“Blessed are those who read the whole Bible in their language; they will accomplish many things in their daily lives,” a Bwisi pastor from Uganda said after attending a workshop to train pastors how to use Scripture. As more Scripture is available in his language, more opportunities to use Scripture in the Bwisi language will also be available, thanks to your partnership!

Your gifts to the Scripture engagement campaign last fall provided funding for Scripture use workshops, Sunday school teacher workshops, Bible study lessons, basic Bible training, and literacy classes. These Scripture engagement tools help people in Uganda use and apply translated Scripture in their daily lives.

At one of the workshops, a pastor commented, “I appreciate the work done in translating the Bible into Bwisi. This book will help the community understand the Bible more easily.”

After a Bwisi Bible training workshop, a pastor reported, “I was able to understand what would happen to Jesus, the one who announced it (Isaiah), and how it was fulfilled. This has confirmed my faith in Jesus—that we who believe in Him, believe in the true Savior.”

See Bwisi ENGAGE, PAGE 2
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Bwisi engage

Another pastor testified, “I have been a pastor for over nine years and I have never attended any theological training. I believe that even if I do not go to theological college, the Spirit of the Lord will show me what to preach, as has been emphasized in this workshop. This workshop has helped me gain a good understanding of the issues regarding salvation.”

At a Sunday school teachers training, one teacher remarked, “I realize that I have not been teaching my Sunday school children, but confusing them. Today I have learned the best ways to teach them.”

Another workshop focused on applying Scripture principles to issues related to HIV/AIDS. One participant said, “Talking about HIV in village churches is still seen as an abomination, but this workshop has reminded us of our obligation, calling upon all church leaders to talk openly about HIV/AIDS.”

One woman commented, “I thank the Lord who enabled me to attend this workshop. My husband died of AIDS, and I found out that I had HIV. Since then, I lost my trust in God. This workshop helped in restoring my hope in Christ; I have learned that with a repentant heart, we can all be forgiven.”

Thank you for supporting these Scripture engagement workshops through your prayers and gifts! +

Nearing the Finish Line

As a Scripture translation nears completion, it often encounters unique needs and challenges—illness of team members, equipment failures, delays, etc. You can be a part of praying for the following three translations, which are due to print this year, to help them through to completion.

Please pray for the following elements of each translation project:

- People—stamina, health, protection, and perseverance
- Process—staff resources, equipment, proofreading, and printing
- Printing—typesetters, availability of materials, and safe delivery

Mal Paharia New Testament, South Asia, population of 111,000—Thank the Lord that the Mal Paharia people will soon have the New Testament completely translated in their language! Pray that it will change the hearts of those who hear it. Pray also for diligence and wisdom on the part of team members. The project was delayed due to linguistic differences between the scattered Mal Paharia people groups, but the translators hope to have their testing and revisions completed soon, enabling them to print the New Testament.

Morogoro Cluster Project, East Africa, population of 3.3 million—Praise God that work in eight projects from the Morogoro cluster—Arew, Lughulu, Makua, Ndamba, Ning, Omaraz, Rewe, and Vidunda—are nearing completion! The Lughulu translation team is working to complete the New Testament in the coming months, as well as continuing work on translation of the Old Testament. Pray for wisdom for the team to translate figures of speech and unknown Jewish cultural items and ideas clearly in the Lughulu language specifically.

Kwamera New Testament, Vanuatu, population of 3,500—Thank the Lord for the great progress that the translation team made in 2012 and for a successful community check of the translation this spring. Pray for the community’s interest in the translation to grow. The team hopes to typeset the text this summer and is also working on an audio recording of the Scripture translation. Please pray that computers and sound equipment will work well during this time.

The Finish Line is a popular annual Wycliffe publication that highlights translation projects nearing completion. You can download the publication and pray through one of the four regions, or pray daily online for a featured language project by visiting www.wycliffe.org/Pray/Publications/TheFinishLine.aspx.
Dave and Cindy Lux began the first translation project with the Noni people group in Cameroon, and in 2011 their team completed the Noni New Testament. The Luxes used what is often called the “traditional” approach to translation—one team living in a village, learning the language, and leading the project while working closely with local colleagues.

Now the Luxes and three of the original Noni translation and literacy workers are using the completed New Testament as the starting point to produce Scripture in six related languages. This group of similar languages is called the Misaje cluster. The impact of the effort poured into the Noni translation is being multiplied, and the six new translations will be completed accurately, clearly, and naturally in a fraction of the time it took to produce the original Noni translation.

Innovations like cluster projects have helped teams deliver the Scriptures to more people faster than ever. For the first time there are more translation programs in progress than there are translation needs. The day the Luxes received an e-mail about the decreasing number of translation needs, Dave witnessed the first sharing of new Scripture in the six Misaje languages.

