

**BACK-TRANSLATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER**  
**from original translation made by Rev Dr John Harris**  
**into the DHURGA Aboriginal Nation, originating in the urban area**  
**of far south coast of NSW, Australia**

**Explanation:**

Back-Translation refers to the process of verifying the integrity of the portion of the Bible translation undertaken, into a new language from the original texts, Hebrew and Greek etc. It is done by translating the new work back into the familiar language of the culture of the Bible Translator.

The Dhurga tongue has been largely lost, yet words and phrases are still often used in the homes by the parents, grandparents and relatives in nurturing infants through "baby talk". Thus, the "mother tongue" becomes established as the "heart" language. Particular words are used in cultural teaching also and in recollections made by senior members of the Nation. Such people, when they are stimulated through hearing the Bible Translator speak in words and phrases, once familiar to their ears, find that they start to remember whole sentences, not just nouns in isolation.

Records held in libraries from early European encounters with the Aboriginal languages often lack the high skill that is required for recording sufficient useful guidance to the Bible Translator. Recovery of the language grammar becomes a slow process, but it is the biggest challenge for a Bible Translator assisting those interested urbanised Aboriginal Nations to receive the Word of God in their mother tongue.

Rev Dr John Harris grew up from infancy in the midst of caring adults and the children of the local Aboriginal Nation along-side of the nurture by his own long-term missionary parents in Northern Territory. He began a qualified primary teaching career in Aboriginal schools, that became a teacher training career, that led into ordination for ministry within the Anglican Church of Australia. He perused historical writing in Christian mission to Australian Aboriginal people before engaging in Bible translation projects in Australia and the Pacific under the Bible Society in Australia. Today he works as an independent Bible Translation Consultant.

Our Father in Heaven, your name is holy.  
Father, you come to our land.  
We will hear your dream in our land,  
the dream they hear in Heaven.  
Please give to us our food today.  
Let go our sins.  
We will let go other' sins when they do them to us.  
Father, don't let us go down to the track to sin.  
Protect us from the Devil.  
You hold the land, you hold the power, you hold the light.  
Today and tomorrow and tomorrow.  
Amen