn, who was the one connecting us to Eilieen, I asked if she had her own bible, she actually had her sisters Bible. To that, we decided that she should get her own Bible. So on the 20th of April she came to visit us and boost our morale with her presence (& GOLD MEDAL). She was very happy to get her very own Bible and offered that we wear her Gold meal, to which we were glad to wear.

Unknown to us, she had asked Apolonia Vaivai, Fiji's Bronze Medalist at the Commonwealth Games to accompany her, so as a token of appreciation for raising our flag and winning medals at the Commonwealth games, we gave them a Bible each.

We wish Eileen and Apolonia all the best in their future endeavours.





Top Left: Eileen Cikamatana and Apolonia Vaivai (above)receiving their Bibles from the BSSP Fiji Mission Manager Mere Fonmoa.

REGIONAL - VANUATU

Nguna Community looking forward to their Revised Bible (new features added)

N E B F S

More than twenty Ngunese speaking locals converged at Nguna Island in North Efate, Vanuatu in mid-March to do the proofreading of the scanned Nguna Bible text in preparation for the revision work. The workshop was held at Taloa Presbyterian Church, the base of the early Presbyterian missionaries from

Scotland who had first translated the Bible. This is one of the Bible Society projects in Vanuatu that UBS Global Translation Advisor Dr Ma'afu Palu supervises. The participants had come from Taloa, Unakap, Meresauwia, Malaliu,

Rongorongo, Siviry and Udapua villages. The Nguna community is looking forward to the completion of this revised Bible project which

will have new added features such as book introductions, section headings, illustrations and cross references. About 75% of the whole Bible was completed at the end of the 4-day workshop and the remaining work was supervised by Elder Kalmaira who is also the Presbytery Clerk and the main translator of this project.



Proofreading Workshop participants at the Taloa Presbyterian Church

UBS Focuses on Vanuatu for More Language Projects



At the beginning of March, the United Bible Societies have requested for information regarding the translation needs in Vanuatu. The challenge to date is to actively work towards meeting these needs by 2038. Hence a meeting was set up to discuss the way forward in Port Vila on 22nd March which was attended by the members of the Vanuatu Council of Churches, SIL Translation Agency Director and the Bible Society Board and Management. Dr Ma'afu Palu presented the UBS Translation Roadmap at this crucial meeting, which is acclaimed by UBS to be "a bold and ambitious plan to significantly reduce Bible poverty over the next 20 years by giving hundreds of millions of people access to God's Word in their chosen language." Due to diversity of the languages in Vanuatu, the translation needs are so great in this island nation with only about a quarter million inhabitants.

L-R: Vanuatu Council of Churches Gen Secretary Pastor Shem Tema, Dr Ma'afu Palu (UBS) and Mr Greg (SIL Director)

Thromback Events:



Fiji Mission Welcomes New Staff

Name: Patiliai Teleni Title: Desktop Publisher

What is your job about?

My job is mostly about the production and creation of document materials. With its special software that can generate layouts to assemble, design, and produce

quality printed materials.

What do you bring to BSSP Fiji Mission?

My Computer Skills and also my general passion for innovation to the Organization.

Favourite Quotes or Scriptures:

Ephesians 4: 2-3

Be always humble, gentle and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another. Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together.

Highlights on Distribution Program



Senior Pastor Laisenia Tagicakibau of Central Pointe Church receiving the Good News Bibles from the BSSP Fiji Mission Manager Mere Fonmoa and Mission Coordinator Charles Cleary for their Sunday School Program.



Ratu Isei Vosadrau (Tui Cawaro) receives the Itaukei Bibles from our BSSP Warehouse Officer Solo Cinavilakeba.