He recounted by e-mail, “The Misaje translators yesterday afternoon divided up their newly printed books of the parables of Luke for distribution. It struck me as a historic moment. It was quite unknown by the world, and equally uncared for by the world, but from God’s perspective it was precious to see these men taking steps for the first time for the six language groups to have the printed Scriptures.”

“In it was quite unknown by the world...but from God’s perspective it was precious.”

Included in the parables that have been translated for the Misaje communities are the parable of the lost sheep and the parable of the lost coin. In both of these, Jesus illustrates the extent to which He will go for one person. Thank you for your gifts to the Worldwide Projects Fund that are making the Good News accessible for six more communities in their mother tongue.
You may never meet a man as passionate about God’s Word as Joseph Silva.

“Every day, I’m in the Word of God. That’s my top priority,” he said. “I’m so enthralled with God’s Word that when it’s time for me to go to bed at night, I get upset. I don’t want to sleep. I don’t want to stop!”

Joseph settled into Central Florida with his late wife Deloris twenty-eight years ago. He previously served in the US Navy and earned a living in roles such as high school guidance counselor, English teacher, and pastor. But it was after this move to Central Florida that Joseph felt the Lord put a very specific call on his life.

“I heard the Lord say to me, ‘I don’t want you to work. I want you to allow me to supply your finances,’” Joseph said. “I immediately stopped working, and God has so blessed that.”

Instead, Joseph spent his time studying Scripture and sharing it with others through a very successful prison ministry. The Silvas also spent thirteen years traveling and teaching Scripture in churches around the country.

“We moved out of a brand new house into a ninety-square-foot travel trailer,” Joseph said, remembering the years fondly. “I’m so glad I obeyed the Spirit.”

Joseph doesn’t travel anymore, but sends his sermons to churches around the country for free and is starting a Bible class at his church.

Since Joseph quit working, he lets the Holy Spirit be his financial advisor. And although Joseph hasn’t worked a traditional job in twenty-eight years, God has provided him with a steady income, including enough excess to steward his resources for God’s kingdom.

Joseph currently has Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs)—forty of them—with the Wycliffe Foundation. Through his CGAs, he transfers his gifts to the Foundation and receives a fixed income for life in return. At the end of Joseph’s life, the remaining balance will benefit Wycliffe’s work.

“I want God’s Word to get to people, to be translated for other people who don’t have the great privilege that I have and you have,” he said as tears welled in his eyes. “I love God’s Word so much. There’s nothing more important to me in all the world.”

Joseph has enjoyed his experience with the Foundation. When it comes to communication and service, “[on a scale] from one to ten, they’re a fifteen!” he said. And because he recognizes that all his resources are a gift from God, Joseph is thrilled to give them back to Him by supporting Bible translation.

“God will never be a debtor to anybody. So when I walked away [from working], guess what God has done? He’s replaced it more than that,” he said. “All the glory and praise belongs to God. He has been so good to me.”

Joseph currently lives in Wildwood, Florida. He has two grown children—a son serving as a missionary in the Philippines and a daughter who is a manager in a retail store.

For information about Charitable Gift Annuities, or to learn about other legacy plans, visit:
www.wycliffe.foundation.org
The goal of Scripture translation is to convey the true meaning of God’s Word in a way the people group can understand. Here is an example showing how important—and difficult—it can be to find just the right words.

The book of Revelation had some interesting translation challenges for the Daasanach language team in Kenya. The term “dragon” is used symbolically for Satan throughout the book, but there is no word for dragon in Daasanach. The team chose the most ferocious reptile the Daasanach know of: anich (crocodile). Daasanach people will know it is not a normal crocodile by the description given in Revelation 12:3b. There is also no word for “crown” in Daasanach. Where that word is used to mean rule or authority, rather than reward, the Daasanach team translated it as “hat of authority.” Loosely translated into English, the passage reads, “I saw a large, red, crocodile with seven heads, and each of those seven heads had a hat of authority on it, and it had ten horns.” The Daasanach New Testament translation is now in final checking, the last step before typesetting and printing.
Please pray for these Wycliffe projects around the world.

**Scripture Use in Papua New Guinea**

Praise the Lord for the Scripture Application and Leadership Training course in the Mekeo language in Papua New Guinea. Thirty-five people attended the workshop. Attendees were required to use the translated Scriptures, giving them the opportunity to use their Mekeo New Testament as they went through the studies. Pray for Victor and Ana Opungu, the Mekeo translators, as they continue to encourage and nurture spiritual growth among the believers. Pray that the church will apply the teachings of this course, and that it will strengthen and grow in maturity to the glory of God.

**Translation Workshop in West Asia**

Eighteen people representing four languages attended a translation workshop in West Asia in April. The lesson and group discussion needed to be translated into each language so all could participate. The group focused on finding good translations of key terms (theological concepts like grace, sin, and faith). They also worked on harmonizing the way biblical names (for example, Moses, Jeremiah, and Barnabas) are rendered in the various languages. Translation workshops like this one help encourage and equip people who God has called to the work of Bible translation.

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