

# Honiara Comic Translation Workshop Report

SITAG/BTLP Training Centre, Honiara, Solomon Is.: 17-19 November, 2015



A total of 30 translators attended the 3 Days Bible Comic Translation Workshop which was held at the SITAG/BTLP Training Centre in Honiara on 17-19 November, 2015. All these translators from 16 different languages spoken in the Solomon Islands had converged at the same venue two weeks earlier where they attended a Translation Principles Workshop run by SITAG led by Mr James Ashley.

The BSSP organised training workshop was to help the old and young translators (2 people per language) know how to translation the Word of God in the comic format. The topics covered are listed in the program table below (Appendix section). The bible comic to be translated is based on the Story of Elijah, titled: "The Prophet of Fire." The workshop was organised very well by the BSSP Solomon Islands Manager, Mr Ezra Tupiti and funded by the United Bible Societies in partnership with Every Tribe Every Nation (ETEN).

A challenge faced during the workshop was the process of developing two spoken languages to written format for the first time. Interestingly, some of these new languages are spoken by the cult movements (eg. Hoava & Kusaghe languages); hence this comic translation serves at reaching this group of people with the truth from the Bible. James Ashley sat in

some sessions and we discussed ways the Bible Society and SITAG can continue to help develop such new languages' grammar and dictionaries.



At the end of the workshop, we agreed to complete all the drafts translations, have them typed and corrected, then submit them to Ezra at the BSSP Honiara Office by June 30, 2016. The corrected text (or sample Elijah comic in various languages) should be ready for checking by the visiting consultant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of next year. This checking is planned to be carried out in the three major centres of the Solomon Islands provinces where the translators are located.

Overall, it was a also a good opportunity for the Bible Society Solomon Islands Operation Manager, Mr Ezra Tupiti to introduce the work of the Society to many translators who had minimal or no knowledge at all about the Bible Society.

#### Further Bible Advocacy and BSSP Promotion Work

Apart from the comic workshop, Ezra and I did some preaching and promotional talks about the Society on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> and the following Wednesday evening at the Workshop venue. We attended Ezra's Naha Uniting Church on Sunday where he led the service and I preached during the 10.30am service. After the service, we had lunch with former UBS Translation Consultant, Dr Alpheaus Zobule, who was also a member of Ezra's church. The three of us had lunch in a nice Chinese restaurant in town where we talked about how BSSP can work in partnership with Islands Bible Ministry. Later in the afternoon

at 5pm, we talked about the work of the Society at the Kukum Uniting Church and also preached a short message there. Ezra shared the UBS personnel Mr Andre Minaar's recent powerpoint presentation (one Andre presented last month at the recent BSSP Donor's Dinner here in Suva) with the translators during the devotion time on Wednesday evening. Overall, it was a fruitful time of sharing as well as gaining some valuable experience for both of us.



**FINAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I thank God for the opportunity to facilitate this comic workshop in Honiara together with Ezra Tupiti (also a participant himself). I'm grateful as well for the other 'open doors' to minister into the lives of some Honiara community members, in working towards the BSSP vision ("the Pacific to be communities of the Word"). I thank Ezra and his wife, Riby, for taking good care of me throughout the week. I also thank the Solomon Islands Board Chairman, Pastor Mamali for his input at the closing program of the workshop and for spending the rest of the afternoon with us. A big 'Vinaka Vakalevu' also goes out to all who prayed for us and sacrificially gave (donors) towards this important work. The LORD is to be praised!

Apenisa K. Lewatoro  
24/11/15

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## APPENDIX:

### **BIBLE COMIC TRANSLATION WORKSHOP PROGRAM**

Venue: SITAG BTLTP Training Centre, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Date: November 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2015

#### **DAY 1 – TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

- 8.00am - Arrival & Registration
- 8.30am - Welcome & Devotion/Introduction
- 9.00 – 10.00am - SESSION 1 (Introduction to Principles of Translation:)
- 10.00 – 10.30am - Tea Break
- 10.30 – 12.30pm - SESSION 2 (Introduction to Bible comics:
- 12.30 – 2.00pm - Lunch
- 2.00pm – 3.30pm - SESSION 3 (Features of Bible comics: )
- 3.30pm - Afternoon Tea / Break

#### **DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER (same as day 1 above)**

- 9.00 – 10.00am - SESSION 1 (Features of Bible comics, continued)
- 10.30 – 12.30am - SESSION 2 (Principles of translating comics)
- 2.00pm – 3.30pm - SESSION 3 (Principles of translating comics, continued)
- 3.30pm - Afternoon Tea / Break

#### **DAY 3 – THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER (same as day 1 & 2 above)**

- 9.00am - 10.00am - SESSION 1 (SFX – Sound Effects in Bible Comics:)
- 10.30 – 12.30am - SESSION 2 (Issues in the Elijah comic)
- 2.00pm – 3.30pm - Final Discussion of Work Schedule & Checking
- 3.30pm - Group Photo / Closing

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Below is the participants' list, their languages and geographical locations:

### **BSSP Comic Translation Workshop Participants**

**SITAG/BLTP Training Centre, Honiara, 17-19 Nov 2015**

NAME	LANGUAGE	REGION	PROVINCE
1)David Mike	Baelelea	Baelelea	Malaita
2)Jimmy Lufu'ota	"	"	"
3)Brian Sadeana	Bareke	Marovo	Western
4)Roylee Kenleen	"	"	"
5)Jim Holland	Check Holo	Maringe	Ysabel
6)John Nicholson	"	"	"
7)Hifa Elija (F)	Dughore	Kololoangara	Western
8)Jack Piziki	"	"	"

9)Noel Piku	Gela	Gela	Central
10)Harper Kuali	“	“	“
11)George Hiva	Lavukaleve	Lavukaleve	Central
12)Simon Ghata	“	“	“
13)Jimmy	Lengo	N/East Guadalcanal	Central
14)Phillip Marau	Ulawa	Ulawa	Makira
15)Robert Ngaranaho’ota	“	“	“
16)Hami Davi	Vangunu	Marovo	Western
17)Perry Veno	“	“	“
18)Jonah Anama	Bilua	Vella la Vella	Western
19)Richard Jagily	“	“	“
20)Rev. Hillary Bero	Touo	Rendova	Western
21) Timothy Are	“	“	“
22) Jaso Tony	Gao	Gao	Ysabel
23)Ellison Kepsy	“	“	“
24)Hilda Steel (F)	Suta & Pijin	Auki	Malaita
25)Anne (F)	Suta	“	“
26)Zacheus Ruriti	Hoava/Kusaghe	Auki	Malaita
27) Ezra Tupiti	Hoava/Kusaghe	Honiara	Honiara
28)David Tago	Rennell-Bellona	Rennell-Bellona	Rennell-Bellona
29)Tony Taefonu	Kwaio	El Kwaio	Malaita
30)Cathy (F)	“	“	“