Jyabu’s wife was very sick. He didn’t know how to care for her himself, and with each day her condition grew worse. If she died, he’d have to raise their little boy alone. He knew what he had to do.

Jyabu is a member of the Lhomi community, a language group in northeastern Nepal that historically practices a combination of Tibetan Buddhism and a local shamanism. According to the Lhomi people’s traditional beliefs, a shaman is summoned to perform healing rituals and animal sacrifices to combat illness — a very expensive obligation. Jyabu gave everything he had to heal her. He spent all his money, sacrificed his animals and even took out loans, but nothing worked. The shaman couldn’t save her.

Jyabu was devastated. “That was the moment I thought, ‘There must be someone who can help me and save my life,’” he says.

That’s when he met Olavi and Marja, linguists from Finland who traveled to Chepuwa to translate the New Testament into the Lhomi language. Jyabu got to know Olavi and Marja, and decided to join them in the capital city of Kathmandu to help them learn the language and do translation. Jyabu didn’t know anything about the Bible, but with nothing tying him to Chepuwa, he agreed to help.

They started working through the book of Mark, and Jyabu learned about the God of the Bible. In time, he decided to pray.

“The first time I prayed to God I said, ‘Maybe you’re the God I’ve been looking for in my heart.’ I prayed every night,” he says. “One night I heard God answering me! When I knew it was him responding, I poured out everything I had in my heart.”

He continued translating the New Testament story by story with Olavi, and the deeper they went, the more the stories about God in Scripture became real to him.

“It’s very difficult to find key terms in Lhomi. One key word, love, was a very big thing for me. When we were translating the Bible, we came to a point where we had to translate John 3:16. Those words really stuck in my heart. It was a turning point for me,” Jyabu says.

“I know human beings’ love. When we’re in need of help, they’re not able to help us or solve all the problems we have. I know that God’s love is unchanging. He keeps loving us, but people — they change. That really helped me trust God.”

“In the Bible there are a lot of things that we can hope for. When I studied the Bible, I found God inside. That’s how I believe in him. It’s the Word of the Lord where we can know who God is, where we can study his character, where there are life-giving words. It’s a light for our lives.”

Today, when Jyabu smiles, joy radiates from his entire face. His laugh — which you hear often — is hearty and sincere. There’s a tangible peace in him; it’s pure and contagious.
We’ve heard stories like Jyabu’s from people all around the world whose lives are changed forever when they have the Bible in their own language.

Now we’d like to hear your story.

Wycliffe invites you to join a movement of individuals and organizations of all backgrounds sharing stories of the Bible’s impact on individuals, communities and the world. You can be a part of that movement through the #WhyBible campaign!

If you have a story about how the Bible has impacted your life, all you have to do is write up your experience and mail it in with your next donation or email it to us at why_bible@wycliffe.org. We’d love the chance to hear how God has used his Word to touch your heart, impact your life and mold you into the person you are today. We’ll share these stories online to encourage others, too!

The Bible matters and we want people to understand why. Join us in telling the world why it’s important to you!

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It is the same with my word. I sent it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

— Isaiah 55:11 (NLT)