

Session 3: Taking the Word of God to Others

By: Nard Pugyao

[00:00:00.310]

Nard: It's good to be back. I wanted to do a little bit different this morning. I want to take you to my village because I talked to you about my village yesterday. But before I do that, I want to introduce a very, very special person in my life. Sometimes you have heroes in your own personal life, and I have many heroes. And one of the special heroes for me this morning is right here. I'm going to embarrass him because he's the one. It's all his fault that I fly, because one day I was down in [inaudible 00:00:27] and I used to watch too much. He took this airplane and somehow, he made a dance in the air. And I was just fascinated in all with this airplane.

[00:00:37.550]

But March of 64, I was terrified to death because I didn't want to have anything to do with airplanes or with flying because I was just completely terrified, in pure terror, 55 minutes. But this morning I have a very special hero in my life, that challenged me, to say to me, Nard, one of these days we will not be welcomed in your country. You got to go learn to do what I'm doing, so that you can come back and fly. And I thought he was joking, but deep in his heart, he was the one that started me to point me into missionary aviation. And this morning I want to say thank you to Uncle Bill Foster. I still call him Uncle Bill Foster. His grandson Patrick is in here. I'm going to embarrass him. Come on, Uncle Bill, you stand up.

[00:01:24.230]

This is the guy. When I think of the heroes of our lives, you think of those very special people in your own personal lives, and these are the heroes. Bill is one of those heroes that I've never forgotten because the bell still rings in my ear one of these days. And this morning I'm going to do that to you. Like Dr. Solomon said yesterday, what are you going to do? And I'm going to pick up a little bit on that one there. But let me take you to my village and just think for one moment what it would feel like to be holding the Bible in your own heart language. It's a second revision or the first revision of the Bible in there with Genesis and Exodus. But I wanted to take you back to my village in there where today you either go by airplane, missionary airplane, or you go to the end of the road and travel 3 hours by canoe going upstream.

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So let me show you some of the heroes in my own personal life. We would like you to see the video. So just imagine for one moment you're going to go to the bag at my village that stuck the way up in the northern jungle. Remember, I have a GPS position to prove you truly there. So that's where I look at the banana tree. That's where I come from. And this is where let's roll the video.

[00:03:12.130]

[Shows video: They are regular people. They play scrabble, debate politics, fish, cook dinner, scold the dog, pull weeds, and bury the dead. But they do not have the Bible in the languages that they understand best. So, we cover the globe to go to them, we speak with them, live with them, learn how to speak their languages, adapt to their way of life, analyze the grammar and vocabulary, develop literacy programs, and translate the Bible into their languages. The pastor

that never gets sick or tired. The Philippines has 60 million people, 7000 islands, and more than 100 languages. In 1953, the Summer Institute of Linguistics was invited to do translation for more than 70 Philippine languages. The Summer Institute of Linguistics does the field work of Wycliffe Bible translators. That's how I got here 39 years ago. Richard Rowe, Dick to some]

[00:04:33.730]

That was Dick Rowe's voice that you just heard before he boarded his heavenly flight, July 8, 1995. He would have loved to be here and celebrate with us, but I know he's enjoying heaven so much. Let me introduce to you Elmer Wolfenden and Ernie Chan and Dave Blood, who have had a vital part in giving us a word of God in our heart language.

[00:04:56.910]

[Plays video: Elmer: Greetings to all my East NUG friends in Apayao. This is Elmer Wolfenden. I remember visiting you many years ago when I was doing language survey for SIL. We went upriver to Apayao, and that's where we met many of you. Ernie Chun and I began work in Apayao, and we worked for six or seven months, and then I had to leave to go back to Manila where I got married. But it was a delightful experience to be with you in Apayao. I have had the opportunity also of working with Dick Rowe and now Rudy Barland. I wish we could be there with you for the opportunity to celebrate this reprint. It's not possible for me to do that, so I send you my greetings from here in North Carolina.

[00:06:07.430]

Ernie: [Speaks a different language] Hello to Jose. Thank you very much for allowing us to live and work in your home. I am sorry I have forgotten my Isnag, so I have to speak to all of you in English. I remember the long canoe trip from Apari to Cabugao and then from Cabugao to Dubaga. Elmer Wolfenden and I were accepted to live as tenants by Jose's father. We spent many hours learning Isnag words and doing linguistic research. I remember carrying bundles of grains of rice on Apole. After harvest, Elmer would get married, and Dick Rowe and I became partners. Unfortunately, I left the Philippines in 1958, never to return to Apayao. Dick stayed, learned Isnag and with Rudy Barland's help, translated the entire New Testament by 1982. It will be my joyful task to pray for you before our Heavenly Father. You can help pray for Dr. Rudy Barland as he translates the Old Testament into Isnag. God bless you as you do.

