

JAARS **SPEEDING THE WORD TRANSCRIPT**

Speaker
Len Newell Pt. 2

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Interviewer
Arthur Lightbody

Primary Topic(s)
Inyap's Miracle

Other Topics
Believing prayer

Location Discussed
Philippines

People Group (if named)
Ifugao Batad

Announcer:

Welcome to *Speeding the Word*, coming to you from the JAARS Center in Waxhaw, North Carolina, where JAARS speeds Bible translation for all people. And now our host Arthur Lightbody.

Lightbody:

We are talking again today with Len Newell in Chilliwack, British Columbia. He has been a translator with Wycliffe for quite some time. We are talking about the early years of translation work and what has been happening recently among the people in Batad Ifugao. Their language is actually Ayangan in the Philippines. I want to point out that you can find his book *Headhunters' Encounter with God* on Amazon.com.

Welcome back to *Speeding the Word*, Len.

Newell:

Thanks, Arthur, for this opportunity to be with you.

Lightbody:

You talked last week about Francis Poligon, one of the early believers. When I was in your village as a young man, the one who impressed me was when I saw Ilat leaving the translation center one time, going back into the hills with Scripture portions on his back. We used to call it being a colporteur. I remember there was a miraculous event that centered on his family. Could you tell us about that?

Newell:

Actually the history of that event was that Ilat was just beginning his ministry as a colporteur. If what happened had continued the way we thought it was going to, it would have caused Ilat to stop his ministry as a colporteur, because they had five children at the time, so Ilat would have been preoccupied with their care. As it turned out it did not happen.

Ilat came to me—he said, “You know, my wife has just delivered a child, and she’s bleeding.” He was wondering if I had some medicine I could give them for that. I said, “You know, Ilat there is no medicine for that sort of thing, but I can give you some medicine that might help in this situation.” And that was vitamin K. So I went with Ilat to where his wife was, and I gave her an injection of vitamin K, not realizing that probably it would not do much, if anything. I prayed with Ilat and his wife, committed them to the Lord and left. That was on a Sunday.

Now on Monday morning, very early, Ilat came running up the back stairs of our house, right next door to where our bedroom was and said, “My wife is much worse and you’ve got to come quickly!” So I went to his house, and when I got there with Ilat I was really shocked, because there was blood actually coming through the floorboards of their house. Down on the ground underneath there was a frothy pool of blood, and I knew that his wife was dying from blood loss. I prayed again for Inyap, went back home and got on the short-wave radio with [colleagues in] Manila to pray for Ilat and for his wife. I’d told Ilat when I was with them that they should prepare a stretcher and get his wife out to Banaue, the closest market town, if they possibly could.

In Manila, Mary Graanas, our guesthouse manager from California, closeted herself in her room and prayed for Ilat. She had been in our Ifugao village and she knew Ilat. She prayed God would have His way in the life of his wife, that the Lord would

give Ilat's wife life, and that she would not die. She then asked the Lord to give her evidence of the fact that He was going to do this.

As Mary was praying she remembered an article she had been reading from the Gospel of Luke. This article said Luke was a physician, and it quoted several passages from the Gospel where medical terms were used. She remembered one in particular—the passage in Luke, chapter eight, talking about the woman who was subject to bleeding, who had bled for 12 years and asked the Lord for healing. And she was healed. So Mary asked in her prayer, “Lord, thank you because I believe you have brought this to my remembrance because of the fact you are going to heal Inyap (Ilat's wife).” While she was praying, I was on the radio talking to a doctor in Manila. We were able to connect with the telephone system in Manila by a radio-patch. The doctor told me unless I was a trained medical person, there was not a thing I could do. We had to get Inyap to a doctor. Well, it was a very difficult thing, because we were a five-hour trip from our place to Banahue, our market town, where a medical doctor lived. To get Inyap there would be very, very difficult. While I was talking with the doctor, someone came and said, “Come quickly, Inyap is dying.” I told the Manila operator what I had just learned and I left.

Later I pieced this together: Mary was in Manila when she heard the news that Inyap was dying. She went back and poured herself out to/before the Lord and said, “Lord this can't be true because you have already given me a promise that you are going to heal Inyap.” She continued to pray and commit Inyap to the Lord.

In the meantime I was running down the trail to Ilat's house. I saw some women sitting along the trail, and I asked them, “Is Inyap dead?”

“Yes,” they replied, “Inyap has died.”

As I ran along farther I came upon an old man—he was a native priest. He was calling out over the valley, “Inyap, Inyap, come back—don't you realize you have left your baby daughter behind? You have to come back so you can take care of her.”

When I got to the house I realized as far as they knew Inyap was dead. So I sat under the house with Ilat and Bon-Og (Francis). I was comforting Ilat about what death means to those of us who believe in the Lord and that there would be a time of reuniting in heaven. As I talked, all of a sudden I had a strong urge to go up into the house where Inyap was, so I excused myself, climbed the ladder and went into this dark, dingy little room. There were four women sitting with Inyap. One of them had Inyap on her lap in a semi-reclining position. I noticed she was actually in the process of trying to pour some water down Inyap's throat. That's what the Ifugao do when a person dies. They think a person has a dry throat, and they need to moisten them. She was about to do that, and I said, “Stop! Don't do that. Inyap isn't dead!” I have no idea why I said that, because as far as I knew she was dead and everyone else said she was dead. They were a little startled, but because of who I was they stopped.

They laid Inyap down, and I took her vital signs. There were absolutely no vital signs of any kind. So I said to them, “Never mind—Inyap is alive. We have to get her to the doctor.”

So I went outside and said, “Ilat, Bon-Og! You've got to get Inyap to the doctor.”

They put her in this little hammock they had made, and I put a blanket over her body and they started off. As I was putting the blanket over Inyap, I noticed her eyelids flicker so I knew she was still alive. They took her over that mountain—it took them five hours to get to Banaue.

When they got there I guess the Lord wanted to provide a true miracle. The doctor wasn't even there, so there was no way to give her a blood transfusion. This happened on Monday morning in Batad, and by Monday afternoon Inyap had regained consciousness. She was in Banaue that week. On Saturday of that week she returned to Batad. She was well enough to hike over the mountain herself into Batad, and on Sunday we had a worship service. Now had Inyap not lived, this would have been a triumph for the pagan religion, because the pagan witchdoctors especially said the reason she was having so much trouble was because Ilat had not sacrificed to the spirits.

But this was a triumph for the Gospel in Ifugao. This was a strengthening factor in the fact thousands now have come to know the Lord.

Lightbody:

Thank you, Len, for a story of God's healing power. We'd like to invite all of you to tune in next week to hear more from Len Newell.

Announcer:

We hope you have enjoyed *Speeding the Word*. We'd love to hear from you. If you are interested in finding out more about JAARS, or Bible translation, give us a call at: 1-800-890-0628, or look us up on the Web at jaars.org.