

INfocus

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THINGS OF VALUE FOR ETERNITY



By Jennifer Stasak

Nod didn't understand the point of the Bunong Bible translation. Why were people spending years of their lives translating the Scriptures into the local language when a translation was already available in Cambodian, the national language?

Having studied until Year 9 in the Cambodian national education system, Nod was proud of his national language skills and felt confident that he understood the Cambodian Bible clearly. But eventually curiosity got the better of him and he began to read the recently translated Bunong Scriptures.

As he did, he found he was able to understand the Bible much more clearly in his own language, making it more relevant and applicable to his life. In fact, Nod felt so convicted by what he read that he vowed to begin teaching others in the community using only the Bunong Scriptures.

Nod's new passion for seeing God's Word read, spoken, understood and applied in his language was so strong that he accepted a position as a Scripture engager — one who disciples others in the Word — even though it meant taking a salary cut. With a wife to provide for, why would

Nod agree to this? Eight months prior, Nod had attended two workshops — one in a secular setting and one in a church setting. Though he was pleased to see his people learning to write and discussing their culture and community in the secular setting, Nod's true joy came during the church workshop when they spent time praying, praising God and discussing eternal things.

"What is a dip in wages compared to things of value for eternity?" Nod said. "My reward is to see believers read and listen to Scriptures they can understand the meaning of in order to grow in their faith more and more and deeper and deeper."

As they read and study the Scriptures in their own language, young people like Nod are discovering a hope beyond this temporary world — one that makes them more like Jesus. As a result, they are choosing what Jesus spoke of in Matthew 6:21: "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be" (NLT). That's why we couldn't agree more with Nod when he says that Bible translation is a "thing of value for eternity."



DEAR FRIENDS,

It has been said that only two things will last forever: God’s Word and people. Nod, the young man in this issue’s cover story, has chosen to focus his time and energies on these eternal things. I love it when

he says, “What is a dip in wages compared to things of value for eternity?”

The first time Nod read the Scriptures in his mother tongue — rather than in the official language of his country — he found he’d gained access to treasure he didn’t know existed. He soon realized that he couldn’t keep this eternal Word to himself. He had to share it with the eternal people around him! And now they too are engaging with God’s Word — and with God himself — in the language that speaks most clearly to their hearts.

Thank you for your partnership with us in Bible translation. Your investment will have eternal impact. As the Scriptures are translated into one language after another, more and more people are hearing Jesus tell them of his love in the language they learned as children. Using the words they use to express their innermost needs and hopes, he is transforming lives and changing destinies. Nothing could be more important.

Warmly in Christ,

Bob Creson

Bob Creson
President, CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

WORLD *focus*

SPEAKING GOD’S WORD — TANZANIA

People who speak the Rangi language in Tanzania prefer storytelling to reading when it comes to passing on and recalling information. So as the team translates Scripture into Rangi, they are producing audio recordings so people can listen along. As more and more people across the region purchase mobile devices that support mp3 files, many are experiencing these Scriptures for the first time and are responding positively to God’s Word.

DEDICATING THE NEW TESTAMENT — TANNA

At the end of January 2015, the Whitesands New Testament translation was completed and dedicated. In a formal ceremony, the Whitesands speakers of Vanuatu dedicated the Bibles by carrying a box of them into a village on a bamboo litter — symbolically bringing the Good News to everyone. Out of the 110 languages of Vanuatu, Whitesands is only the 11th to have a completed New Testament in recent years. Pastors and mother tongue translators encouraged those in the Whitesands language group not only to celebrate their New Testament, but also to take it to their villages and churches, bringing these words to those who need to hear them.

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