[00:07:57.030]

Dave: Greetings to my friends from Dubaga. I'm Dave Blood. I was with some of you quite a few years ago and really loved the place where you live and the people especially. I'm very thankful for what God is doing among you, especially in getting his word into your language. And I know that you are living by that good word. I remember times when I used to go down near the river to have my Bible reading in prayer. And sometimes when I would finish praying and open my eyes, I would see Nard just a few feet away from me. He had crept up without my hearing him. He was a little bit younger than, thank God for what he has done in Nard's life and also in your lives and what he's doing right now. I would like to read one good verse from the book of Jeremiah for you: when your words came, I ate them. They were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty. I wish I could be with you for the celebration. I won't be with you in body, but I will be thinking of you at that time and praying for

you. Thank you for the time that you let me be with you, way back about 48 years ago. And may the Lord continue to bless you and help you to be strong in Him and make his words to be the joy and delight of your heart. God bless you all.

[00:10:07.390]

Unknown speaker: I have taught about 25 summers of linguistics to Filipinos, equipping them to do Bible translation and carry on a linguistic training.]

[00:10:20.390]

Nard: And Rudy Barland was one of those attending a summer course in Bagabag in 1970. He is a mechanical engineer by profession from Pangasinan but changed his direction to Bible translation work after spending a summer of linguistics in Bagabag. In 1971, Rudy joined Dick Rowe in Dubagat to work among the Isnags, and from there he completed two thirds of the New Testament in Isnag with the help of the Isnags the translation was completed in 1982 and it was a privilege for me to fly in the first 500 copies of that book to Dubagat.

[00:11:00.940]

[Video Unknown speaker: And now we are doing our vision because of the language change. We finished the translation in 1982 and the young people now are having difficulty understanding some of the terms that we have used in the past.]

[00:11:16.900]

Nard: The exciting part of the Isnag revision is seeing God sending short term teams to Dubagat and help build a house for Rudy Barland.

[00:11:24.420]

[Video Unknown speaker: This is part of short-term missions doing manual labor like this.

Sometimes we can't go in and do the translation work because we don't have the skills, we don't have the language skills, but we can certainly work with our hands and do the things we can prepare the way for the Gospels.]

[00:11:40.250]

Nard: We give praise to the Lord for all those involved in giving us the word of God in our heart language, Isnag, and especially those who have traveled all the way to Dubagat. June 24-25, 2006, to celebrate the revision of God's Word with us. We had visitors from all over the US. Canada, Korea, Singapore, and Philippines, all flying to Dubagat. Our SIL pilots made several shuttle flights to get everyone in by June 24, and the weather was spectacular for flying. Our teams were met by smiling Isnags, along with fresh pineapples, all they can eat. The hike was a challenge to some, and others just sweated it out. Others swam in the river. All were satisfied to be there because this was truly the day of celebration. Many of our teams helped check our Isnag Bible revision page by page to make sure it did not have any mistakes and also encouraging the body of Christ in Dubagat.

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[Video Unknown speaker: Our church in Virginia Beach has been blessed so that we could be a blessing to the church in Dubagat.]

[00:13:01.280]

Nard: As the Bibles were distributed, Isnags were eager to get a copy because Genesis and Exodus was included. Some could not wait to get their copy, and some just sat down and started reading page one. Others wanted our visitors to sign their Bible as a way to remember to pray for them, too. Some were clutching their Bible in jubilation and praise to the Lord. Then the final part of the celebration was witnessing the baptism of 14 Isnag believers and two young boys from Seattle, Washington, who were part of the team by Pastor Mark Scharf of Virginia Beach Community Chapel. Changed lives, fruit of God's word, all orchestrated by God to bring honor and glory to Himself among the Isnags and all our visitors, government officials, Isnags young and old, colleagues and team, all giving their praise to the Lord.

[00:13:54.910]

Now the word of God is in Isnag. You see, to reach others in villages all over the mountains of Apayao was their encouraging words. Finally, it was time for all of us to depart. And as we took call from Dubagat June 26, looking down on the village below, I thought of those who have been faithful to the Lord. And the verse of Scripture struck me deeply. In 2 Corinthians 3:3 we Isnags are, a letter from Christ, the result of your ministry, written not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God. Not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.

[00:14:31.910]

[Video Unknown speaker: Thank you very much. And you know your part. I am so glad that you were able to come to witness what the Lord has been doing and what the Lord has done so far here in Dubagat.]

