



Partners in Bible Translation

March 2010

Dear Friend,

John chapter 4 records the encounter of the Samaritan woman with Jesus. She is amazed when He asks her for a drink, surprised because Jesus is speaking to her, a Samaritan, and the Jews never spoke to Samaritans.

Jesus uses the encounter for His own purposes and says, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water” (John 4:10, NLT).

Still thinking Jesus is speaking about dipping water from the well, she responds, “Please, sir, give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water” (John 4:15, NLT).

Knowing that it was hard work, I don’t think it’s surprising that she wanted to drink water that would guarantee she would not be thirsty again. It was a natural response from someone who was dependent upon dipping water daily from a well.

Jesus tells her that the water He would give brings life . . . eternal life. He knew it would quench the deepest thirst—the thirst you feel when your mouth is dry and parched. A few drops will not do!

The truth is that Scripture satisfies the longing God placed in our hearts for Him. The psalmist says, “As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God” (Ps. 42:1, NLT). God’s Word brings light and life.

The people in Southeast Asia who speak Kalumpang recently heard this story from John 4 for the first time in their language, the language of their heart, and it had a remarkable meaning for them.

The Kalumpang store their drinking water in bamboo tubes. When they travel, they take their bamboo container of water. When he heard this portion of Scripture, Silas, one of the prominent community leaders, was so moved that he said to the local translator:

“I used to always travel here and there with an empty bamboo water bottle. Now, I know that my bamboo is filled with Living Water, the Word of God. But it only contains a small amount. I want much more so that my bamboo is filled to the top and I can drink with complete joy and share it with others who

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need it. When will I receive more of the Living Water? I want it.”

Through faithful friends like you who believe in the work of Bible translation, people who pray and give financially, Wycliffe Bible Translators has the ability to respond to this request from Silas, “When will I receive more of the Living Water? I want it.”

And your response will bear dividends. The Samaritan woman responded to Jesus’ invitation to receive the Living Water, and she ran to tell the Good News to others. You can be assured that your investment will be multiplied as the translated Scriptures speak to the hearts of people in Kalumpang and they share it with others.

There is still a lot of work to do among the Kalumpang before Silas can fill his “bamboo” to the full with the Living Water of God’s Word. Near the region where the Kalumpang live, work is underway in eight language communities needing Scripture in the language that best speaks to their hearts, with three new language projects ready to start.

What is happening among the Kalumpang people vividly illustrates the key role that Bible translation plays in helping bring light and life, changing lives in Southeast Asia.

Wycliffe needs a total of \$145,963 in new support to advance our work in this area of Southeast Asia. These funds are needed for our foundational ministries of translation, literacy and Scripture use training for language communities in this spiritually needy region.

If God is leading you to help play a strategic role in this ongoing story of Bible translation and life transformation, please send a contribution to Wycliffe today. Thank you for your faithfulness in sharing God’s Word with others who need to know Christ.

Warmly in Christ,



Bob Creson
President

P.S. “When will I receive more of the Living Water?” I am humbled that a spiritually thirsty man would ask us that question. Many others around the world have that same longing. Your gift to Wycliffe will help answer them. It will be greatly appreciated by all those who thirst for Scripture in the language they understand best.