

Winter 2015

FRONTLINES

HOW GOD IS USING YOUR GIFTS TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL THROUGH BIBLE TRANSLATION

EQUIPPING NIGERIANS FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION

Nigeria is one of three areas with the greatest remaining need for Bible translation in the world. With 512 languages spoken across the country, more than 300 languages still need a translation started. If the goal of seeing a Bible translation in progress in every language that needs it by the year 2025 is to be accomplished, Nigerian Christians will have to play a critical role. The biggest need centers on training and equipping Nigerians to serve in key roles as translators, linguists, recording specialists and more.

In 2005 the Theological College of Northern Nigeria established a four-year

bachelor of arts program in Bible translation. Several years later a two-year advanced master's program and a one-year postgraduate diploma were added. Currently, more than 35 Nigerians are enrolled in these programs.

In addition to specialized courses targeting Bible translation, the linguistics and translation department has provided reliable Internet connection, back-up generator power, printers and a well-stocked library. To date, graduates from

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YOUR UNUSED ITEMS CAN SUPPORT BIBLE TRANSLATION

Did you know that 90 percent of Americans' assets are in items like cars, boats, stocks, jewelry and electronics? What if your unused items could be used to help support Bible translation? Well now they can!

To learn how, visit wycliffe.org/donateyourstuff or call 1-800-992-5433, ext. 3894.

Wycliffe[®]
BibleTranslators

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EQUIPPING NIGERIANS FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION

the program have had an impact in more than 33 Nigerian languages, and are ready to assume leadership roles in all aspects of Bible translation.

One of the second year students in the Linguistics and Translation Department, Samuel*, was struggling with the question of whether doing Bible translation in minority languages was really worthwhile.

During the Field Assignment part of his training, he was stranded in the village in which he was working due to unrest, unable to communicate with the outside world. He saw one villager killed and another forced to flee for his life; these were men who had helped him on translation.

God used this situation to renew Samuel's vision for the work of Bible translation. He realized that he had to complete the work God had called him to, so that every people group has the hope of God's Word in a language they understand. Now his wife desires to

join him in this ministry and plans to complete the same degree when Samuel has finished his studies.

In addition to degree-level training, another project offers up to 20 workshops per year, providing training in translation, Scripture use, literacy and language software topics. These workshops serve our partner organizations in Nigeria and help provide better quality support for Bible translation projects as well as allowing flexibility to respond to specific training needs as they arise.

Your gifts at work

Your gifts to the summer campaign are helping provide needed funding for training programs in Nigeria. You are helping equip Nigerians not only to lead translation work but also to train others to assume leadership roles, tapping the potential for future translators and linguists within Nigeria. Thank you for supporting the work of Bible translation!

**pseudonym*



ENGAGING LEADERS IN BRAZIL

Notes of Thanks for Your Giving

All around the world, God is raising up people to do translation work in their own language and in the neighboring languages around them. In the Americas there are a number of national Bible translation organizations that have taken ownership of the work in their countries. ALEM (a Portuguese acronym that means "The Evangelical Linguistic Missionary Association" in English) is one such organization working in Brazil, and Wycliffe partners with ALEM to help meet Bible translation needs across the country.

