

FRONTLINES

SUMMER
2019

MORE OF GOD'S WORD FOR THE C*

Millions of people communicate in the C* language in western Eurasia. C speakers follow a major world religion, often mixing it with practices from traditional beliefs. There are very few Christians — less than 0.5% of the people — and overt Christian activity is discouraged.

The C church is relatively small, but it is growing and maturing rapidly. People can currently access portions of God's Word on their smartphones, even in public places where it would otherwise be suspicious to openly read a printed Bible.

A C New Testament has already been translated and produced, but C believers want all of God's Word! Wycliffe is partnering with local translators to complete the C Old Testament. The team is now recording materials as they are translated. This results in a more accurate and natural translation, but it has also slowed the rate of translation.

But praise God that progress is still being made! In the first quarter of 2019, there were 1,307 downloads of the C New Testament PDF, 524 verses from the New Testament were shared using the YouVersion app and there were almost 1,900 plays of chapters of the New Testament on SoundCloud.

God's Word is changing lives too. Currently a young C woman meets occasionally with an expat worker to help check some oral Bible stories. She has not professed faith in Christ but said that her mother has listened to the Scripture story recordings and is begging her to get more!

A man in another region asked for a copy of the New Testament in C. He said he was born into another religion but then explained, "I decided to surrender to the choice of my heart and follow the religion of Christ — the religion of tolerance, love and respect. Thank you my brothers and sisters in advance."

God's Word in the C language is reaching the people, and lives are being transformed.

HOW TO PRAY FOR BIBLELESS PEOPLE

Bible translation truly begins when someone starts praying for the work! If your heart's desire is to pray for people without Scripture, below are a few prayer points to help you get started:

PRAY FOR THE MESSAGE

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. — John 1:1 (NLT)

- » Pray that the last languages of the world would receive the Scriptures in whatever form they need them. Ask God to provide every person in the world with his Word.
- » Pray for quality translations that speak meaningfully to the hearts of Bibleless people.

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE

His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him — though he is not far from any one of us. — Acts 17:27 (NLT)

- » Pray that Bibleless people would hunger and thirst for God's Word in a language and form that speaks to their hearts.

- » Pray that Bibleless people would engage with Scripture once it is translated and that their lives would be transformed by the power of the gospel.

PRAY FOR PERSONNEL

So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. — Matthew 9:38 (NLT)

- » Pray for more language and support workers around the world to be called, trained and sent.

PRAY FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE TASK

Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. — Philippians 2:16 (NLT)

- » Pray for perseverance and that those involved in Bible translation would not grow weary or give up before the work is complete.



WORDGIVER'S REPORT

WordGivers are a group of donors investing in a world where everyone has God's Word in a language and form that speaks to their heart. They give monthly to keep Bible translation moving forward where help is needed most. Read on to see how the gifts of WordGivers are impacting the Lyélé community.

ANTICIPATING GOD'S WORD IN LYÉLÉ

"Will we still be alive when it's finished?!"

Two women eager for all of Scripture in their language asked this question to a Lyélé Bible translator. With two years left until the expected completion of the Old Testament, anticipation is growing among the Lyélé people in Burkina Faso.

The translation team, experiencing the impact of God's Word in their own lives, is motivated to finish the Old Testament and share it with others. "I understand it better in my language than in any other language," said a translator.

Throughout the translation process, Lyélé churches have been getting a taste of Old Testament Scripture. During the Easter service at one church, several translated passages were read aloud, which gave an overview of Genesis up to the resurrection of Christ. The Lyélé Scripture was very well received, and the Christian community wants more.

Later, when the translation team held an event to review their draft of Proverbs, one pastor invited everyone in his church to participate. He wanted them to have a copy of Scripture to read regularly, even before it's published, convinced that it will have a positive impact on their lives and the community overall.

"Bible translation is truly a necessity for the transmission of the Word of God for my people," said a translator. "We thank God for the honor he has given us by making himself heard and understood in our language."

To learn more about how to become a WordGiver, visit wycliffe.org/wordgivers.



FAST TRACKING BIBLE TRANSLATION

Bill Smith and his wife, Wendy, have a family business of buying and restoring houses near Raleigh, North Carolina. As the business grows, the Smiths use biblical principles to stay debt free and invest in work they know will make a difference. Bill said, “We see everything we have as a blessing from God. He expects us to invest wisely, and we want to give where he is leading.”

Bill loves God’s Word and when he heard about the need for Bible translation, it was hard for him to comprehend that some people don’t have the Bible. So in December 2017, he did an internet search for “Bible translators” and found Wycliffe at the top of the search results. On the website, Bill made a year-end gift in support of Bible translation efforts around the world.

“There’s real power in the Word, and I’ve seen it change me,” Bill said. “I wanted to be a part of sharing the gospel with those that didn’t have it.”

When the Smiths received the receipt for their gift, the package included an insert about the opportunity to give vehicles to support Bible translation. Wendy opened the mail that day, looked over the insert and discarded it.

Then a few months later, the Smiths listened to multiple sermons about not making idols out of possessions. Wendy immediately thought back to the Wycliffe receipt insert and the special car in their garage. She and Bill had used a portion of their earnings to buy a Maserati, something they greatly enjoyed driving and maintaining. Wendy felt the Lord leading them to sell the car and use the proceeds for missions.

