



NARD PUGYAO

[JAARS](#)

[Wycliffe Bible Translators](#)

As a youth, Nard helped clear an airstrip for his village in the northern part of the Philippines. The airstrip brought a JAARS pilot and translators, whose work on the Isnag Gospel of Mark later brought Nard to belief in Christ. Nard's newfound belief prompted him to pray for God's provision to attend high school. God answered his prayer with both the provisions and a flight to his new high school in Mindanao, in the southern part of the Philippines. Nard was afraid of flying but it wasn't long before God changed that with pivotal words from a JAARS pilot: "One day we might not be welcome in your country. You've got to go learn to do what I do so you can come back and fly."

Knowing five languages put Nard at a unique advantage to becoming a Bible translator along with entering aviation. He came to the U.S. to get his aviation training and attend Moody Bible Institute. He met and married his wife, Sandy, and they joined Wycliffe in 1977.

Eight years after leaving the Philippines, Nard returned to fly the newly-translated New Testament in his language to his people in the community where he grew up. He also understood how it felt to have the translator leave for an undetermined amount of time and to be left alone with newfound faith.

Now, Nard's passion is to fulfill the need local churches have to be subsistent and sustainable after translators leave. And God is still working in Nard's village: the translation team finished checking and revising the Isnag Old Testament on July 7, 2021.

Having retired from flying with JAARS, Nard stays busy, urging the next generation to rise up, inspiring and investing in them at mission conferences and other special occasions. Using the five languages he knows, he's also active with the English as a Second Language program at his church.