YOUR GIFTS AT WORK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The team leader for the Tembo language project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is excited to see the local church engaged in Bible translation. “We printed the [translated] texts of Philippians and Jude and sent them to the pastors of our churches in a nearby area for testing,” he said. “After receiving these texts, three pastors of the Methodist church communicated to us that they will not return us these copies because, according to them, they find that the translation is good and they are already using them in their church services.”

What exciting proof that the translation work is making a difference! Your gifts to Wycliffe’s summer campaign (First Words to Final Printing) helped move the Tembo project and nine other DRC projects forward. “We take this opportunity to thank the donors because without their contribution, this result would not have been possible,” the Tembo team leader said.

The DRC is one of three areas with high translation needs in the world, having an estimated one hundred and twenty...
remaining languages that have translation needs.

The ten existing translation projects and more than sixty potential projects have too many needs for the current teams in that area to handle on their own, which is why gifts to the campaign were so vital this summer. As the teams look towards the future, they know that Bible translation cannot move forward without engaging the Church and Christians in the DRC and developing their capacity to serve in project leadership, strategic development, management, and consulting.

While the churches have human resources, they do not have the financial resources to maintain their church structures or invest heavily in Bible translation. Years of civil unrest have devastated the local economy. Your partnership through financial gifts has provided needed funding to keep the momentum of Bible translation moving forward in the DRC.

PRAYERS FOR AND FROM THE DRC LANGUAGE TEAMS

Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.
—Ephesians 6:18b (NLT)

It is through your prayers and financial gifts that the work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to move forward. The praises and petitions below represent comments from the field teams in the DRC. As you offer prayers for the Bible translation teams in that area of the world, remember that they are also praying for you!

- Praise God for the support of SIL International*, staff, partners, and donors, whose support has made a lasting impact on the work.
- Praise God for the progress in translation work!
- Praise God for the health and morale of team members.
- Praise God for the support of our funders, both spiritually and materially, which has facilitated good progress for our projects in the DRC.
- Pray for a spirit of hard work, peace, order, and discipline among our church partners and the people we are working with.
- Pray for the training of two Tembo translators on the Epistles at Shalom University of Bunia.

*Wycliffe’s primary strategic partner

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER HAVE A MATCHING-GIFT PROGRAM?

USE IT FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION!

WWW.WYCLIFFE.ORG/CORPORATEMATCHING
Many years ago Kéraba Wallou, a young boy in the Sototo village of Senegal, stood humiliated in front of his classmates. He’d been playing in the schoolyard when a boy asked him a question. Without thinking, Kéraba had responded in his language—a grave mistake. Students weren’t allowed to speak their first language during school hours.

The other boy ran off to tell the teacher what Kéraba had done, and Kéraba was then forced to wear a symbol of shame—a bull skull and horns—while the other students laughed and teased him. He’d have to keep it on until the end of the day, or until another child spoke in their own language.

Today, schools in the Manjak language community are changing as they begin to embrace multilingual education and allow students to be taught in their first language as well as the national language. Because of literacy classes in their language, Manjak-speaking students are gaining confidence and improving their ability to learn French and other subjects. They don’t have to be ashamed of their language, like Kéraba was once made to be. Instead they can be proud to read and write in Manjak.

Now an adult, Kéraba is a project supervisor for the Wycliffe-funded Manjak literacy program in southern Senegal. He has taken the class himself, and taught the class for several years before becoming supervisor. He’s also proud to be teaching his four kids to read and write Manjak.

“Some people thought being a Manjak teacher is a waste of time. Then they realized that it’s important because learning Manjak literacy is part of a student’s development,” Kéraba said. “Reading and writing—there’s nothing more important than that.”

Manjak is a Bibleless people group, but work on the Manjak New Testament is underway. One of the Manjak translators said, “I’d be brokenhearted if we translated God’s Word and no one could read it.”

Thank you for your gifts to provide literacy programs that are preparing readers to read the translated Scriptures once they are complete.

**Funds Recently Provided**

*We greatly appreciate your partnership in the ministry of Bible translation. Your investment in Wycliffe’s Worldwide Projects Fund will help to reach the least, the last, and the lost. Thank you!*

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The Murle people live in one of the more remote areas of South Sudan, in the eastern part of Jonglei state, close to the Ethiopian border. Conflict between subversive groups and the country’s army has destabilized the Murle area, displacing thousands.

The Murle New Testament was printed in 1996, as one of the earliest SIL supported projects. Since that time, quite a few Murle people have learned to read their language.

