

Summer 2016

FRONTLINES

REPORTING YOUR IMPACT ON THE WORLDWIDE BIBLE TRANSLATION MOVEMENT

SPREADING THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE "JESUS MESSIAH PICTURE BOOK" IN TOGO

Your gifts at work

Your gifts to the Wycliffe project catalog helped provide copies of the "Jesus Messiah Picture Book" in 8 languages in Togo.

The "Jesus Messiah Picture Book" (JMPB) tells about Jesus' life from the four gospels in mother-tongue languages for clear understanding.

In September 2015, the Scripture-use team from Wycliffe Togo held two workshops to train pastors and Sunday school teachers how to effectively use the "Jesus Messiah Picture Book." At the first workshop, 25 pastors and 30 Sunday school teachers learned how to use the book. Then another group of 40 pastors and 20 Sunday school

teachers received the same training at the next workshop. The training focused on how to supervise and teach children and adults by using this picture book in church or at home. Practical sessions were also included in which participants were asked to prepare their lessons for different age groups.

Many participants testified how the workshop was useful for their ministry. A pastor who has not yet finished his Bible school studies expressed his gratitude and thanked God that many pastors were present to listen and

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understand the importance of training both children and adults. He also said that previously they did not spend enough time preparing the lessons, but now he believes that more time will be devoted to preparation.

Another pastor said, "With this training on how to use the picture book, the level of our instructors will be increased." And a deacon shared, "I learned how images attract the attention of adults as well as children, and how to engage learners in the lessons."

Now the picture books are in the hands of the people, and the team at Wycliffe Togo is so grateful for people who generously share in impacting lives by providing the funding for these books.



WYCLIFFE FOUNDATION

THREE WAYS TO PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF BIBLE TRANSLATION

As you plan for the future, whether during your lifetime or for your loved ones after you're gone, there are many options to consider. And as you plan, you are leaving a legacy for your family and the generations to come. There are many ways that you can do that while also helping leave a legacy for those who have never had access to God's Word in the language they understand best.

When Betty began planning for the future, she knew that her retirement fund covered her basic needs, but she needed a little extra for incidentals like home repairs and travel to see family. So when her granddaughter introduced her to a Wycliffe Foundation gift planning advisor, he explained two charitable life income plans that would allow her to convert her highly-appreciated, under-productive stock into a lifetime income stream: charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts. With higher returns than she was receiving on her stock, as well as a charitable tax deduction, and avoiding the capital gains tax, Betty felt she'd found a great solution. And she was pleased that after her lifetime, the remaining principal would benefit Wycliffe Bible Translators.

As Jeff and Marie made their will and estate plans, they weren't sure how to handle leaving an inheritance for their children. They had emphasized biblical generosity to their kids and wanted to leave them an appropriate amount, at the right time. After prayerful consideration, they decided on a charitable lead trust with the Wycliffe Foundation. Setting up the trust allowed them to determine the amount and timing of the inheritance. Jeff and Marie were able to financially support Bible translation while leaving their family an essentially tax-free inheritance.

John and Lynn also felt led by the Holy Spirit to provide for the work of Wycliffe after their lifetime, but they already had a will in place. After meeting with a Wycliffe Foundation gift planning advisor, they learned that by simply filling out a beneficiary designation form, they could use an existing asset — like their retirement plan, life insurance or mutual fund — to support Bible translation. They were delighted that naming Wycliffe as the beneficiary would remove a taxable asset from their estate and cost nothing out of pocket.

Want to learn more about charitable gift and estate planning that will allow you to provide for yourself, your loved ones and Bible translation? Our gift planning advisors can help you determine which strategies to consider, given your personal goals and desires. Visit the Wycliffe Foundation website at wycliffefoundation.org or contact us by emailing info@wycliffefoundation.org or calling 1-877-493-3600.



TASTE AND SEE

“**O**ur work is a little bit like we’re working in the kitchen, making something really special,” Mark tells me. “I usually say they’re cinnamon rolls; you can call them chocolate chip cookies, or brownies, or whatever. We put it in the oven, and you can just smell it and think, ‘Wow, what a wonderful thing.’”

