

# INfocus

Vol. 20 No. 2

## GOD DOES NOT EAT ALONE

By Melissa Paredes

God's Word in a person's heart language opens their eyes to who God is, what his character is like and how much he loves them. When people get the opportunity to hear the Scriptures in a language they understand best, life takes on new meaning and purpose as the Bible convicts and encourages them.

As the New Testament was translated into Makonde, people learned something new about God — that just like them, he too values generosity and sharing. Makondes value these traits in their community above all else, and anyone who doesn't live them out is called a

person “who eats alone” — one of the greatest insults a Makonde can receive.

Reading the New Testament in Makonde showed people that God not only values generosity and sharing, but that He also displayed the greatest act of generosity and sharing when he gave his one and only Son as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. And because of that sacrifice, we have the opportunity to live with him forever.

On the day that the Makonde New Testament was dedicated, people gathered together and listened to Samuel, a Makonde man, share about the significance of this lesson, both for him and for the Makonde community as a whole.

“Our God is not a grasping God. He is not a keep-it-to-yourself God. Because of his love for us, and his desire to bring us to heaven, he did not hang on to his Son. Truly our God does not eat alone.”

And that day, as this community in Mozambique gathered together to celebrate the gift of the New Testament in their own language with music, dancing and feasting, no Makonde had to eat alone either.

After 20 years of work, the Makonde people were able to celebrate the arrival of God's Word in their heart language. Pray that it will change lives and be used widely throughout this community.







## DEAR FRIENDS,

Every time I hear stories of how God speaks to a people group through his Word, I rejoice because I have the Scriptures in my language -- it's been translated into English. Those of us who have the Bible in our language are in a privileged position. When people are able to understand the Bible in their own cultural context, in their own language,

often a light goes on. They have access to the love letter sent by God to humankind.

I encourage you to read the story featured on page one — the joy of a community when they understood that one of their cultural values was exemplified perfectly through the saving work of God. After 20 years of waiting, the Makonde people finally celebrated the arrival of the Bible in their heart language, and through its pages they witnessed the love story of God unfold before their very eyes.

You and I come from an entirely different culture, but God's love story is just as meaningful to us as we read the Bible in our own language. My prayer is that we would come face to face with the beauty of the gospel and its transforming power on a daily basis.

Thank you for partnering with us as we work together to share the Bible with every people group still waiting so that they might engage with God in their own language and their own cultural context. That's when God's character and his amazing love become clear and they can find the hope of their salvation.

Warmly in Christ,

*Bob Creson*

Bob Creson

President, CEO

Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

# WORLD *focus*

## FROM CONFUSION TO FAITH — BURKINA FASO

The Buamu people are having the New Testament translated into two dialects — Buamu-Cui and Buamu-Laa. And as the translations are shared, lives are being transformed. Sinkondo Dadie is a Buamu-Laa speaker who shared, "I am 44 years old. I have become a Christian thanks to the program of reading the Word of God in Buamu Laa on the radio. Our group was very happy to hear our native language being told on radio by a brother of ours. So we were regularly following that radio program. One day, as I was confused by the Word I heard, I asked for some explanations. A member of the church explained everything to me and after he told me I had to repent and accept Jesus Christ as my own Lord and Savior, and I accepted him as so."

## A BIBLE FOR EVERYONE — PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A Sunday school teacher in Papua New Guinea taught 100 children every Sunday, but he didn't have a Bible — not in his own language or in Tok Pisin, the main trade language in his country. He had asked the leaders of his church for a Bible, but he'd been told that the Bible was only for church leaders, not for Sunday school teachers or their students. But when he went to a training course and the instructor heard his situation, she gave him her personal Tok Pisin Bible. He was so happy that he cried and thanked God for this precious gift that he has been longing to receive for such a long time. Praise God that this man was finally able to receive a Bible so that he can continue to teach the next generation the truths of the Bible.

## Praying Around the World

with Kate & Mack

Help your kids learn  
how to pray for people  
without the Bible.

[wycliffe.org/A-Z](http://wycliffe.org/A-Z)

[WYCLIFFE.ORG/FINISHLINE](http://WYCLIFFE.ORG/FINISHLINE)

Wycliffe

The Finish Line 2015

Annual prayer requests for Bible translation projects within three years of completion



PRAY WITH US

To continue to pray with us throughout 2015, sign up below and each month you'll receive a guide to help you pray daily for additional translation projects getting ready to cross the finish line.