

## SUMMARY OF 1968 TRANSLATORS' INSTITUTES

Reports on translators' institutes have appeared from time to time in the pages of this journal. Since there is much repetition in such reporting, we have decided to provide you with an annual summary, which distills the essence from the various reports resulting from the four or five institutes conducted each year. In order to enable you to make plans to attend the translators' institute in your part of the world, we suggest you contact the translations consultant or the Bible Society office nearest you. In 1969 the following courses will be conducted: March–April, India; June, Uganda; July–August, Ivory Coast.

Tentatively, courses are being planned for 1970 in Northern Australia, Polynesia and Melanesia, French-speaking Equatorial Africa, and Eastern Europe.

### **Baguoi Institute, Philippines**

The Baguoi Institute, held May 6–31 at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in Guisad Valley, was most appropriately timed, following as it did the visit to the Philippines of Father Walter Abbott in November 1967, resulting in considerable interest among Roman Catholics for co-operation in Bible translation work. At the five subsequent translators' conferences in Ilocano, Hiligaynon, Cebuano, Tagalog and Bicolano, with Roman Catholic and Protestant participation, translators were selected for the committees which were due to begin their work at the May Institute. The preparatory work at these conferences ensured a high calibre among the participants at the Baguoi Institute and the inclusion of both Roman Catholics and Protestants on all major language committees.

Thirty-four languages were represented among the 93 regular attenders at the Baguoi Institute, including 14 Roman Catholic priests and two laymen (one a member, and the other secretary, of the Ilocano committee). The participants came from the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan and Vietnam. The lecturers included among others Dr Eugene A. Nida, Dr Barclay M. Newman, Jr., the Rev. Brynmor Price, Dr William L. Wonderly, Dr James Moorhead and Dr Daniel Arichea. Dr Robert Longacre, of the Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico, gave several lectures during a brief visit to the Institute.

Daily morning lectures covered Biblical backgrounds with emphasis on NT Theory and Practice of Translation, OT Studies and Bible Translation for Popular Use. Other single lectures dealt with a variety of topics. Afternoons were devoted to seminars on semantics and on the OT while translators received help on their particular problems. In response to several requests, Dr John Thompson gave a much appreciated introduction to Hebrew during the afternoon recreation. Those who took part in this course felt

that they had gained sufficient knowledge to enable them to use a Hebrew lexicon.

In evaluating the different lectures the participants felt that the Biblical background series dealt fairly with the critical issue of interpretation and the differences of opinion between Roman Catholics and Protestants. Dr Nida's presentation of the Theory and Practice of Translation made a forceful impact on all present, and the use of a textbook for supplementary reading and homework was welcomed as an excellent teaching tool.

The broad aspects of the OT were presented in an interesting manner though some of the participants did not feel that the material had a direct bearing on their translation problems. The Bible Translation for Popular Use series was appreciated as a very practical course.

Specific translation problems were discussed at the special seminar for those engaged on OT work and this was felt to be valuable. The NT seminar members wanted more advanced studies and priority given to exegesis.

In a general assessment of the Baguoi Institute it was felt that the time had been well utilized. There was a sense of purpose throughout the Institute and a harmonious working between all the participants.

### **Banz Institute, New Guinea**

The light aircraft of the MAF, SIL and the Lutheran Church transported over three quarters of the participants from the coast to the inland campus of the Christian Leaders' Training College at Banz, WHD, for the Translators' Institute held there from August 22–September 13.

Eighty-four persons from most districts of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea and one translator from the British Solomon Islands were present for the whole or a substantial part of the time, while a number of visitors came for shorter periods. Altogether 32 languages were represented; the translators included five Roman Catholic priests.

The regular teaching staff consisted of Dr R. G. Bratcher, Dr E. A. Nida, Rev. E. Deibler, Jr. (SIL New Guinea), and Mr A. J. Taylor. Others assisted in giving lectures.

The programme of study followed the usual pattern for Bible Translators' Institutes. In terms of new insights gained, the daily series on Theory and Practice of Translation and New Testament studies were given first and second places respectively in the participants' evaluation, while the Word Studies rated high in practical value. The New Testament lectures were appreciated both for the textual and exegetical material and for the Biblical background. People not involved in OT translation work would have preferred the OT series of lectures to be optional; others expressed the wish that these lectures should follow the pattern of the NT series, with word studies, examination of specific passages.

The institute as a whole called forth a large volume of favourable comment. Some of the most significant suggestions were for a longer institute, more assignments, more free time to study and more time in workshops, with optional lectures occupying the evenings. All those who had participated in the previous institute at Lae stressed the value of attending for a second

time. In two languages where Roman Catholics and Protestants shared in the same workshop, joint translation projects will most probably be initiated.

