

Winter 2016

FRONTLINES

REPORTING YOUR IMPACT ON THE WORLDWIDE BIBLE TRANSLATION MOVEMENT

THE SEED OF GOD'S WORD YIELDS FRUIT

The story of King Solomon's decision to divide a baby in order to satisfy two "mothers" planted a seed in the heart of a young teenage boy named Timothy who lived in a Paypa village in South America. That story about God giving wisdom to the king fascinated Timothy. In the next few years, he moved to the city, and drugs and alcohol became a part of his life. It was there, however, that he learned about Jesus and accepted him into his life. Timothy realized that he needed to live a new life. The seed planted in him years ago had begun to grow.

Timothy studied the Bible in the national language, attended a Bible school and

participated in a Bible translator training course. But in February 2015, he was at a crossroads. He had completed the course and was free to choose what to do with his life. After praying, he decided to get a job to support his family, and continue to study at night.

But what he really wanted to do was to translate the Bible. "Even if it's just on the weekends, I am going to translate the Bible into my language. I've been thinking of all the things God's worked out for me to learn and do in the past few years... and what's it all been for if not to be a Bible translator!?"

See THE SEEDS OF GOD'S WORD YIELDS FRUIT, PAGE 2

2 *Passing on the Joy*

3 *Your gifts at work for the Tembo*

4 *Comforted by Story*

5 *Letter from the President*

6 *News & Notes*

THE SEED OF GOD'S WORD YIELDS FRUIT

Timothy is one of only a handful of Christians in his language group and has great promise as a translator. After he shared his determination to translate, he was offered the opportunity to do translation full time with the support of the ALEM* missionaries. He accepted the offer after a week of prayer. Timothy has found joy and satisfaction in thoroughly studying the Scriptures and translating them into his heart language.

Through your gifts and prayers,
Timothy and others are equipped
to serve as Bible translators!

Timothy's life has been greatly impacted by God's Word, beginning with that seed of a story about King Solomon. In the Parable of the Sower found in Luke 8, Jesus says, "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God." May the seed of God's Word in the Paypa language fall on good soil, grow and yield a crop a hundred times more than was sown!

**ALEM, a member of the Wycliffe Global Alliance, was founded in Brazil in 1982 to glorify God through Scripture translation, church planting and training of workers.*

Wycliffe[®]
BibleTranslators

PASSING ON THE JOY

Nora's favorite part of teaching — whether she was a young student teacher or an experienced one 35 years later — involved watching her students learn how to read. For her, this was like giving them the keys to unlock new worlds in their schoolbooks and also in her favorite book of all — the Bible. Watching each child pore over the pages and understand their meaning was a source of joy for Nora, year after year.

Nora continued to share her passion for literacy and for God's Word with young people after she retired. She volunteered at her local library's reading program for children and taught Sunday school at her church. When making her estate plan, Nora decided to continue supporting both efforts after her lifetime with a

bequest in her will for Wycliffe Bible Translators. Nora's legacy will be her financial support of projects around the world that use Bible-based curriculum to teach literacy skills in the language people understand best.

What do you want your legacy to be? We can help you design a will or estate plan that provides future support for the passions and projects God has placed on your heart. To learn more, please give us a call at **877-493-3600** or email us at info@wycliffefoundation.org.



YOUR GIFTS AT WORK FOR THE TEMBO PEOPLE

Tembo New Testament Close to the Finish Line

With your help through gifts to the Worldwide Projects Fund, the Tembo people in Eastern Congo are close to having the New Testament in their language!

Recently, a man phoned the Tembo translation office, thanking them for their work. He said, “I have never seen you; I do not even know your names. But after holding in my hand a copy of the book of Timothy that you have translated in my language, I would like to thank you for your work. I assure that after reading this in my language, I now understand it better than I do in Kiswahili. Thank you very much. My prayer is that you finish quickly all the New Testament so that I can have one.”

Many of the Tembo people in Eastern Congo are unable to read, so the strategy to get God’s Word into their hearts has to include oral methods as well as the printed Scriptures. With Faith Comes by Hearing, the Tembo team members recorded some of the texts that had been translated. In November 2014, they finished the recording of the Gospel of John, as

well as 1 Timothy. They are confident that the publication and audio recording of these books will help the Tembo community understand the Word of God in their native language.

The team has also produced and broadcasted twelve programs in the Tembo language at an evangelical radio station in the area, using their translation drafts for sermons and discussions. During these programs, they received over 20 live telephone calls from listeners who shared their satisfaction on the naturalness of the biblical texts that had been read.

Your gifts and prayers are making a difference and are helping this Tembo man and others around the world realize their dream of having Scriptures in their own language.



