



Spot the Flaws

November
2025

Louisa, Yvonne and Marietta checking Luke's Gospel in Hmwaveke

Hmwaveke Translation

We made a trip to New Caledonia during August-September and worked with Yvonne and the other Hmwaveke translators in Tieta, a village in the hills on the western side of the mainland.

Standing in the village cemetery as Yvonne's brother was buried was a sombre moment during our time there. This was not what we expected to happen during our check of Luke's Gospel. We postponed translation sessions for a week for the mourning and burial customs, then embarked on a second week of work. Sadly, that time too was interrupted, as Yvonne's grandmother became very unwell and died.

Luke's Gospel was the first book the group translated, and Marietta had identified many issues to discuss. It was good to finally be working together to improve the text.

We appreciated being able to hold the sessions in the village meeting room: the village chief gave his permission and is very happy about the translation work.

On the down side, our bodies coped even less well with the heat than they used to. August is one of the coolest months in New Caledonia,

but our brains were struggling to operate at full capacity between 11am and 3pm.

We were hoping that Yvonne might be able to come to NZ over the school holidays so we could get in some (cooler weather) work time, but it doesn't look like that's possible this year.

Yvonne shared with us how other initiatives and opportunities have arisen out of the translation project. She started writing songs in Hmwaveke and a village choir was born, singing in their language in villages near and far. Yvonne now also sings with local musicians.

A regional organisation designed to promote local languages has relaunched after years of dormancy and elected Yvonne as vice-president, and a local women's association has elected her as their president.

In addition, Yvonne is now asked to run language workshops for both children and adults. Her work was recently featured on TV in New Caledonia, and elicited a congratulatory post from the translation coordinator of the Pacific Community. We pray God will continue to open doors for her and give her wisdom in everything she does.

Paicî Study Progress

After our three weeks on the West Coast for the Hmwaveke project, we were in the Paicî-speaking area on the East Coast for a week. We visited some of our village family, and Ian checked his language analysis hypotheses with former Paicî translator Jacques Pourouda. They also recorded language data.



It was a blessing to resume our long-standing friendship and working partnership with Jacques. Like Yvonne, Jacques has become a resource person for his language.

Ian will now continue with his analysis and write-up of the language, getting regular feedback from his university supervisors.

Family Corner

Three of our grandsons have had visits with us in Wellington during school holidays. They've sailed on the harbour ferry, tested their agility at an indoor climbing wall, and had a walk around the south coast.



Marietta, Hunter (11) and Arlo (8) head off to see the seals at Red Rocks

All three are keen learners and ready for adventure, and we always enjoy the few days we get to spend with them.



Above: Legion (14) takes a selfie. Below: Arlo scales new heights.



Prayer Points

- Pray God will work in the lives of our four grandsons.
- Praise God for a worthwhile trip to New Caledonia.
- Pray for Marietta as she starts work on the group's translation of Mark's Gospel, that she will identify areas that might need improvement.
- Pray for Ian as he nails down his Paicî analysis—for clarity of thought, accuracy of description, and speedy progress.
- Praise God for the unexpected benefits of the Hmwaveke translation project.

*Thank you!
Ian and Marietta*

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