

better religion Alt shows him the Scriptures. But for Nahan, even if his religion has no book it does not necessarily mean that his religion is worse than other religions. Yet Alt succeeds in convincing him that by reading the Bible he will know that Christianity is better. It is because of Alt's suggestion that Nahan becomes curious about the content of the Bible.

Second, there was a process of interaction between Nahan and Alt resulting in a change of mind in Nahan's way of thinking. The change was made possible because of Nahan's curiosity as to what is inside the Bible. Knowing the content of the Bible is vital for Ngaju readers in making them understand about Hatalla of the Christians.

Third, Nahan's curiosity leads him to accept Christ as his Lord and to let himself and his family be baptized into Christianity. The best way to make people Christians is to let them read the Bible. It does not matter what name they use for God in the Bible as long as they read the Bible thoroughly and faithfully. Problems arise with the term Hatalla whenever people do not read the Bible. And if they do not read the Bible then they will never know who Hatalla of the Bible is. Without reading the Bible they will still understand Hatalla as they did in their traditional religion. Therefore using the name Hatalla in translating "God" into the Ngaju language is only a first step towards making God known—people have to be persuaded to read all about him in the Bible too.

FOCUS ON TRANSLATORS

In this issue we include two separate contributions, which discuss different aspects of a recent publication in the Kriol language spoken by more than 20,000 people in the northern parts of Australia. The book, published by the Bible Society of Australia, contained books from both the Old and New Testaments, making up about 30 per cent of the Bible overall.

Bible portions—a different approach

Until comparatively recent times Bible translators around the world have followed a traditional order for the translation of the books of the Bible. In this traditional order the gospels are translated first, then the

rest of the New Testament. After the NT has been completed some or all of the books of the Old Testament are translated—or in more recent years a set of selected passages from the OT called a “Shorter Old Testament”.

The publication of Scriptures in a new translation has usually followed from the order of work in the translation program. First have come NT portions, then the complete New Testament, and then later a complete or “shorter” Bible.

The traditional way of doing things was established and has continued, I believe, because it was seen to meet the needs of a new church and a growing Christian community. The gospels were provided first, in the period of missionary outreach and birth of a new church; and they served to give the basic record of the life and teachings of Jesus which was needed more than anything else during that period. Then other NT books were made available as the church began to grow, and teaching about the Christian life and the meaning of the faith became the order of the day. The Old Testament was generally seen to be interesting, useful, and important in the long term—but of less value than the New Testament.

Of course there have been many variations on this approach. And what I have said is an over-simplified description of the real situation. But I am sure that many translators will recognise that this is the basic approach that has been followed in situations they know about.

Bible translation in Australian languages has had something of a stormy career over recent years. With government policies for the teaching of English to all school children, and the Aboriginal people themselves being unsure about the status and value of their own languages, translation has often been started in a trial and tentative sort of way. At the start there was usually no long-range goal, such as a complete New Testament. And translators worked to produce what seemed to be most needed or most appropriate for the situation which applied at the time.

As a result of this difficult beginning, what was published in many languages was a range of different types of selections and perhaps whole books of the Bible. These generally included material from the gospels, but there was not always any one complete gospel. And very significantly, certain parts of the Old Testament were found to be relevant and appropriate for Aboriginal people; and so as translation programs went ahead they included translation of OT material as well as NT material.

In more recent years the churches in Aboriginal communities have become more convinced about the need to have the Scriptures in a definitive form in their own languages. And so much more thought is being given to the long-range goals of translation programs, and a

publication policy which will best meet the needs of the churches in the immediate future.

Experience has shown us that a range of many small items of Scripture, separate portions and selections, does not claim much respect from the people, and the Bible is not as highly valued in this form as when it comes in a single well-produced book. A single volume is also far better suited for regular use; and it will have the greatest acceptance when it is produced with the features and the name that people associate with the "Holy Bible" that they see in English.

The concept of a single book containing portions (and even certain sets of selected passages) from both OT and NT was developed in consultation with the Australian Kriol translation team just a few years ago. And in 1985 the first volume of this type was published in Kriol. It was produced with the quality of cover, binding, printing and paper that would enable it to be recognised as a "Bible". And the churches agreed on the title HOLI BAIBUL, and the placing of a cross as well as this title on the cover.

That first edition contained not quite 10 per cent of the whole Bible. But it was well received and the 1000 copies printed were all sold in a period of two years. Now in 1987 a much larger volume, containing 30 per cent of the Bible has been released. It still has the same title, and it has all the same "Bible" features as the first edition.

One very important feature of the original concept of a single book of Bible portions was that the book would grow as the translation program went ahead. So the second edition of the Kriol HOLI BAIBUL contains all of the portions that were in the first edition plus what has been translated over the past two years. (In fact the material from the first edition was revised in the light of comments and suggestions received from people who used it, before it was incorporated in the second edition.) We believe that it is essential to this publishing approach that a volume which is called "Bible" will always contain all the books that are available in a language at a given time.

Now that the new approach to publication has been tried and proved successful in Kriol, other churches and translation teams are asking the Bible Society to follow the same approach for their languages. One other volume almost as large as the Kriol second edition is already being printed, and we have agreed to undertake the same sort of publication for three other languages.

It is the policy of the Bible Society in Australia to provide the Scriptures which the churches in this country need. So we are always seeking to discuss with leaders of the churches in Aboriginal communities the best way to meet their particular needs. And we are very willing to keep following this new publication approach in line with the requests that are coming to us.