[00:14:44.850]

Nard: This work is truly the work of God through his people, and we give Him all the praise and honor of what he has done and what he will do among these next things from our heart.

[00:14:56.830]

[Video Unknown speaker singing: Jesus I want to take the time right now to tell you how much I thank you and with the songs we bring to you. I felt like one living in the darkest part of a pit, but now I am thankful to God who is shining in my life the brightest light. Before my life was like a house with no doors. Now the door is open for God to do what he wants in my life. For the life you gave to me I thank you, Jesus. I can feel the spirit dwelling inside of me makes my blind heart see the truth of you and I can feel the joy you give me now overflow and it lets me know that you care for me. Thank you, Jesus oh, thank you Jesus for the joy that touched my soul I thank you; Jesus thank you; Jesus thank you, Jesus for the life you gave to me I thank you Jesus.]

[00:16:49.130]

Nard: This morning you have an opportunity to become a Bible translator for 60 minutes. I think room 116 by Doctor Brian O'Hara. I heard he's going to be doing that not by Ron Binder or Binder. So, if you want to become a Bible translator for 60 Minutes, you got to go to Sutherland,

room 116, I think. Check page twelve on your program in there and then it'll show you. Some of you would like to do that. So, you come. You all come. Like we say in the south.

[00:17:23.210]

Several years ago, I was speaking in Pennsylvania, and I picked up a brochure done by new tribes. I really liked this because it caught my eye. And it says, when people have the choice to choose God, that's your business. When people don't have a choice, it's your business. 90% of missionaries go to the places where there are computers and cars and everything else, but 10% go to the hidden places. That's where I come from and I'm proud to be part of that because that's where we are. We need people like you to go to the end of the earth. That's what it says. To go to the ends of the earth and proclaim Jesus Christ.

[00:18:03.470]

Being a result of what God is doing through Bible translation work. It's just been exciting to see the end result of what God can do when the word of God is given to us in a heart language. And I can still remember to this day, December 25, 1963. I'll never forget it as long as I live. But it's all teamwork. It didn't just happen because Wycliffe or SIL was in the Philippines. It happened because people from all over, from all kinds of walks of life here in America and all over the world, we're a part of bringing us the word of God in Isnag.

[00:18:37.010]

That's what it's all about. It's not one mission is more important than another one, but it's all part of the one body. All of us are one part of one body. And your job. And my job is to make sure

that the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached until he returns to the ends of the earth, even to the hidden places like the Dubagat. Some of you, I don't know if you saw Becky Hinds. Becky is here somewhere here. She went to the Dubagat in June. And I had a chance to chat with Becky the other day, and she was there. She's a student here at Biola University.

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This morning, I wanted to touch a little bit about what Moses had done. When Moses died in there, the Lord said to Joshua, he said, now that Moses is gone, he said to Joshua, he said, now I want you to go to the Promised Land. It's all laid out to them. If the promise was there, the land is there for them to conquer. And I was reading in Joshua in the first chapter in there, and all the encouraging words about the word of God to Joshua. So be courageous. You got to remember, you got to be courageous. Don't be scared. You got to keep the law. You got to keep it. Now that Moses is gone, you got to go. And I think of June 30, 1995, thinking about Joshua in there. I was flying northern part of the Philippines, flying the last flight that I had, because we were going to the Philippines, 94, 95, to take over some of the flying in the Philippines, they needed another helicopter pilot. So, my wife and I were at Moody aviation, I was teaching there for a few years, and then they needed a helicopter pilot in the Philippines.

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And so we went to the Philippines, 94, 95. But God knew that my missionary Father Dick Rowe, saw on video. That was his last year on Earth. We were in the Philippines in there. He was battling leukemia. And this guy was the one that taught me everything that I knew. He taught me from the village on. He taught me English. I can still remember him pushing me on a bicycle in

[inaudible 00:20:46], learning how to ride a bicycle. I can remember him scooting around and so that I could learn how to drive a car. And he taught me everything about your culture in this country.

[00:20:57.650]

And the guy that taught me the word of God, making me grow in my love and passion for Jesus Christ, that was the last year, and I didn't know it. So, I was flying up in the northern part of the Philippines in there, taking a translator to a village in Bolos Point. As I was returning back to Bagabag in there to return the helicopter, then going down to Manila by bus. I already flew my wife and my two sons to Manila there. June 27, I was doing one more flight, and then my wife came on the radio, and we communicate by radio, and she says, I got to take your father, your missionary dad, to the hospital because she's really sick.

