As he lay on his deathbed, Mr. Habel Karabu had one final wish—to be able to lay his hand on the complete Giryama Bible before he died.

Mr. Karabu was a founding member of the Giryama Bible translation team in Kenya and had served faithfully for many years. Alongside a group of others who gathered together once a month from all over Giryama, Mr. Karabu worked to raise funds in support of the translation work.

But many of the team members were in the later years of their life, and health issues began to affect the men who had worked so diligently to bring the Bible into their own language. It was time to pass on the mantle to the next generation—younger men who could carry the torch and continue the work.

Although the bodies of these men were growing tired and weary, their zeal for seeing the Giryama Bible in their own hands remained strong. They pressed on to continue the translation of the Old Testament, a task that they all felt could be finished before they went to be with their Creator.

During this time, Mr. Karabu suffered a stroke that left him bedridden for a number of years. Although he could no longer attend the meetings, he often enjoyed visits from Shukurani Magundo, a younger man who had taken on the role of project leader and later helped with the translation work itself.

In this culture, people who are ill and those around them do not discuss death. But Mr. Karabu would always ask Shukurani the same question whenever he visited—how was the translation coming along? Could Shukurani increase the pace of translation so that Mr. Karabu would be able to hold the Giryama Bible before he went home to Jesus?

Feeling a great responsibility to fulfill Mr. Karabu’s request, Shukurani worked long hours, often until late into the night or early morning. But Mr. Karabu’s health continued to fail. Finally, one day he received a call saying that Mr. Karabu had passed away, leaving this world to enter the presence of the Lord he had so faithfully served.

Today, Shukurani continues to work on completing the translation of the Giryama Bible. Although Mr. Karabu was unable to hold the complete Bible in his hands before he died, Shukurani perseveres in his task so that others will be reached by the Word of God in their own language.

Mr. Karabu’s vision for seeing the Bible in his own language will continue to be carried on by the younger generation. His last wish will one day be fulfilled, and his people will know that God speaks their own language. Shukurani now prays that “God [will] spare the ones that are remaining so that they may see the Giryama Bible.”
DEAR FRIENDS,

The remaining number of people groups without Scripture is at an all-time low—this is the exciting news just released. The Scriptures for the last person in the last people group needing to hear the Good News about Jesus in their language is within our grasp.

I encourage you to read the story featured on page one—the wish of a dying man and his passion to see the Bible translated into Giryama, the language of his heart and seat of his emotion. Although he was unable to fulfill the vision, others picked it up—a younger generation—and they will see it through to completion. Please pray that the Giryama people will soon have the entire Bible and that they’ll be equipped to use it.

Pray, too, for projects still without Scripture in their language—1,919 people groups. Our commitment is to see Bible translation started in every people group needing the Bible in their language by 2025. It’s a task too big for man, but not for God!

Thank you for caring, praying, and giving to see the Word of God translated so that lives will be changed. Your partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators and people groups like the Giryama is a significant factor in accelerating the pace of people having access to the Bible and the opportunity to engage with the truths of God’s Word.

Warmly in Christ,

Bob Creson
President/CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

THE CHRISTMAS STORY—PNG

When the Nukna people of Papua New Guinea (PNG) heard the Christmas story from Luke 2 in their own heart language, they were very excited! Special church services were held, and in one village, the church was so full that people had to stand outside and listen through the windows. One man said, “When we hear God’s talk in our own language, it is so clear! We hear it and it’s like it’s written on our stomachs, where it will stay until the day we die.” Praise God that people are so eager to hear His Word in their own language, and that we have the opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ!

A YEARLY CELEBRATION—PHILIPPINES

On October 30, 2012, the Bolinao Bible was dedicated in this northern language group in the Philippines. But one day wasn’t enough to celebrate the great gift of God’s Word in their heart language. Prior to the dedication, the mayor and town counsel of Bolinao declared October 30 as an annual day of festivity to express gratitude and appreciation to God for the translation of the New Testament! This year, the first anniversary celebration included worship and praise, hymn singing, testimonies, Scripture memorization and reading, and various presentations. In the years to come, the Bolinao people will stop to remember once again the gift of the Bible in their own language that they received on October 30, 2012—a gift worth celebrating every day!

CORRECTION: In the last issue of InFocus, the South African Sign Language story was incorrectly labeled as “Music Ministry—Southeast Asia” rather than “Visual Language—South Africa.” We regret the error.