Although in most cases the desire has been to include in the one "Bible" volume all that has been translated so far, we have not gone ahead without giving some thought to what should be included in a volume to make it in a real sense representative of the Bible as a whole. Our Bible Society Translations Committee has proposed a set of guidelines for this type of publication which recommend that at least the following should be included:

Some books from each of the OT and the NT.

Books representative of each of the main types of literature found in the Bible, as far as practicable.

At least one complete gospel, or a comprehensive set of selected passages from the gospels to make up a full "Life and teachings of Jesus".

It is also recommended that, in whatever way is considered most appropriate, an explanation be given to the reader as to what is included in the volume, and its relationship to the Bible as a whole.

EUAN FRY

The first of its kind: the Desktop Bible

Family Bibles, study Bibles, pocket Bibles, children's Bibles, pulpit Bibles, picture Bibles, open Bibles—and now a desktop Bible! What will they think of next!

Actually, this is a Bible with a difference. But we're not talking about its *style*. We're talking about how it was made; in particular how the camera-ready copy was prepared.

The first edition of the Kriol *Holi Baibul*, which contained only eight per cent of the whole Bible, was published by the Bible Society in Australia in 1985. We prepared the text for that edition on an Otrona Attache computer. By hooking up the Otrona to a quality daisywheel printer, we were able to provide the Bible Society with photoready text. They still had to do the layout and paste-up, but by eliminating the typesetting process, we were able to save the Bible Society some \$20,000 based on Australian labour costs.

In the meantime we continued pressing on with more translation, aiming to get the second edition—containing thirty per cent of the whole Bible—to the press by the end of 1986. All was going well until we had a weekend visit in June from a translation colleague with the Anglican Church Missionary Society. He had recently purchased an Apple Macintosh computer and extolled its virtues all weekend!

We didn't think much of it at first, but when we began to realise how long it would take to get a volume the size of the New Testament

through the Bible Society publication system, we decided to visit an Apple dealer to find out more about **desktop publishing**.

Desktop publishing refers to the preparation of text which is completely ready for printing using computer equipment that will fit on the top of a normal size desk. It has been described by the Australian magazine *Publish!* as a "social and technological phenomenon that may well change the face of the world" (August 1986, page 6). Desktop publishing came into existence only two years ago, after the development of personal computers with very large memories and—more critically—the coming of desktop-size laser printers that allowed the high quality printing of text in a range of type styles and graphics in the one document.

Apple's Macintosh and LaserWriter combination ushered in the age of desktop publishing with incredible speed. And two hours of demonstration by our Apple dealer was enough to convince us that the desktop route was the way for us to go.

So we sold the Otrona and bought a Macintosh, a hard disk, a dot matrix printer, and the appropriate software. The list price for all of that was about \$10,000, although we were able to buy it for substantially less.

We didn't buy a complete desktop publishing system. A complete system would have included a laser printer, a scanner for digitising illustrations and a magnetic tape back-up unit for mass storage of the scanned images. Those three items would have added another \$20,000 to the cost at list price. Instead of us buying those items, our dealer allowed us access to his equipment at a nominal cost.

Now all of that is pretty pricey stuff. So how could we afford it? I mean, where's the payoff by going the desktop route? Before answering that question, let me tell you what we did with the equipment.

We really didn't know for sure what we were getting ourselves into, but we knew that we wanted to cut our publication time down and that the Macintosh with PageMaker could do it. We also knew that our Apple dealer, who is a Christian, would provide us with the support we needed.

In simple terms what we wanted to do was this: Take 1400 double-spaced pages of Kriol biblical text, add to it some 200 line-drawings, sixteen maps, and footnotes—not to mention running heads and page numbers—and present a camera-ready copy to the Bible Society. And that is precisely what we did.

Before we could get started, however, we had to learn how to use the new computer system, and we also had to go through the last of the translation consultant checks and finalise the Kriol text. After we had completed all of that we were able to start doing the electronic layout and paste-up of the second edition Kriol *Holi Baibul*.

First we had to scan all of the illustrations, which took about a week. Then we had to do the actual pagemaking, (that is, the layout and paste-up). That involved sitting in front of the computer screen combining the text and illustrations page by page by manipulating them with the computer "mouse", which is a hand-held device that controls placement of text and graphics on the screen.

It would normally take "months and months" to do the layout and paste-up of a volume the size of ours, which by verse count was slightly larger than a New Testament. But with the Macintosh we did the 1300 page volume in two weeks!

After proofreading a dot matrix printout and making corrections, we sent the files to our dealer who then printed out the camera-ready copy on his laser printer. He had some equipment failures and a few other problems, so it took him three weeks to do what he said should only take a week.

In spite of the problems, the Bible Society had the camera-ready copy in their hands within two months of when we started doing the layout and paste-up. The volume came back from the printers in Hong Kong within five months. That means a total publication time of only a little over six months—instead of an estimated one or two years! That in itself makes the new computer system worth the cost.

Financially speaking, the system has more than paid for itself. By providing the Bible Society with the camera-ready copy of this edition of the Kriol *Holi Baibul*—as against handing them a manuscript copy that had to be keyed in for typesetting—we saved them an estimated \$40,000.

Desktop publishing technology offers some exciting potentials to those of us who work in the translation field. It can reduce the cost of publication, thus for example making small runs less prohibitive. And with such things as the Compact Disk ROM technology which will soon be available, the potential is there for all of us to have ready access to high quality sets of illustrations and maps to use in our Bible publications.

More significant, however, is the fact that desktop publishing technology gives us the tools to slice the publication lead-time down tremendously, thus enabling us to get the end product into the hands of the users quickly.

JOHN SANDEFUR