Jim* was traveling overseas and landed in an airport he hadn’t visited before. As he went through customs, he looked for the right place to declare an item he was carrying. Suddenly he heard someone call, “Jim! Jim!” He was sure that no one would know him there, but he turned around anyway. A young customs employee came up to him. “Do you remember me?” he asked.

Caught completely off guard, Jim said, “I … I’m sorry, but I’m not sure I do.”

The young man told Jim that he used to work at another airport — one where Jim had landed several times. He said, “When you came through my line, you noticed that I was sad, and you prayed for me.”

Then Jim did remember him. The young man had been obviously distressed, his eyes red and tears running down his face. Jim had asked if he could help, and the young man had told him his little boy was dying of cancer. “May I pray for you?” Jim asked. He accepted the offer, and Jim prayed for him and his son.

Now the young man excitedly told Jim that his son had survived the cancer and was healthy again! He offered to help Jim handle the customs declaration and took Jim to his supervisor.

It was quickly evident to Jim that the supervisor was a believer. He said, “Our nation is blessed to have visitors like you.” Turning to the younger man, he said, “It’s like I always tell you: God is at work. He wants you to trust in him.” He stamped Jim’s papers “No duty.” Then he said to the young man, “Take our guest to his airplane and make sure he doesn’t get charged for overweight.”

After Jim checked in, the two of them had a cup of coffee together and talked about things of the Lord. The young man demonstrated a great deal of spiritual interest, and it seemed to Jim that he would soon make a decision to follow Christ.

This encounter reminded Jim to marvel at a big God who orchestrated not just one meeting, but two, and who worked through a simple expression of concern to speak into the heart of a needy person.

*A pseudonym
DEAR FRIENDS,

At Wycliffe Bible Translators USA, we have had the privilege of translating God’s Word into written and oral languages all over the world for 75 years. Countless lives have been impacted by the message of the gospel in the language that speaks directly to their hearts.

One of the most important jobs that Christ has given us is not just to translate his Word, but to become living translations of it ourselves. We do this through the way we talk and act. Whenever people interact with us, they decide something about who God is based on our interaction.

Jim’s story is an example of the impact we can have when we are living translations of God’s life-changing Word. And as we do this, we are living as he designed us to live — to bring him glory. When we do that, we are living with purpose, on purpose. Throughout the next few months, we’ll be sharing stories of people who have lived out their faith in front of others and brought God glory as a result. You can read these stories at wycliffe.org/significance and be encouraged by the many different ways people are living God’s purpose in tangible, practical ways.

May God continue to provide us all with opportunities to be living translations of his Word. Thank you for your partnership in helping more and more people gain access to the translated Scriptures for themselves.

Bob Creason

COUNTRY Profile

A Glimpse of Russia

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: 143,856,000

MAIN LANGUAGE: RUSSIAN

MAIN RELIGION: CHRISTIANITY

TOTAL NUMBER OF LANGUAGES: 97

NUMBER OF LANGUAGES...

Without any of the Bible: 43*
With part of the Bible: 23
With a New Testament: 21
With a whole Bible: 10

*Russia is rich in diversity, with over 100 different people groups within its borders — a land that spans 11 time zones and takes up one-tenth of the earth’s land mass! The many people groups in Russia have a deep sense of tradition and culture, speaking nearly 100 unique languages and following a half dozen different religions.

The Christian population in Russia, in particular, finds it difficult to grow in the face of the country’s secularism. In the 1990s, the evangelical church grew rapidly, but the church struggles not only from external pressures and trials but also internal ones.

Still, Bible translation is active and progressing in Russia, and translations are taking place in dozens of languages. And for the first time in history, Christians in Russia are being sent out to Africa and Asia in order to further the work of Bible translation in those regions, too!

You can make a difference in countries like Russia by joining our prayer team. Sign up at wycliffe.org/prayer to receive weekly emails on different countries, people groups and more to help you pray for what God is doing around the world.

Ways to Pray for the World

» Pray that God would empower Russian Christians to be living translations of their faith to those they interact with.

» Ask God to bless the continued work of the evangelical church in Russia.

» Praise God for 75 years as an organization involved in Bible translation!