

Summer 2014

# FRONTLINES

REPORTING YOUR IMPACT ON THE WORLDWIDE BIBLE TRANSLATION MOVEMENT

## TRANSLATION AND LITERACY— CHANGING LIVES IN TANZANIA

In Tanzania the Mbeya Cluster project represents about three million people. Although a church presence has existed for several decades, many communities only practice the local traditional religion.

But change is coming to the people in the Mbeya cluster languages! In partnership with the local churches, Bible translation and mother tongue literacy programs have been launched in ten of these language groups, with Tanzanians trained to take leadership roles in the work.

The basic literacy program will help people already literate in Swahili to learn to read their mother tongue. Materials are pro-

duced in Swahili and the local languages, including Bible stories, primers, storybooks, and books with basic information about health and hygiene. As people learn to read in their mother tongue, quality of life will improve and people will be able to read the Scriptures as they are produced.

Basic literacy programs focusing on early childhood education have been established, demonstrating the effectiveness of teaching in the local language at an early age. Community testing on translated Scripture portions has also started, and the impact of the work is evident.

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## TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

A woman from the Malila language group, one of the Mbeya cluster languages, shared, “Who started this project and why did he delay? ... These words straight away touch my heart, and today I have seen God in my life.” And a Sangu speaker shared, “We thank the people who thought of this issue and sent people in order that they should work in our language. God has used them in order that we should know God in our language. ... We ask you to come and teach us to read, because we do not know how to read the Sangu language.”

God is doing great things in the Mbeya cluster project, and you can be part of the team helping them gain access to God’s Word in their heart language. Visit [www.wycliffe.org/tanzania](http://www.wycliffe.org/tanzania) after August 1 to learn more. ✨

## IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING— CATALOG UPDATE

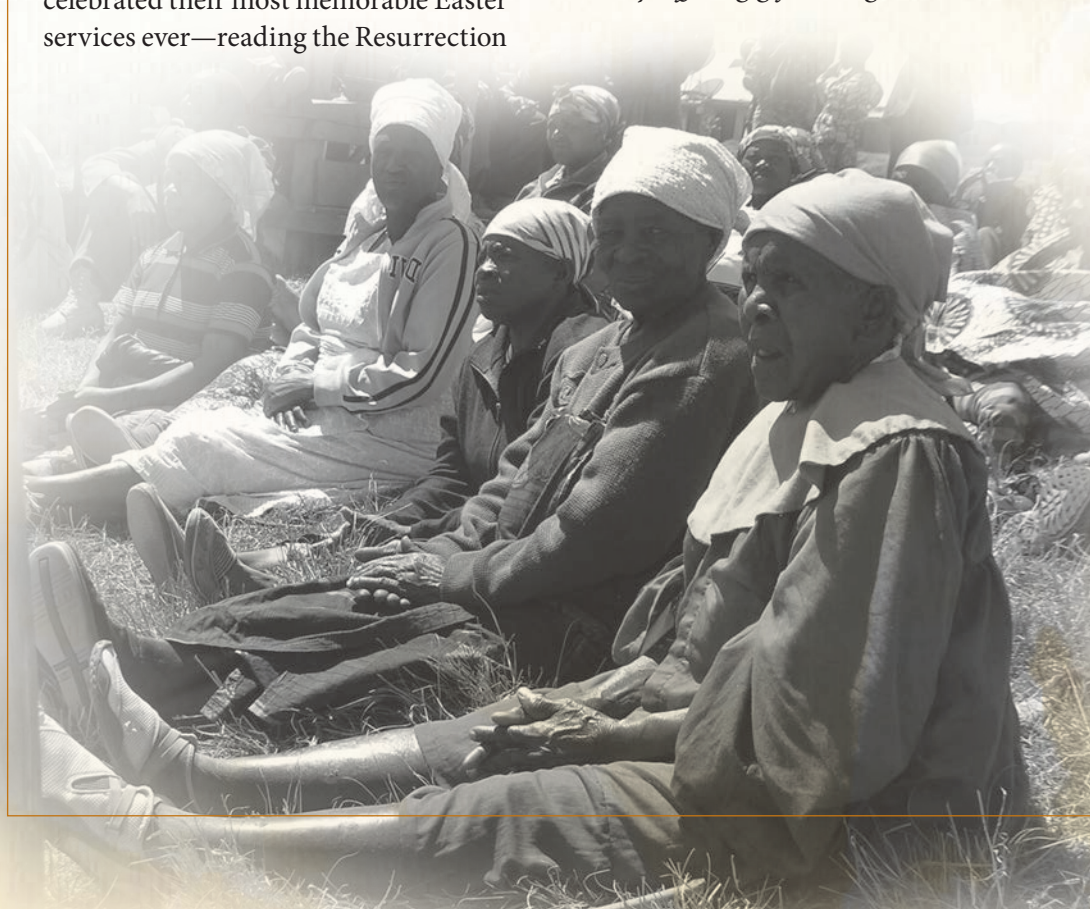
Your gifts to the 2013 Gift Catalog, “In the Spirit of Giving,” helped fund more than twenty-five projects around the world! Among those were projects that worked to provide school curriculum for elementary school children in six African countries, Jesus Messiah picture books for children in Benin and Togo, Bible lessons for school children in Asia, video Bible stories for children in Ethiopia, radio broadcasts in the Amazon, and translation of the very first portions of Scripture being printed for people in nine different language communities.

