



Wycliffe
Bible Translators



Fall 2017

FRONTLINES

REPORTING YOUR IMPACT ON THE WORLDWIDE BIBLE TRANSLATION MOVEMENT

REACHING THE UNREACHED WITH GOD'S WORD

How do you reach people living in the remote rugged mountains and swampy plains of the Sepik region of Papua New Guinea with the gospel of Christ? Through five workshops and more than 20 Bible stories in 12 language communities! But the numbers tell only part of the strategy to reach the language communities in the Sepik region.

Even though many of the Sepik people would consider themselves Christian, there is no known Scripture available. A mix of animism, traditional beliefs and Christianity are believed by almost everyone. Because of the traditional beliefs and practices, people feel like they have no control over the spirits. The Sepik people need God's Word in their language so that they can know the God of the Bible — a God who is more powerful than the spirit world.

You are helping provide the first step in that process! Your gifts to the First Words to Changed Lives campaign during the summer helped launch the oral Bible storytelling project for 12 language communities.

The project uses oral methods of translating Bible stories to equip storytellers in the villages so they can give the clear and accurate meaning of the translated Scripture to others in their language groups. The stories — which are translated by the storytellers themselves — are available via the storytellers and digital recordings.

The workshops cover the lives of Abraham, Joseph and Moses, as well as stories like the Ten Commandments, the Prodigal Son, Jesus' crucifixion, his resurrection and many more!

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REACHING THE UNREACHED WITH GOD'S WORD

"This project is bringing the ultimate resource — God's Word in the language and form that's perfect for these oral cultures," says a project advisor.

Listeners to the stories will gain a good understanding of how to apply the Bible in their everyday lives. And the Sepik communities can address ways in which traditional beliefs and Scripture do not align.

Your prayers and investment are helping change lives in Papua New Guinea!

If you'd like to provide the people in the Sepik access to Scripture in their language, visit our gift catalog starting October 1 at wycliffe.org/giftcatalog.



MAKING JESUS FAMOUS FROM HAWAII TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

When Pastor R.K. Castillo heard about the idea of ending Bible poverty by 2020, it really resonated with him. He wholeheartedly agreed that everyone should have Scripture in their own language, and he wanted to be a part of making that happen. So he shared the vision with his congregation at New Life City Waikiki Church.

The majority of the church's 20 members live on the street. They meet weekly in a local park to worship together and share biblical teaching. They don't usually take up an offering on Sundays, but at Christmas, they collect money as a "birthday gift" to Jesus. In 2016, they found something to give toward on Wycliffe's website.

Pastor Castillo says, "We started by going to the website and finding a project that we could be a part of. We saw that for \$70 you could pay for someone in Papua New Guinea to get training to have the Bible in their language.

Papua New Guinea is one of the countries with the most Bible poverty, and it's in the Pacific Ocean, where we are. So that's what we did!"

In the past, the church has raised money for other projects, but Pastor Castillo felt that the Wycliffe work was especially important to take part in. It was a global version of the church's local goal of making Jesus famous among the homeless of Hawaii.

He says, "The Word of God is powerful. It contains the very words of life. The Wycliffe project was a good one for us to get behind — something we could act on, doing our part to help those in the Pacific area. Seventy dollars was doable for us. Everyone in the church gave what they could."



PUTTING PRINTED SCRIPTURE INTO THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE

After the Moba New Testament was printed and distributed in Togo, one of the translators told a story about a woman who received it. When this woman read the New Testament, she began to cry. She said, “All these years I thought it was only the pastor who could understand what God was saying. But now I’m reading it, and I can understand what God is saying to me.”

Your gifts to this summer’s From First Words to Scripture in Use campaign helped put the printed New Testament in the hands of people in three different language communities — one in Vanuatu, one in Uganda and one in Papua New Guinea.

After the work of translation has been completed, the typesetter is responsible for getting everything for the published book correct so that it will be easy to read. For a complete Bible it takes about three to four months; a New Testament can usually be done within six to eight weeks.

“It is quite a detailed job we do in Scripture typesetting,” shares Steve Phillinger, coordinator of Scripture typesetting for SIL’s* Africa area. “All the way through we’re making sure that each page is as readable as possible.” Scripture typesetting uses a software program to digitally lay out translated Scripture text that has been entered into a computer by a translation team.

Typesetters add pictures, maps, footnotes, possibly cross-references, chapter and verse numbers, headings, and any peripheral material like glossaries, introductions and a table of contents. The typesetters also do checks for consistency — in punctuation, capitalization, headings and quotations.