Mark, believe it or not, is talking about Bible translation. For more than 30 years he and his wife, Patti, have been translating Scripture in Peru. Presently they’re facilitating a cluster project with a team representing five unique Quechua languages. They finished their Old

Testaments, and now they’re revising the five New Testaments. Soon the books will be printed as complete Bibles!

You’d think the team might take a rest and enjoy the accomplishment. But for them, it just can’t get done quickly enough. Like a sweet treat or savory sustenance — they love the translated Word.

Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! — Psalm 34:8 (NLT)

“We get to take it — and it’s not cinnamon rolls or brownies or something — but it’s God’s Word,

and we take it out to people,” Mark says excitedly. “And maybe we have the only copy of a particular Bible book in existence in the entire world, and it’s in our hands. We read it to people or talk about it ... and that’s the first time they’ve ever heard it in their language.”

“It’s like, ‘Try it! Taste it! Taste and see! See what it’s like.’ And we see the expressions of delight and joy on their faces as they understand for the first time what God is saying in their own language, and it goes right into their heart.”



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A GREAT TREASURE

This summer my wife, Dallas, and I are rejoicing with the Yambetta people of Cameroon. After working on the Scripture translation for more than 30 years, our friend Leonard Bolioki will soon see the Yambetta New Testament printed and dedicated. Dallas and I are going for the festivities to celebrate what God has done.

Thinking ahead to what we'll experience at the dedication, I remember Psalm 119:162, "I rejoice in your Word like one who discovers a great treasure." I love that verse! Leonard has sent us Scripture portions over the years, but they were just soft-bound books of draft copies that were done. I know that Leonard will hold his first copy of the New Testament in his own language as if it's a great treasure.

And it is! With the arrival of the translated Word of God, Jesus has moved into the Yambetta village and speaks their language. The community now has a living roadmap for life; people will hear it and understand it. The Bible will be a framework that helps them think differently about themselves and the things they experience because they know someone loves them beyond human events. When times are tough, they can take comfort in his Word.

Scripture will be a light and a lamp for their path — a way to view the journey ahead. It will make an eternal difference, while also making an immediate difference for their lives here on earth. Equipped with the translated New Testament, churches will grow, followed by ministries within the communities.

Your gifts and prayers play a key role in translation work around the world. I'm grateful for your partnership in the Yambetta project and hundreds of other language groups where God is at work through his translated Word.

Warmly,

Bob Creson
President/CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

WORDSEARCH

When Bible Translators Find Just the Right Word

Why are they throwing their crowns?

Revelation 4:10 describes the scene around God's throne in heaven. The Husa translation in Southeast Asia said that the 24 elders around God's throne "take off their crowns and throw them in front of the King's throne." As this passage was being checked with a consultant, one of the Husa readers said, "I don't think that's right. It sounds disrespectful to throw their crowns like that."

This was a helpful comment to the team. Yes, the 24 elders do "throw" their crowns in front of God's throne. It is a symbolic act showing their submission to him, showing that all power and honor belong to him. But

in the Husa language and culture, a literal translation of this symbolic act communicates disrespect rather than submission. The Husa translators revised their translation so that it now says that the 24 elders "lay their crowns in front of the King's throne."

NEWS & NOTES

— FROM THE FIELD —

Please pray for these Wycliffe projects around the world.



SCRIPTURE RESOURCE WEBSITES IN THE CONGO

This spring, participants from 12 language project teams in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo met for a website-building workshop. The 28 participants received hands-on training in website development and maintenance with the goal of building a Scripture resource website for each of the language projects represented.

The two-week workshop faced a variety of challenges, including no electricity or running water at the host site. Some participants had very little formal education. But the workshop was covered by the prayers of many and God was faithful to provide for all of the participants' needs. At the end of the workshop the 12 websites went live successfully,

increasing access to valuable resources for translators and their communities in their own language.

A variety of print resources are now available on the sites in digital format, including translated Scripture, dictionaries and songs. The websites also host recordings of Scripture, Bible stories, music and the "JESUS" film dubbed in their language. Some of the websites even give the option to view the site content in French or a local trade language, such as Lingala or KiSwahili! Join us in praising God for the impact these websites will have on language communities in the Congo.

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Wycliffe®

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

1-800-WYCLIFFE
(1-800-992-5433)
wycliffe.org