This year, the Ehugbo people of Nigeria celebrated their most memorable Easter services ever—reading the Resurrection

story in their mother tongue in many churches in the area. Just days before, on April 16, the book of Luke in Ehugbo was dedicated. It was a week that the Ehugbo people will never forget.

Your gifts and prayers have encouraged and blessed millions of people who are experiencing the impact of these field projects. Thank you for partnering with us in bringing hope to people around the world through the Scriptures translated into the language they understand best!

Coming in October, Wycliffe’s website will host our 2014–2015 Gift Catalog at [www.wycliffe.org/giftcatalog](http://www.wycliffe.org/giftcatalog).





# A GOD-SIZED PLAN

## *Meeting the Remaining Translation Needs of an Entire Country*

**I**n December of 2009 a team of four South Asian mother tongue translators had just celebrated the dedication of the New Testament in their own language. They were so impacted by God's translated Word that they wanted to use their experience to bless their neighbors. So they set out on a ten-day trip to survey language communities nearby. The goal was to visit four language groups, gathering information to determine which groups needed their own translation.

On the first stop of the trip, the translators met nine families of believers from one language group. There they were told, "If we have the Word of God in our language, certainly our people will come to know our true God and change their lives. No one gave us such an idea before. Now, we will earnestly pray for it."

In the next language area, they received another enthusiastic response. "Why have you come so late? You should have come five or ten years ago with such an idea!"

Each of the communities surveyed requested help developing dictionaries, writing systems, or literacy programs. They were all eager to learn how to read and write in their own language, and ultimately to have God's Word translated for their people.



"If we have the Word of God ... certainly our people will come to know God."

Now each of these language groups has appointed educated believers to begin Scripture development work. And since the languages are related, they will work together under the leadership of the four mother tongue translators that did the survey work.

This cluster will adapt its own translations from the New Testament already completed. By working collaboratively and building on the source text, the four new translations can be done faster and with higher quality.

This cluster, in one tiny pocket of the country's rugged foothills, represents only a small part of work taking place within the nation. But it's a picture of the way clustering related languages can significantly multiply earlier work done in single-language projects. A comprehensive plan is in place to engage, by the year 2025, with all forty language groups in this region that still have Bible translation and language development needs. Workers in the area are excited and supportive of the plan, saying, "This is a God-sized plan; let's do it!"

## Funds Provided This Quarter

*Your gifts to the Worldwide Projects Fund will help this comprehensive project serve four times as many languages, providing translation and development efforts through training and technical support to communities.*

Number of Projects Supported

**123**

Total Funds Distributed

**\$1,865,834**

Funds for Featured Projects

**\$13,761**





## PRESERVING VALUE WHILE FUNDING KINGDOM WORK

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### Benefit Bible Translation Through the Sale of a Business

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Charles\* owned one hundred percent of the stock in a small technology company that he started thirty years before. But at sixty-five years of age, he was ready to start thinking about selling the business.

So Charles met with his advisors to discuss the company's value and identify potential buyers. Because the company's client base and product offerings had grown significantly over the years, Charles soon realized that the business would sell for a more significant sum than he had expected. This would mean that his taxes would be significantly higher than he originally thought, and would lower the overall sum that Charles would receive post-sale.

"I knew I had a tax problem," said Charles. "If I sold the business, I would lose much of the value to taxes. I needed enough out of the sale so that my wife and I could retire comfortably."

One of Charles's advisors recommended that he consider making a gift of stock to his favorite charity. If Charles made the gift prior to the sale of his business, he would avoid capital gains tax on that stock, as well as receiving a charitable income tax deduction to further reduce his taxes on the cash he would receive from the sale. He'd also be able to support a charity he believed in, allowing a portion of his funds to go toward furthering God's kingdom.

"I transferred one million dollars' worth of stock to Wycliffe and received a one million dollar charitable income tax deduction. When the company sold, I was so happy I had listened to my advisor and made the gift," says Charles.

As a result of Charles' gift to Wycliffe, and the tax advantages that followed, he

was able to use some of the cash from the sale to purchase a condominium and invest the balance for retirement. At the same time, Charles enjoyed knowing his gift provided for Bible translation projects that are working to bring hope to people through access to God's Word in a language they understand.