Since Scripture is usually printed on very fine paper, typesetters need to match text on either side of the paper. If you can hold a piece of paper from a Bible that is printed on both sides up against the light, you should be able to see that every line corresponds exactly.

On behalf of the people who are receiving their printed New Testaments because of your gifts and prayers, thank you!

“It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produced fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.” — Isaiah 55:11 (NLT)

Want to help print additional copies of Scripture? Through the Wycliffe’s online Gift Catalog, you can print a whole Bible, New Testament or the book of Mark. Visit wycliffe.org/giftcatalog starting October 1 to learn more.

**One of Wycliffe’s primary partners*



YEAR-END GIFTS WITH BENEFITS

Joyce has made generous annual gifts to her favorite charities, including Wycliffe Bible Translators. Now that she is 70½, she must begin taking her required minimum distributions, which her accountant told her will be \$25,000 for the current year. She doesn't need the income because she has other investments that provide her with adequate cash flow.

So Joyce gifted the \$25,000 from her individual retirement account (IRA) directly to Wycliffe. The gift qualified her required minimum distribution as non-taxable income, reduced her adjusted gross and taxable income by \$25,000, and saved \$10,000 in federal and state income taxes. Joyce was pleased that she could use this tax-wise method to make a significant gift to Bible translation.

At the Wycliffe Foundation we often hear from friends of the ministry like Joyce who need to make a distribution from their IRA, but aren't sure of the best way to go about it. The good news is that Congress has renewed

a law that allows you to give directly to charity from your IRA. If you are 70½ or older — no matter your income level or whether you itemize your income taxes — making direct charitable gifts from your IRA to Wycliffe Bible Translators or other charities is nearly always the best way to give cash gifts.

Please let us know if we can be of help as you make your year-end tax plans. We can provide information on the multiple tax-wise ways to end the year well, including gifts of appreciated assets like stock or real estate, donor-advised funds or making an IRA charitable distribution. You can reach us toll-free at 877-493-3600, or by emailing info@wycliffefoundation.org. Our biblical gift and estate planning services are provided in a confidential manner without charge or obligation to our ministry donors.

WORDSEARCH

When Bible Translators Find Just the Right Word

With one glance at an English dictionary, it's evident that the word "sealed" can have many meanings. The book of Revelation uses two different definitions of the word in two different passages. Revelation 5:1 describes a scroll sealed with seven seals. Later, in chapter seven, 144,000 servants of God receive a seal on their foreheads.

What if, in translating for a language other than English, it's not quite as simple as using one word?

In Tanzania, the Jita translation team spent time tackling this. The translators quickly found a word for the forehead seal, which described it as a "mark of ownership or belonging" — like one that would help a Jita farmer protect his cow.

The search continued for a word that could describe the seals mentioned in Revelation 5. "The seals on the scroll were less about ownership," explained Michiel

Louter, one of the team's translation advisors, "and more about the privacy of each scroll's contents."

With a bit more research, the translators found another Jita word to use for the seals on the scroll. "They describe it much like glue strips," Louter said.

The translators realized that they would need separate terms to capture these different meanings. Please pray for the Jita team as they continue their work to make sure every verse is clear and accurate in their language.

NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE FIELD

Please pray for these Wycliffe projects around the world.



A PASTOR NOW UNDERSTANDS GOD'S WORD CLEARLY

Guillermo, a pastor for the Katio people in Colombia, was helping check the translation of the book of Mark. When the checking team began work on the account of Jesus healing both Jairus' daughter and the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years, Guillermo seemed troubled. He shared with the team that, from his understanding of the Spanish translation, he had previously taught that the daughter and the woman were the same person. But when he read the same verses in his heart language, Guillermo clearly understood. Now, he can preach confidently what he knows to be true. Pray for the Katio translation team as they continue working so everyone will be able to clearly understand God's Word.



CELEBRATE THE COMPLETE CRIMEAN TATAR BIBLE

It's not every day that a community celebrates the complete Bible in their own language. But last spring, the Crimean Tatar people were able to do just that! A church celebration was held as part of this momentous day, and many people cried tears of joy at receiving the precious, life-changing Word of God in their own language. Join us in praising God that Scripture is now available in Crimean Tatar, which is spoken by about a quarter-million people in a predominantly Muslim area. Pray that as this community engages with God's Word, they will experience who he is and how much he loves them.



Wycliffe®

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

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