[00:21:40.110]

As I was flying there, 300ft above the treetops, I could still remember on a clear day watching all over there and just exalting the God of heaven on earth and watching in awe. And I said, God, would it be possible to give me another five years of this guy's life so that we could take him back to the US. And we could take them to Disneyland. We could spend more time the kids' grandkids, his grandkids, he called them my children were his grandsons. And I said, when God speaks to us, I don't know how he speaks to you, but at the moment, there sitting there controlling the helicopter right there.

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I said, Jesus Christ was sitting right next to me and asking me questions such as, how long have you known this guy? I said, about 39 years, Lord. And then I said he said, did you enjoy him all those years? He says, Yeah, I did. Then I thought of the things that he did. My first time to eat a restaurant in there, because I grew up in a very isolated village in there. And to this day, you still go to the end of the road. You travel by canoe, 3 hours upstream, or you could fly in that little airplane.

[00:22:51.150]

My first time coming out of there into Manila, there eating at a restaurant in there. I could still remember, nice tablecloth, I don't know, dr. Cookie. Remember Max's restaurant in there. We were eating rolls, and I had a tie on, white shirt, and I was just enjoying that. In the moment, this huge chicken on my plate comes in there. I looked at the chicken. I looked at his plate, and he had a whole chicken in there. And I looked at the chicken, I looked at him, I said, dad, is this all mine? And he said, son, that's all yours. I said, Wow. I thought I was in heaven. I've never had whole chicken in my life. And there I was. I said, Enjoy. In the village, you cut up all the chicken. You might get a little piece, but you share it with everybody. And there was my moment, and I remember that. And I said, Lord, I remember that restaurant. I was smiling. I said, please.

[00:23:51.510]

And then I remember him pushing me with a bicycle down in Mindanao. I remember the first one to have a bicycle to the high school where I was going. I thought I was the richest kid in the high school because I got five pesos a month for allowance. And I remember all those. And I

said, God, would it be possible? And then I landed in Bagabag and then I went down to Manila. I went to the hospital in there, and the director of SIL said, you need to tell Richard that he had to go home. I said, no, you tell him.

[00:24:26.170]

So, we went there early morning in there, to the hospital where he was lying down in there sick to death. And the director said to him, Richard, we got to send you back to the US with Nard, Sandy, and the boys. And my dad said, No, I'm okay. I can stay here. The doctor said, no, you got to go. And then he said, are you firing me? And she said, in essence, I am. And tears is coming down his eyes because that was life to him. He gave the word to us. It's like God was saying to Joshua, hey, you got to take the word. You got to go take the promised land. That's what we promised. You got to go.

[00:25:15.010]

And then a couple of days later, I was holding his hand. We were by ourselves in there. And as if he was saying to me, son, I have done my part. Now it's your turn. The most difficult thing for me was thinking about him. I knew I had a conversation with God, but I didn't want to tell him that because we hang on to life, because we wanted life, physical life. My man, there is an awesome life beyond this body. For me to live is Christ said Paul, and to die is gain. Sometimes I just wish that God would just come now. I mean, Jesus would just come now. I wish he would. And I was holding his hand and he said, Son, I've been faithful all these years. We started back in 1956, carrying me to death right in the village of Dubagat. It was the most difficult time for me, was to actually believe that he was going to go.

[00:26:15.430]

And we hang on to life because we don't want anything to happen to those that we love so much, to the heroes that we have. We want to hang on to life. And, you know, he still resisted going to the ICU. And I told him, I said, dad, you got to go. And he went there, and he was in a coma. And then he went there to ICU and all of a sudden, a few minutes later, he went into a coma. And the most difficult thing to do is when you love somebody in there and you really know that they have impacted your life, the most difficult thing is to be able to be the one to disconnect all the machines, because it says so on the wheel that says there was no machine that was going to be hooked up to this guy. And for over seven years, it haunted me in my life if I disconnected the machine. And the thought that came is that what if he lives? What if he's going to live for ten years, 15 years, not being able to function? Then what are you going to do? You can just take a pillow and suffocate them, right? It was hard, but the grace of God is so awesome because within 7 hours he was gone just like that.

[00:27:36.550]

And I take the mental, the book of the word of God, and it always kind of says, wow, what a humbling experience. In essence, you here at Biola University, you are the ones that will help to take the mantle. Dr. Cook and many of us older people in here, who knows who's going to be going, maybe some of you will be gone just like that. Who knows? There's an absolute that life is going to end like that. But what we do for Jesus Christ is the one that God. So, God said to Joshua says Joshua, now it's your turn, you go and possess the promised land, I'll give it to you. And he said, this book of the law shall not depart your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day

and night. That you may be careful to do according to all that is written, and then you will have good success. He had to make sure that he had to absolutely do that. He had to obey the law, he had to obey the word of God and says, I will do it. And he did. It pushes the line. It was all promised.