Most of the Murle are pastoralists, who move often to find water and grass for their cattle. Recently a group of SIL literacy workers went to the Murle area to train teachers to conduct literacy classes in cattle camps. The new teachers lived and moved with the group, conducting classes when people had fewer chores or activities.

Two female SIL workers and a man who had been on the Murle New Testament translation team conducted teacher training sessions for thirteen Murle men. Many of the attendees had their copies of the Murle New Testament, which they used and read fluently from during morning devotions. They also shared songs and sung prayers in their own musical style. In addition to teaching literacy, some of the Murle men wanted to share the gospel in the cattle camps. The staff demonstrated and practiced different teaching methods with the men, and had them write short stories.

In the last few days of the workshop, five of the best participants were given training supervisors. One morning during devotions, a Murle man named Marko glanced longingly at the Murle New Testament that lay on a table. He asked the staff where he could get a copy. “They are out of print,” one of the female literacy workers replied. “Do you not have one?”

“I had one,” Marko answered, “but I lost it when we were running from the fighting.”

The literacy team gave Marko their resource copy and marveled at how much this book was like sustenance to him, perhaps even more so than the physical food he needed to live.

Unfortunately, the day after the group of new Murle teachers returned to Pibor (one of the main towns in the area) it was evacuated because of impending fighting. The area is still experiencing instability. Please pray for the Murle area and other conflict areas in Sudan and South Sudan. Also pray for the community of believers in these countries that they would be empowered to be “salt and light” despite the stresses they live under.

The Murle New Testament will soon be reprinted, and many Murle people have expressed interest in a translation of the Old Testament. Please pray that these projects will be able to move forward despite the conflict.

*SIL International is Wycliffe’s primary strategic partner.
ONE HUNDRED YEARS

On a trip into an isolated mountain area of South Asia, my wife, Dallas, and I met a lady who is one hundred years old. Some years ago, the Good News reached her village and she became one of the first believers. God’s Word did not exist in her language at the time, so she worshipped in the state language.

She is part of a language community that has been estranged from a neighboring group for nearly one hundred years—her entire life! Their languages are very closely related, but for the last century they have also shared a strong desire to avoid each other.

Recently, however, that hostility has begun to melt as a result of Bible translation. A team from each of these languages joined a multi-language Bible translation project and began to translate the Gospel of Mark. Each team translated for their own people, sharing skills and insights with teams from other related languages.

When the two teams finished the Gospel of Mark, they decided to hold a joint celebration to dedicate the Scriptures. According to the South Asian partner who accompanied us, this may have been the first time in forty years that the groups came together for anything!

The Spirit of God is at work in the mountains of South Asia, drawing men, women, and children to Himself with the good news that they can be reconciled to God and to each other through the message of hope. Dallas and I were filled with wonder as we tried to imagine what it must feel like for this one-hundred-year-old lady to live without the Word—and then to receive it and watch it begin to transform two communities.

After years of relating to God in a language that came from the outside, this elderly believer can now hear the Gospel and respond to God and to people around her in new ways, because God speaks her language!

Warmly in Christ,
Bob Creson
President/CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

TRANSLATION TREASURE

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.

In the Eastern Arrernte language of Australia, the word “forgiveness” is particularly difficult to translate.

In Arrernte, if someone asks you if you smoke, and you don’t, the correct reply is literally, “I am ignorant of smoke.” The word “ignorant” means the person has no knowledge of smoking.

The Arrernte translation team recalled a term which could be translated “being ignorant of anger.” If someone has wronged you, you might feel anger towards them. But if you choose to not pursue any angry feelings or get payback, you can say you’re “ignorant of anger.” The team is exploring whether this term might be a good way of expressing forgiveness. After we’ve wronged God by sinning against Him, forgiveness happens when the anger of God is turned away from us and He effectively becomes “ignorant of anger.”
ONE DEDICATED LIFE IN SOUTH ASIA

Five years prior to the completion of the Koya New Testament in South Asia, Deva suffered a paralytic stroke. As the lead translator, he continued to work, completing the Koya New Testament from a wheelchair. Today Deva is almost completely paralyzed from the neck down, but he continues working on the Old Testament translation with the help of a young assistant. Deva's response to his accident is, “God is faithful. I have not done enough for Him.”

AMAZING PROGRESS IN INDIA

A translator in India says, “Last March, I completed twenty years of serving in Bible translation ministry. I can testify without any hesitation [in the context of Bible translation ministry] that mission belongs to God. He will make the crooked path straight so that all people on earth will have the opportunity to read or listen to the Word of God in their own heart language. In 1993 over two hundred and fifty languages needed translation of the Bible in India. Today, after twenty years, just over one hundred languages need a translation of the Bible. This is God’s doing and it is marvelous in His eyes!”