



Arnhem Land Communications

Glad to help...

The phone call came into the MAF operations centre in Gove one afternoon. It was Margaret Miller from the Elcho Island Translation centre calling for assistance. An opportunity had been presented by the NRCC (*Northern Regional Christian Congress*) to take a team of translators from Arnhem Land to West Timor on a 'study tour' to celebrate the dedication of a New Testament on the tiny island of Ndao.

Those involved in Bible translation and Scripture-in-use work in both Arnhem Land and West Timor face many common issues so this trip was a great opportunity to share and rejoice with the Dhao people as they celebrated the publication of their Scriptures.



It was no easy feat for the team to get to the Island of Ndao. Transport via planes, trucks and boats were required to get from the mainland of West Timor to the island where the New Testament was dedicated.

Despite the challenges with travel, the warmth of the welcome received and the generous hospitality towards the team of 10 showed how pleased the local people were to have them there.

After an action packed two weeks away the Arnhem Land team returned tired but with reflective and joyful hearts. Djawuṭ was inspired by what he saw and stated, *"I was deeply encouraged to continue with my translation work by the visit to West Timor. When I came home to Galiwinku, I couldn't wait to get back into translating the New Testament into Golumala, my clan language."*

For Yurranydjil it was also encouraging to realise that *"Nothing is impossible with God!" How true! Just before I went to West Timor I was praying to the Lord for more labourers 'in His field' as I was feeling quite overwhelmed by the many requests for ministry. Whilst I was in West Timor, it was as if the Lord gave me his own personal word of encouragement when I witnessed the ordination of 51 new Ministers in Kupang! He is our 'LORD of the Harvest'."*

"This West Timor Study Tour will remain as a time when new relationships were formed, older ones strengthened and a passion fortified for God's Word to become reality in many languages. We are enriched by these relationships across the Timor Sea that have grown out of this experience.", says Margaret Miller.



MAF Arnhem Land has been supporting the work of Bible translators, especially the work of the 'The Elcho Translation Centre' over many years. MAF was able to offer transportation for five members of the team from Galiwinku (Elcho Island), Ramingining and Milingimbi to Darwin. MAF Arnhem Land is glad that it has been able to show support to this special Bible Translation trip. MAF staff regularly pray that the Word of God that is being translated will reach the hearts of many Yolṟu people in the years to come.