Funds Provided This Quarter

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	548
Total Funds Distributed	\$1,538,686
Funds for Featured Projects	\$52,961



COMFORTED BY STORY

Early in life, Kristina lost two of her three children during childbirth. The emotional pain devastated her, but she was also very physically wounded. In the attempts to save the children and repair her ravaged body, Kristina underwent four agonizing surgeries. The trauma from these events lingered in her life for many years. Later on, however, she was introduced to Christianity. And though the hurts from her life persisted, after a time, she placed her faith in Christ and began to follow him.

Soon after that, she and 29 other participants from seven languages were given the opportunity to attend an Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS) workshop in Wewak, Papua New Guinea. The courses at the workshop — divided into four modules that took place throughout the year — were designed to teach Papua New Guineans how to memorize and retell Scripture in a way that's familiar in their culture where storytelling is an art.

After the first module, Kristina returned home and shared the Bible stories she

had learned, but her husband was extremely unsupportive. He wouldn't let her share the stories publicly or attend the next training session. Kristina was disappointed, but instead of becoming angry, she humbly submitted to her husband and began praying that the Lord would transform his heart. Over time, God did soften her husband and, this past April, he allowed Kristina to attend the next phase of training.

In this phase, the participants listened to a recording of the Bible stories in the local trade language and then were recorded repeating the stories back in their own language. Kristina gently closed her eyes as the recorder played. As she listened to the story of Moses and the burning bush, she softly repeated what she heard into a second recorder — this time in her mother tongue.

"Listening to these stories about the Israelites has really encouraged me," she

said. "They were in difficult times, but God was bigger than that and rescued them. I know he'll bring me through my Red Sea as well."

Retelling Biblical stories has provided great comfort to Kristina, who now knows that God was with her during the loss of her children, her rough childbirths and even during the period she had to wait for her husband's blessing to attend the training.

That is why Kristina is dedicated to teaching Scripture — because she knows that hearing Bible stories can help change other people's lives, no matter how deep their hurt.

NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE FIELD

Please pray for these Wycliffe projects around the world.



MAKONDE CELEBRATE END OF BIBLE POVERTY

The Makonde people in Mozambique are celebrating their New Testament, both in print and audio formats. At the Bible dedication, one Makonde speaker said, “The greatest of all poverties is Word-of-God poverty . . . and now we’ve got His Word, we must make sure we escape from this poverty.”

When asked if translated Scripture had made an impact, many Makonde told stories of radical change from wife beating to love in the home, from drugs, drink and distintegration to steadiness and safety, from communitiy problem-making to problem-solving.

Pray that many more Makonde hearts would continue to encounter the gospel and that the Lord would grow his kingdom among the people.



“L” PEOPLE ACCESS SCRIPTURE ON THE INTERNET

In 2012, the “L” translation team members were banned for 10 years from working in their country in Asia. Praise God they made excellent progress while working in another country, publishing 19 New Testament books on the Internet for reading and downloading. They also recorded nine Epistles and made them available.

Ask the Lord to bless their efforts as they perform an exegetical check this year on the remaining books and work to publish the New Testament next year. Lift up the exegete’s wife and main translator. A native speaker of the “L” language, she greatly misses her home area, family and friends. Pray for the couple as they apply to get a visa to live and work closer to their home country.

Wycliffe[®]

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

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

ADVPUB4272



BOB CRESON, PRESIDENT/CEO

THANK YOU!

When Wycliffe staff Jon and Cindi Hampshire first started work among the Tembo people, their approach was to work with some local speakers and do initial translation on a Scripture passage to see how it would be received.

They chose Luke 2:1-20. On Christmas morning at the traditional church service, Jon and two Tembo speakers stood up

to read the passage. There was much activity and noise in the room, as is typical in village church services. The people did not realize what they were hearing. But then they started smiling and chattering. It was the first time in that church or any Tembo church that their language was heard.

Today the Tembo are waiting anxiously for the completion of their New Testament, now in final checking. Your gifts and prayers have played a critical role in this work. I thank God for your partnership, and I pray your continued support to reach all the remaining languages still waiting.

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.



Today Our Lord Taught Us to Pray

In a West African country, a national translation committee recently translated the Lord's Prayer from the Gospel of Luke. After processing and feeling their translation included all of the necessary aspects that had been analyzed, the committee members asked one of the Wycliffe translation consultants to read the passage aloud while they listened.

As the consultant read, the committee members sat quietly with their heads bowed.

When the consultant completed the reading, he became concerned at the extended silence from the translators and asked, "Is there something wrong?"

The lead translator for the day looked up and said, "Many years ago, we all had memorized this prayer in the colonial language. But it was today that our Lord taught us to pray."