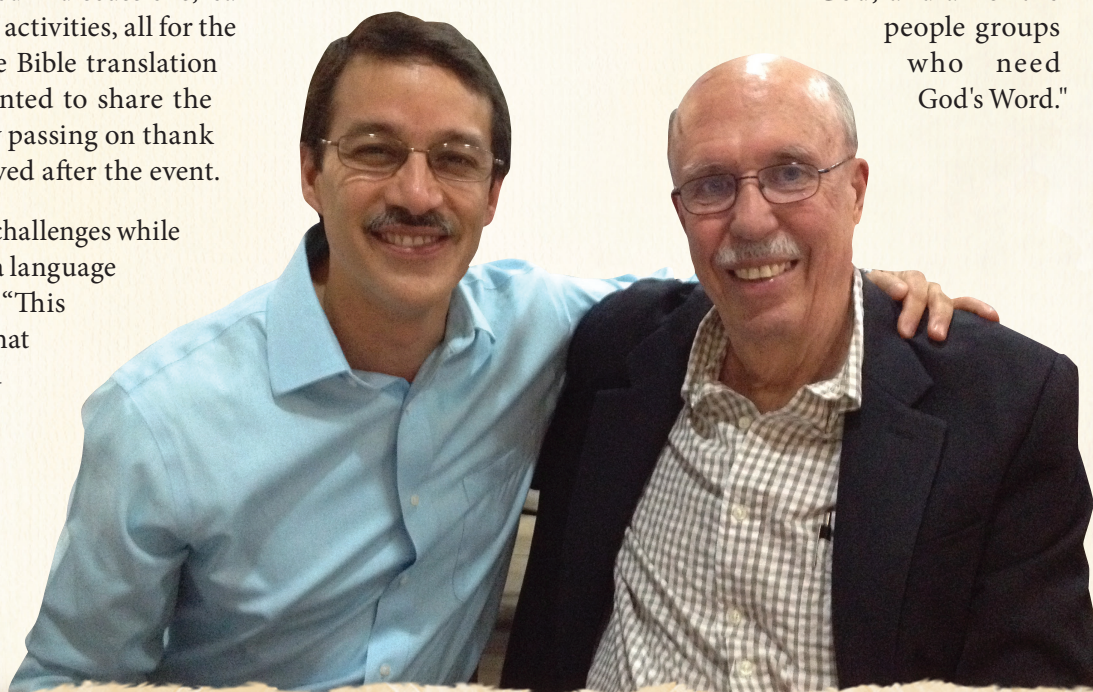
Two dozen people from ALEM and Wycliffe recently participated in a workshop that was funded by your gifts to the Worldwide Projects Fund. During the event those in attendance — translators, Scripture use workers and leaders in administrative roles — joined in discussions, learning sessions and spiritual care activities, all for the purpose of strengthening the Bible translation movement in Brazil. We wanted to share the impact of your investment by passing on thank you messages that were received after the event.

A woman who has faced huge challenges while working with her husband in a language group in Guinea Bissau said, "This was absolutely the best event that I have ever participated in, and I have been in lots. I am certain that I am not leaving the same person at all. You were used by God to bless us all."

A man who is an ALEM member, as well as part of CONPLEI (the Brazilian Indigenous Mission), shared, "I am a Macuxi Indian and I work primarily with indigenous communities to encourage the use of Scriptures that have been translated. During this event we were able to pray, contemplate and study together as one body. May God grant to you double the blessing you have given us."

Finally, the chairman of the board for ALEM writes, "I have been involved with ALEM for 25 years, and I am pleased to say this event was one of the most impactful of my life. I see it impacting not only our work, but our solidarity as leaders in a renewed climate of friendship and communion. Thanks to those who prayed and gave so that we were strengthened in order to best serve

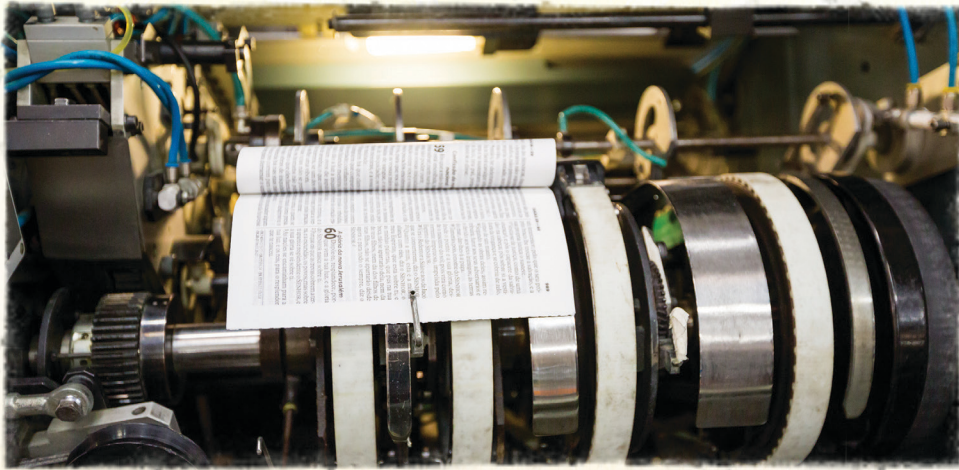
God, and all of the people groups who need God's Word."



Funds Recently Provided

We greatly appreciate your partnership in the ministry of Bible translation. Your investment in Wycliffe's Worldwide Projects Fund will help to reach the least, the last and the lost. Thank you!

