

INFOCUS

God Hears a Child's Prayers for Easter Island

By Richard Greene



At just five years old, Sam Anderson decided to pray for the people of Easter Island to receive God's Word. That began an almost 45-year connection with the Rapa Nui and the people called to serve them.

Sam's parents, John and Joy Anderson, were missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators. In 1975 they were serving in Nevada and working on the Northern Paiute New Testament translation. Like his siblings, 5-year-old Sam placed a tithe of his allowance in an old metal Twinings Tea box. The money would go toward supporting a Wycliffe translation project somewhere in the world.

"There was a large world map on one of the walls near that box where we could stick a pin on a location indicating a [people group] we wanted to pray for and to support the mission team there," Sam explained.

Sam studied the map and was interested in Easter Island, 2,300 miles off the west coast of Chile in the Pacific Ocean. He placed his pin on Easter Island and said he wanted to pray for and give toward the translation project there.

There was only one problem with Sam's choice: there wasn't a translation project on the island yet. Sam told his parents that he would pray for one to get started.

As Sam lifted up Easter Island, he was unaware of how God was working in the lives of Bob and Nancy Weber. They were asking God how he wanted to use them to

further his kingdom and help bring hope through Bible translation.

Months later, Sam's parents received a letter from a friend who mentioned that Bob and Nancy were being assigned to a new project on Easter Island!

The Webers discovered that Sam had begun praying for someone to start a translation for the people of Easter Island. They told him when they had first been interested in Easter Island — just after he started praying in 1975!

"That really impacted me as a kid," Sam recalled, "to be praying for something of that importance and then seeing God bring it to fruition."

Over four decades of work on Easter Island, Bob and Nancy saw the Lord answer so many of their prayers. "Our clear call to the island and to the translation for the Rapa Nui, and the knowledge that many people were praying for us daily, kept us going," Nancy said.

In early 2019, Sam and the Webers had the privilege of reconnecting at Wycliffe USA's Orlando headquarters just months after the completion of the Rapa Nui New Testament!

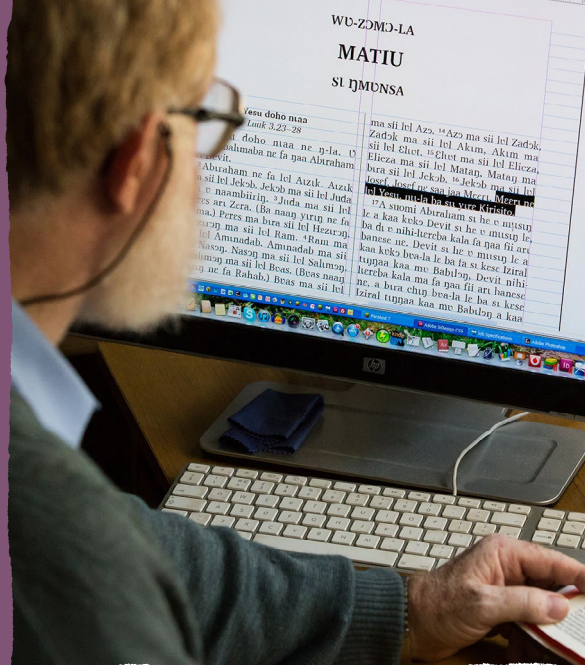
"Growing up as a missionary kid, I knew that a Bible translation project is a huge undertaking and takes a long time," Sam said. "It was amazing to hold the Rapa Nui New Testament in my hands and to see living proof of God's faithfulness in answering prayer."

CELEBRATE BIBLE TRANSLATION DAY!

Did you know that there's a day set aside to honor the work of Bible translation? The U.S. has celebrated Bible Translation Day every September 30 since 1966, when the House and Senate first proclaimed it a holiday.

This year, join us as we encourage missionaries around the world who continue to work so that one day every person would be able to read the Bible in a language and form they can clearly understand.

Learn more at wycliffe.org/whybible.



A GLIMPSE OF CHILE

Spanning 2,796 miles, Chile encompasses a variety of climates, from one of the most arid deserts in the world to vast areas of permanent ice. The country also has more than 2,200 volcanoes, and the landscape is largely impacted by seismic activity.

Easter Island, a territory in Chile, is a remote volcanic island known for large statues created by the early Rapa Nui people. Praise God that the Rapa Nui of Easter Island finally have the New Testament available in their language!

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



WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE WORLD

- » Pray that communities across Chile and around the world would recognize God's love for their language and culture.
- » Praise God for the impact that Scripture is having on the hearts and lives of the Rapa Nui people!
- » Ask that God would use local translators and organizations to further the work of Bible translation around the world.

CHILE FAST FACTS



POPULATION: **17,557,000**

TOTAL NUMBER OF LANGUAGES:
16

NUMBER OF LANGUAGES WITH ...

No Scripture: **5**

Scripture Portions: **2**

New Testaments: **2**

Bibles: **7**

*Statistics are from wycliffe.net.