To learn more about how a gift of business interest can benefit you and the work of God's Kingdom, visit [www.wycliffefoundation.org/whattogive](http://www.wycliffefoundation.org/whattogive), e-mail us at [info@wycliffefoundation.org](mailto:info@wycliffefoundation.org), or call us toll free at 877-493-3600.

*\*Charles's story is representative of a donor to the Wycliffe Foundation.*





BOB CRESON, PRESIDENT/CEO

## YOUR ROLE IN BIBLE TRANSLATION

We hope that as you read through this issue, you'll see a theme—that each of these projects is moving forward by God's design and perfect plan. And you've been a part of that.

In South Asia, gifts to the Worldwide Projects Fund are helping implement a God-sized plan by quadrupling the

number of language communities served in a largely unreached country. Would you join us in praying for the efforts there?

God uses many types of gifts to support the work of Bible translation. We've had donors give creatively from what God has blessed them with, donating items such as jewelry, crops, investments, land, vehicles. Every gift means more people with access to Scripture, and we are grateful for each one received.

By providing translated Scripture in the language and form people understand best, you are giving them direct access to God and His Word. That changes a person's worldview—how they see themselves, how they relate to God, and how they interact with those around them. Below you'll read an example of how translated Scripture helps people better understand who God is, realizing that He knows their language and can speak to them through it.

Translation, literacy, and Scripture use programs are in progress in the African country of Tanzania, and we're hearing encouraging reports on their impact. Beginning in August, a special matching gift opportunity will double the impact of any gift to the project, up to \$50,000. Would you consider taking part and inviting your friends and family to do the same? You'll receive a more detailed letter in the next few weeks, or you can visit [www.wycliffe.org/tanzania](http://www.wycliffe.org/tanzania) after August 1 to learn more.

Thank you for your partnership. As these pages illustrate, it is making a difference in furthering God's kingdom!

Warmly,

Bob Creson  
President/CEO  
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

## TRANSLATION TREASURE

*The goal of Scripture translation is to convey the true meaning of God's Word in a way the people group can understand. Here is an example showing how important—and difficult—it can be to find just the right words.*

The Brazilian mission “Missão Evangélica Caiuá” held a weeklong Bible conference for Kaiwá and Guaraní church leaders. Loraine Bridgeman, a Wycliffe linguist-anthropologist, led an anthropological awareness session to help the Kaiwá become more aware of their own culture and how the Christian faith relates to it.

During the session, a group of Kaiwá church leaders made a list of all the character traits the Kaiwá people value most. The list began with, “A well-respected and honored Kaiwá person displays humility, self-control and meekness. He or she should not be easily angered.”

After hearing the list, Loraine asked the group of church leaders a question. “Do you know someone that demonstrates all these traits?”

The team thought awhile, but they were having a difficult time thinking of anyone with all the traits they'd just listed. And then the light dawned.

“Jesus is the perfect Kaiwá!”



# NEWS & NOTES

## FROM THE FIELD

*Please pray for these Wycliffe projects around the world.*



### BRAND NEW WYCLIFFE.ORG

Wycliffe Bible Translators USA has launched a new website! The site is home to all the resources you enjoyed in the past, plus updated stories, videos, photos, innovative features, and additional opportunities to engage in Bible translation. A new feature helps you create a campaign on the site to raise funds for a project or missionary, or to raise awareness about a prayer need. You can then share these campaigns with your friends and family and help others learn of Wycliffe's work. Simply click the "Start a Campaign" button on any story, prayer request, or giving project to begin the easy, four-step process. And coming in October, the site will also host our 2014–2015 Gift Catalog at [www.wycliffe.org/giftcatalog](http://www.wycliffe.org/giftcatalog).

If you've missed anything in *Frontlines*, you can read both the current and past issues in the publication section. We hope you'll take some time this summer to explore our new home on the web, and share what you find with others. Visit [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org) today.



### DEVELOPING WOMEN OF NOBLE CHARACTER

Millions of women and children around the world have no access to God's Word in the language they understand best. That means they don't understand the lavish love God has for them, or the dignity and worth He bestows upon them. Wycliffe recently created the Women of the Word program to raise targeted support for projects in language communities where women are marginalized and discriminated against. Through partnership with friends like you, the program will bring hope and wholeness to women, children, and families around the world by focusing on four areas of the work—literacy for women, education for girls, health and wellness, and trauma healing. We want to help women become agents of change through health care and education, contributing to their communities and raising children to do the same. But our deepest desire is to help prepare their hearts to receive and respond to God's Word in their language. Learn more at [www.wycliffe.org/womenoftheword](http://www.wycliffe.org/womenoftheword).

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