A valuable feature of this institute was the strengthening and establishment of ties between the participants and the Translations Department of the Bible Society of Australia. The contacts made at Banz will have an important bearing on the future course of Bible translation work in Papua and New Guinea.

### **Arnoldshain Seminar, Germany**

The first Translators' Seminar for European languages was held August 7–21, 1968, at the Evangelische Akademie, Arnoldshain, Germany. There were 67 participants: Germany 9, Netherlands 8, Czechoslovakia 7, Norway and Britain 5, Italy 4, France, Greece and Finland 3, Sweden, USA, Hungary, Belgium, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Denmark and Rumania 2 each, Austria and Spain 1 each. In addition there were two translators from Korea and Nigeria. There were 9 Roman Catholics and 5 Orthodox. The seminar was staffed by the various Bible Societies: American Bible Society 3, Netherlands Bible Society 1, German Bibelwerk 1, British and Foreign Bible Society 2 and United Bible Societies 1.

The major thrust of this course was in Theory and Practice of Translation taught in English, French and German by Drs E. Nida, C. Taber and J. Loewen respectively. In addition Dr E. Nida gave a stimulating series of lectures on language in Culture, Philosophy and Communication. Dr W. Reyburn lectured twice on Cultural aspects of translation. Further lectures were given by guest speakers. These included: The Adequacy of Primitive Languages by Professor J. Voorhoeve, Language and World View by Professor B. Siertsema, Modern Developments in Linguistics affecting our views on language and communication by Dr G. Hinch, The French Ecumenical Bible by Professor S. Amsler, The New English Bible Old Testament by Professor W. D. McHardy, The Luther Revision 1956–64 by Professor F. Tschirch.

In the January issue appeared the lecture given by Professor B. Siertsema entitled 'Language and World View'. Please see page 55 for errata.

### **Kinshasa Institute, Congo**

When planning the Kinshasa Institute (September 20–October 25), the largest to be held so far in French-speaking Africa, cooperation was sought from the Congolese Immigration Department who agreed to issue visas in Kinshasa, ready for non-Congolese participants and staff on their arrival in the Congo.

Of the 83 participants, 77 were in regular attendance—53 Africans, 4 Malagasy and 20 expatriates; 59 participants were Protestants, 16 Roman Catholics and 2 Kimbanguists. Twenty languages were represented and 16 had major delegations. Roman Catholics participated in 8 of the main language groups.

One of the difficulties in preparing a reference library for the institute was the paucity of material in French. With the help of Pastor Jean-Claude Margot of Switzerland it was only possible to muster 20 commentaries (not covering all the books of the Bible) and 35 assorted French reference books in a total collection of 200 books. A much more adequate reference library is needed for French-speaking translators and it would be helpful if people in French-speaking areas would pass on information on useful reference books which come to their notice. Most of the UBS helps are not available in French; their translation is an urgent task.

In addition to the planned programme of morning lectures and afternoon workshops a special double session on Biblical backgrounds was added for those who had not had any previous Biblical training. An extra evening session was also provided for those who found difficulty in keeping up with the Theory and Practice of Translation because of unfamiliarity with the subject.

Because of the wide disparity in education among the participants, it was found necessary to split them into two groups. Not all for whom extra lectures were arranged took advantage of this facility. There were requests for more background courses on subjects such as Biblical geography, Hebrew traditions and customs, and more keyword studies.

As in other institutes, the need was felt for a reference booklet which would enable the students to follow the lectures more easily and to refresh their minds later on.

Owing to the high quality of three members of the Institute, Dr Reyburn was able to make effective use of student participation in his lectures on cultural background, and in view of the keen interest displayed in this subject tentative plans are being made to hold a small anthropological institute in the Congo in 1970.

Before last year's Kinshasa Institute, the Congo area had 5 translations well under way (NT: Kisonge, Kituba, Tshiluba; OT: Uruund, Zande), 4 in final stage (NT: Gipende; OT: Kindandi, Lingala-Upper River; Bible: Alur) and 4 in an early stage (NT: Lingala-Kinshasa, Lomongo, Mashi, Gimbala). In addition to these 13 projects, as a result of the institute 4 additional projects are beginning full-time work (Bangala, Kanyok, Iyansi and Gipende, which is undergoing a revision) and 6 have every prospect of being launched on a full-time basis in the near future (Chokwe, Kikongo, Kisanga, Mashi, Otetela and Congo Swahili).

Before the end of the institute each language group was given specific assignments to work on in its home area, either continuing the work already begun or working on selections where translation committees have not yet been set up.