In 1983 Mack and Doris Graham and their family settled among the Kandawo people in Papua New Guinea and began to learn their language. Optimistic about the future for this new translation project, the Grahams were unaware of the trials they were about to encounter.

While away from the village for a season, thieves broke into their home, completely vandalizing it. Discouraged but determined to continue their work, the Grahams built again. But this time, the entire home was dismantled and stolen, piece by piece.

“What should we do?” Mack and Doris asked themselves. They stopped to pray, asking God if they should try again? After all, this could be God’s way of leading them in a new direction.

As they prayed, a colleague had a vision of small fires burning across the landscape. Maybe God was saying there was going to be revival among the people and that fires were going to be lit in the hearts of those hungry for him.

Mack and Doris asked God to show them that he wanted them to return by providing other confirmation before a certain date. If the people asked them to return by that date, they would; but if not, it was over. They would leave their village home in Kandawo and go wherever God led.

The day finally arrived. Afternoon went by, then evening, but still no word. Mack and Doris began to think that God was showing them that the door was being shut.

Then, six hours before midnight, a letter was read over a two-way radio: “Would you please come back?”

For Mack and Doris that was the moment God answered their prayers, confirming their return to the village. They built yet another house. But later they watched in shock as this third house burned to the ground.

Instead admitting defeat, the Graham family built a fourth house. Believing God had clearly spoken to them to not give up, they continued to trust him by placing this new house in his hands as well.

They stayed many more years, translating and ministering to the Kandawo people. There were moments of trial mingled with triumph, but they stayed the course, trusting that God would work in his own timing and way.

More than two decades ago, Mark’s Gospel — the first book to be translated — reached the final stages of the translation process and was checked by a consultant. At the beginning of 2013, the same consultant checked the final book of the New Testament — Revelation. And on April 15, 2015 the New Testament was finally delivered to the Kandawo people!

Although the journey was long and difficult, Mack and Doris walked with God, trusting he would bring his Word to the Kandawao people in the language they understand best. They relied on the deep conviction that God had sent them to translate his Word and on the promise he made about his Word in Isaiah 55:11b: “It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it” (NLT).
**Pacific Fast Facts**

**Number of Countries:** 14

**Largest Country:** Australia

**Smallest Country:** Nauru

**Most Spoken Language:** English

**Number of Languages with ...**

- Scriptures portions: 186
- New Testaments: 336
- Bibles: 54

**Deeper Look**

Papua New Guinea has the second greatest Bible translation need of any country in the world.

*Statistics are from wycliffe.net.*

**A Glimpse of the Pacific**

The Pacific is the world’s largest ocean and home to thousands of islands with diverse cultures and languages. Just over 1,300 languages are spoken in the Pacific and more than 830 of those are spoken in Papua New Guinea alone.

Since the beginning of Christian missions in the Pacific, local believers have taken an active role to reach their communities with the gospel. In some areas the Christian church is vibrant and alive, sending missionaries to other parts of the globe. In other areas the church is stifled by animism, fear and an incomplete understanding of the message of the gospel.

Along with the Indonesian archipelago, the Pacific islands have some of the greatest remaining needs for Bible translation in the world: over 700 people groups have no Scripture in their own languages. To truly understand God's message of love and salvation, the people of the Pacific need his Word in the languages that speak to their hearts.

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

**Ways to Pray for the World**

- In a region where languages are still being discovered, pray that God would expand the work of Bible translation so that more and more communities can receive Scripture for themselves.

- Ask God to continue to further the local ownership of missions; that more national organizations would become involved in Bible translation work for their own communities.

- Pray these languages would gain access to God’s Word and be transformed by the message of the gospel.