

INFOCUS

A Long-Awaited Celebration

By Richard Greene

A century-long wait for the Giriama people of Southeast Kenya is finally over. They now have the complete Bible in a language they can understand.

On a beautiful day in early April 2019, about 2,000 people in traditional dress celebrated the long-awaited event, dedicating their Bible to the glory of God. The festive ceremony featured singing and dancing and attracted the presence of church leaders as well as many local and national political leaders.

Bishop Mika Kenga of the Light of God Church, who is more than 100 years old, trembled as he cried out in praise to God for allowing him the privilege of being able to hold the Giriama Bible in his hands.

This touching scene was reminiscent of the story in Luke 2 when Simeon, a righteous and devout man, awaited the arrival of the Messiah — the one who would rescue Israel.

Many of the men and women who had tirelessly helped translate the New and Old Testaments died before the entire Bible was completed. But their painstaking efforts were not in vain!

Joseph S. Ngowa — one of the translators and a member of the dedication planning committee — acknowledged those early pioneers and said: “I salute those men and women of God who worked tirelessly to see this work come to completion. I believe their souls [are rejoicing], seeing what they prayed and labored for has been completed. To me, this [is] the second greatest thing that

the Lord [has] done for the Giriama people apart from saving them.”

Now Joseph will distribute copies of that Bible among hundreds of thousands of Giriama people!

Community Response and Celebration

“We have seen the church getting the passion for wanting to see God’s people receive God’s Word in their language in Kenya,” said the Reverend Peter Munguti. “If you speak to a man in a foreign language, that goes to his head. But if you speak to that same man in their language [that they can best understand], it goes to his heart.”

On April 6, 2019 — the glorious day when the full Giriama Bible was dedicated — a colorful procession of people carrying the Bibles in a Giriama traditional basket wound its way through the town of Kilifi to the Karisa Maitha Grounds. Songs of worship were lifted high to God. As part of the ceremony, Kenya’s deputy president William Kipchirchir Samoei Arap Ruto gave praise to the Lord God Almighty. Deputy President Ruto pledged to pay for 1,000 copies of the Bible. Another politician said he would pay for 500 additional copies.

Patrick Charo, a Giriama who worked among the Giriama people, said of this monumental occasion: “God has been faithful to the Giriama people. The project took many difficult years, but God has empowered the community to write their history and have his Word in the Giriama language. Glory and honor to him forever and ever.”

A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE

Have you ever wondered how you can live a meaningful and significant life? The truth is that we already are simply because we have been made in the image of God — and he is the one who gives us purpose.

Explore what the Bible says about your significance and worth, and download a free 7-day devotional at wycliffe.org/significance.

A GLIMPSE OF KENYA

Kenya is located in east Africa and has a beautiful variety of geography, history, language and culture. The country features Mount Kenya in the highlands, white-sand beaches of the Indian Ocean, Lake Victoria which is the source of the Nile River, and the Great Rift Valley.

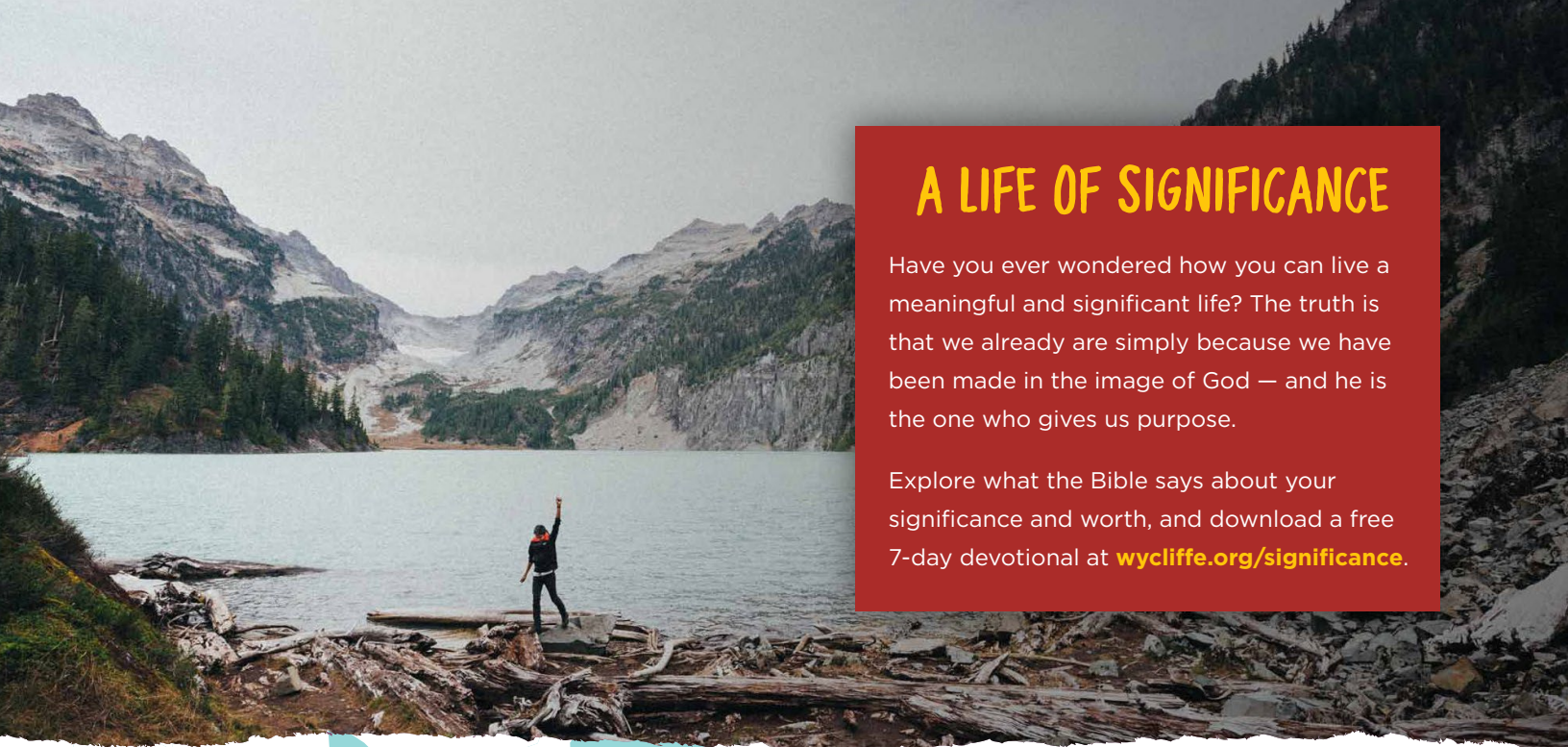
Most Kenyans adhere to some form of Christianity. Only about 10% of the population follow another major religion. Praise God for continuing to work in the Bible translation movement in Kenya!

You can make a difference in places like Kenya 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

- » Praise God that the Giriama people have the full Bible in their language! Pray that they will engage with Scripture on a daily basis.
- » There are still people groups in Kenya waiting for Scripture. Pray that Bible translation would start in the languages still needing it.
- » Pray that communities across Kenya and around the world would recognize God's love for their language and culture.



KENYA FAST FACTS



POPULATION: **41,793,000**

NUMBER OF LANGUAGES: **72**

NUMBER OF LANGUAGES WITH ...

No Scripture: **29**

Scripture Portions: **5**

New Testaments: **14**

Bibles: **24**

**Statistics are from wycliffe.net.*