[00:28:42.110]

And the promise to all of us is that there's a world out there and the promise that God says, hey, I will be with you. I will help you. Whether you're here, Biola, whether you're in America, or whether you go to the ends of the earth, it doesn't really matter. What matters is that our obedience to Jesus Christ, obedience to the God of heaven and earth, what we do for him, life with him, that's what it's all about. It's not because some of you will be joining mission organizations and they'll do wonders and they'll do great, but it's not about them. It's about the God of heaven and earth. It's what he does for us. Teamwork is what it's all about. He used to be back in the early days, I hear stories back in the early days and in missions sometimes. Missionary organization says, you can come to our territory, or you stay there, and we'll stay on ours. We can. But the world is so vast and big that we found out that we're about a hundred years behind in networking together as a body of believers. We got to help each other.

[00:29:50.470]

You hear Biola? You need to help each other. There are those that are hurting in the [inaudible 00:29:54]. They need you. They need you to love them. There are people that really need a touch of a hand, a hug or something like that. I do, I need that. And I'm so thankful to all the supporters

and all the faithful people in my own personal life that calls me sometimes and say, hey Nard. That's why I enjoy calling people, such an encouraging word to call them.

[00:30:17.680]

I've gotten to know Dr. Solomon a little bit, and last night I had a good time with Mark. Pastor Mark. Dr. Solomon and I went out there to eat. We spent several hours together. It's awesome to know. And when you go out to the ends of the earth in there, be sure you remember to network with those that you love to the churches that you are a part of, to the families that you have, to the children, to the grandchildren. They work with them because they are part of our lives. And as your president, I understand he's retiring. Some of you will come up to him and say thank you.

[00:30:53.480]

Give him a hug, thank you for what you have done, for what God had done through you. And God is going to give each one of you the mantle of his grace. And you're going to go to the end of the earth to make sure that those who have never heard about Him will hear about him. That's why God said to Joshua, this book of the law shall not depart your mouth, but you will meditate on it day and night. Day and night, yes. Not just today. Day and night. Will you go? Will you be obedient to the God of heaven and earth? Will you love Him? Some of you might think, I can't go to the ends of the earth. You can be here. You be where you are. You do what he wants you to do, to love Him with all your heart, with all your life, nothing else. That's why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:58, he said, therefore, beloved brother. And he said, be steadfast immovable. Always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

[00:32:21.150]

And our father, we thank you for the few minutes that we had today. Thank you for reminding us that you alone, O Lord, of the greatness and the power, thank you for allowing us to recount Your wonders and declare Your glory. It may be that's our prayer here at Biola, the professors of students and all of us part of that team, thank you for this conference. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of their lives. And just briefly here, thank you for reminding us that Your word should not depart out of our mouth, but we should meditate on the day and night. Thank you for the promise of Your grace where every one of us will go. May you bless us in a special way as we eat Your word. Study it daily, Father, to that. And we commit this day to you and commit everyone. And we ask all this in Christs name.

[00:33:25.230]

Host: If you guys could hold tight for a minute, we're going to make some announcements. Thanks. The first announcement we have to make is that the CSP seminar is changed to meet in the middle sub at 1045. And the seminar by grace is going to be in Sutherland 208. And that is on beyond our imagination what God is doing in the Himalayan region. The Ron Binder seminar has been canceled. So, I believe if you're interested in the Bible translation project, you should definitely pull Nard at some point during the conference and talk to him about that.

[00:34:16.310]

Okay, so it's going to go, okay? It's still on. All right. Pardon me. The other announcement we have to make is that Global Awareness will be opening at eleven rather than twelve. And I'll just remind you also that Dave Scott's seminar, Save the Children, Save the World, becoming a Hero,

has been changed to today Thursday at 1045, and will be held in Sutherland 206. And we want to also remind you that at Marketplace today, we're going to be holding the raffle and the auction for the meals with professors and auctioning off a meal with Dr. Cook. So, we encourage you to stop by and purchase a raffle ticket for a dollar or come for the auction. I know we have a couple of contenders that are really serious about that, so you might want to get together with some of your buddies

[00:35:13.790]

And the paintings that you saw here will be also auctioned off the ones that were done during worship. Remember to go there at 330 for all of those auctions. Tonight, we have the Thursday night Recount His Wonders, Declare His Glory Session. So, if you guys could remember to come and be prepared to share some of your stories and enter into a wonderful time of worship. Thank you.