“We felt the prompting from the Lord,” Bill said. “The Holy Spirit was working in our lives. We came out from each church service feeling confirmation of what God was doing in us — freeing us up to work as a team. Our lives were changing as he was working in us.”

In August 2018, Bill and Wendy sold the Maserati and purchased two cars — a daily driver for themselves and a 2017 Toyota Camry to donate to Wycliffe for use at the Orlando headquarters. Once they had the title paperwork in order, Bill drove from Raleigh to Orlando to deliver the car.

Bill said, “Because of health concerns, we can’t serve in another country. But we can give! We know that what we do for the kingdom will last. And spreading the Word, telling people that the one who created them loves them, is right up there on the list!”



Non-cash donations are a creative, low-cost way to partner with Wycliffe. You receive a tax deduction while meeting a tangible need of the organization. If you or someone you know is interested in donating a car to Wycliffe, please call our Gifts in Kind office at **1-800-992-5433** or email us at **giftsinkind@wycliffe.org**. For more information about Gifts in Kind, visit **wycliffe.org/donateyourstuff**.

50 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP ... AND BEYOND

JoNancy Sundberg has always had a heart for missions. She remembers her mom starting the missions program at their church when JoNancy was young and their family hosting numerous missionaries in their home over the years. JoNancy's support of missionaries through prayer, hospitality and giving continued into adulthood.

When JoNancy and her late husband, Bob, moved to Virginia they didn't know anyone. Among the first people to reach out to them was a couple in their church named Don and Jean Lindholm. The four became friends, and when the Lindholms took an assignment in Peru with Wycliffe, the Sundbergs joined their financial partnership team.

JoNancy has been a partner in the ministry of Bible translation since Don and Jean joined Wycliffe 50 years ago. The ministry continues to be special to her because of her passion for Scripture. "I love the Lord so much, and his Word," JoNancy said. "Therefore, I want other people to have it so they can know the God I see in his Word. And until they have it in their language, they can't really understand what it says."

God's Word helped JoNancy get through many challenges in her life, including becoming a widow at

the age of 53. Losing her husband meant JoNancy needed to take on responsibilities she didn't feel equipped to do — like closing Bob's business, settling his affairs and making decisions about her financial future.

While researching for her own estate planning, JoNancy discovered charitable gift annuities (CGAs), which she describes in simple terms as, "a gift that you give to the ministry now, get regular, fixed income back from the CGA for as long as you live, and the remaining funds go to the organization after you pass on to heaven." Over time, JoNancy's initial set of annuities grew into a collection of 45, benefiting all types of ministry work — including Bible translation.

JoNancy says, "I promote CGAs not only because they take care of me, which they do so well, but because they help that ministry do what they do best. That's really important to me! I want my resources to be used to create the greatest impact in the lives of people."

If you would like to learn more about charitable gift annuities or other kingdom-building tools, please call us toll-free at **877-493-3600**, or email info@wycliffefoundation.org.

WORDSEARCH

LOVE THAT LEADS TO FORGIVENESS

1 Peter 4:8 says, "Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins" (NLT). In Papua New Guinea, translators in the Aitape West Translation Project searched for a word in the Sissano language, one of the languages included in the Aitape West project, that would convey the beauty of the love that Peter wrote about in his letter.

The best translation for "covers" was immediately apparent for other languages within the project, which includes 11 languages. In the Arop language, one of the 11 languages, the word chosen for "covers" meant to "cover over," in the

same way that a blanket covers a bed. For the Sissano, however, a similar translation would mean that someone was trying to hide what they were doing.

Instead, Sissano local language experts suggested a phrase that means to "hold onto and shove way down." The Sissano people understand this to mean that our love for one another suppresses our notice of, and response to, the sins committed against us. 1 Peter describes a deep love that doesn't allow offenses to divide; it is a love that leads to forgiveness.

NEWS+NOTES *FROM THE FIELD*



CELEBRATING FIRST SCRIPTURE PORTION IN TACHONI

Government dignitaries, members of the Tachoni community, church leaders, and translators and officials from BTL (Bible Translation and Literacy in Kenya) recently celebrated the dedication of Luke, the first Scripture portion in the Tachoni language in Kenya.

Community and church leaders expressed appreciation for the work put into the translation by BTL members. Church leaders promised to use the translated Book of Luke and requested an escalation on the work of the remaining parts of the Bible. Community leaders said the Word of God will be as easy as storytelling but with a great impact to the community.



A MODEL OF THE LANGUAGE

“Since some of the first Bible translation has now been completed in Honduran Sign Language, deaf children and adults are beginning to engage with the Word in a whole new way,” said a manager for the Honduran Sign Language translation project.

After publishing a translation video of Genesis 1-2:3 last year, the team has been delighted to learn that it is being used in schools, churches and Bible studies around the country. But one particular use of the video was a surprise to them.

Because there are so few resources available in Honduran Sign Language, hearing people who want to learn the language are using the Scripture video as a model! “This is a beautiful testament to the work of the project,” said the project manager.