Number of Projects Supported	101
Total Funds Distributed	\$1,636,273
Funds for Featured Projects	\$85,000



PRAY FOR TRANSLATIONS NEARING COMPLETION

Never stop praying. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT)

Scripture translation needs constant prayer support from start to finish. But translators have noticed that special difficulties seem to surface when translations near completion. **Every item mentioned below, plus some not included here, has occurred to delay completion of a New Testament. You can help projects reach completion by praying specifically for:**

- Stamina and health of translators, their families and their children.
- Funding needed to support the translators, pay the expenses and publish the materials.
- Local churches to be fully involved and reach consensus on wording, writing and printing.
- Availability of trained consultants so that translation checking and final approvals will not be delayed.

- Accuracy on the part of typesetters, who are often working with a language they do not understand.
- No technical failures of computers, storage disks, copiers, printers and service items.
- No wars and insurrections to arise that would make it impossible to continue the work.

Your help is needed to pray through these obstacles, as well as any others that might arise, so that God's Word can reach people in the language and form they best understand. You can start now by praying for the Kaansa New Testament that is nearing completion:

KAANSA; BURKINA FASO (6,000)

God was faithful as the translation team worked hard last year preparing the New Testament for publication. They checked to ensure key terms were used the same way throughout the manuscript. They also wrote introductions to each book

and prepared a glossary. **Intercede** for the team that will typeset the New Testament early this year. One experienced translator said, "Typesetting is not for the faint of heart!" The process involves countless hours of scrutinizing the Scripture text on both the computer and in printed form. They must look for errors, make corrections and then repeat it all as page formatting, pictures and footnotes are added.

Pray for the printing firm to produce books with clear type and strong binding. The team would like to hold a dedication in December; **ask God** to guide these plans. **Pray**, too, for God's provision of the finances needed for each stage of the work. And **pray** for the Kaansa to eagerly receive God's Word with joy.

If you'd like to receive a monthly update on translations nearing completion, visit wycliffe.org/finishline today! ✚





BOB CRESON, PRESIDENT/CEO

TEN-YEAR COUNTDOWN

This issue of *FrontLines* comes just as we've rung in a new year. We know the next 12 months hold exciting things for the ministry of Bible translation, because we're living in a special period of history.

You and I are the first generation of people to see the number of translation needs going down at such a rapid pace.

In fact, we're just a decade away from our goal of seeing a Bible translation in progress for every language that needs one.

We've seen God greatly accelerate the pace of Bible translation in the past six years, but we can't do this work without your help. We need your prayers, your financial support and your advocacy to share the work of Bible translation with those in your circles.

You can start right now, wherever you're reading this newsletter. Would you please take time to pray through its contents? You can read reports about training Nigerian translators in our front-page story, equipping leaders in Brazil on page three, and translating education materials about Ebola in Senegal on page six. Each language presented needs prayer for the stage of translation work they're in — from the first words translated to final translation checks before printing. Another way you can take part is to visit

the website listed on page two to see how you can make a difference for Bible translation with items you don't use with non-cash gifts.

I am grateful for your partnership as we countdown to the last language waiting for a Bible translation to start.

Warmly,

Bob Creson

President/CEO

Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." — Isaiah 43:19 (NLT)

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.



Translators carefully consider slight differences in the meaning of words as they work with the different Quechua languages in Peru. Acts 9:25 records that Paul was lowered down a city wall in a basket, and some Quechua translations used a word meaning "in order to escape." But during a revision check, a representative of one of the other languages pointed out that in his language this word means that Paul was in the basket "to give birth!" This is why it's so important to make sure that translation is done both authentically and accurately so that the truths of the Bible are conveyed to people within their own cultural context and understanding.

NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE FIELD

Please pray for these Wycliffe projects around the world.



TRANSLATION WORKSHOP TACKLES EBOLA EDUCATION IN SENEGAL

In October, SIL Senegal hosted a workshop to translate important health information about the Ebola virus. The newly translated resources provide communities with life-saving information in languages that people understand.

Although there are no current cases of Ebola in Senegal, the country shares a border with Guinea, one of the nations most impacted by the deadly virus. Materials in the local languages will help educate people in the villages about Ebola and how they can work to avoid the spread of the virus within their communities.



THE "JESUS" FILM PREMIERES IN TANZANIA

It was the rainy season, but God gave glorious star-filled night skies for the two premieres of the "JESUS" film in the Kabwa and Zanaki languages, spoken in the Mara region in Tanzania. Praise God for the tremendous response to the film premieres, which took place in April 2014.

Pastor Willy Futakamba reported that after the "JESUS" film premiere in Zanaki, more than 70 adults and 70 children came forward in response to the gospel message given along with the film. Among them were several men who were followers of another religion. Praise God for using the story of Jesus' life to bring people to himself.

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