



Summer 2017

FRONTLINES

REPORTING YOUR IMPACT ON THE WORLDWIDE BIBLE TRANSLATION MOVEMENT

GOD WILL SPEAK TO THE GIRYAMA

Luke 2:25-32 says, “Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die till he sees the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went in the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him into his arms and praised God, saying: ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel!’” (NIV).

I have quoted this verse from the book of Luke because most of the men and women of God who started the Giryama Bible translation work as project advisory committee members have already gone to

be with the Lord. Though they did not get to see the dedication of the whole Giryama Bible, these dedicated men and women — though weak and frail — were able to see the Giryama New Testament dedicated back in December 2004. Those who remain always ask this question: “Will I be able to hold that Giryama Bible before God calls me home?”

As the remaining translator, I do not have an answer to this question because our lives are in the hands of the Lord. Our coming into the world and our departure is in his hands. But this question gives me the strength to work harder to see the translation come to completion. My prayer and hope, which is the same as all Giryamas, is that this work will be completed successfully.

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GIVE YOUR CAR TO SUPPORT BIBLE TRANSLATION

Wycliffe needs an additional vehicle for our Orlando center. Our wish list for the car — which will be used by Wycliffe missionaries — is:

- A mid-sized vehicle.
- Equipped with four doors.
- A late model with mileage under 50,000.
- Equipped with a working air conditioner.

Are you able to help meet this need? Please call 407-852-3894 for additional information about making a tax-deductible vehicle donation.



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GOD WILL SPEAK TO THE GIRYAMA

I salute those men and women of God who worked tirelessly to see this work come to completion. Though some are in their graves now, waiting for the trumpet to sound on that great day, I believe their souls will rejoice seeing that what they prayed and labored for has been completed. I also pray that the Lord, the creator of the heavens and earth will grant those who are still alive grace to see and hold the completed Bible in their hands. I imagine them in the Spirit, shedding tears of joy. To me, this will be the second greatest thing that the Lord will have done for the Giryama people apart from saving them.

As we come to the end of the translation of the whole Bible, time seems to drag and my patience at times seems to run out. I look back at the time I began as a freelance translator until the time I was contracted by Bible Translation and Literacy (BTL) as a full-time translator. Indeed, God's way is hidden to man. Never did I think that I would be the last remnant of the translators to complete this great and noble work. I know that God will speak to the Giryama in their language — from Genesis to Revelation — sooner rather than later. Glory to God!

In his vineyard,

Joseph S Ngowa



SALT AND LIGHT ACROSS PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Thanks to your donation to the Worldwide Projects Fund, you've helped Scripture engagement ministries like Pacific SALT. Scripture Application and Leadership Training (SALT) is a two-week course used to encourage and equip leaders to use Scripture in their heart language. They are taught how to use Scripture effectively for worship, evangelism, discipleship and in many other areas. SALT's goal is to encourage a love and wonder of Scripture. Through your donations, several of these courses were held in the Pacific region. One of these was in the village of Dzudzumau, Papua New Guinea. Hundreds attended this course and many people walked away changed.

"Normally when a Bible program has been run in this village, I am standing on the fringes of the crowd looking in," one man explained. "I haven't been too interested before as to what was being said from the Word. Praise God that this course has been different. Somehow God brought me inside the building on day one and I received a SALT workbook. Since then I have been sitting inside listening to every word being shared. The Word has

been gripping me and now I have given my life to Christ!" With that, the young man then broke down into tears.

Another man — a church leader and school headmaster — shared, "I have been challenged by this entire study. But the main theme that has challenged me is the teaching on love. Do I show love to others? I know here during the course it is easy, but when I go back to my home, will I show love to others — especially those of other churches? I have been challenged by the unity of the SALT team. They are from different churches and yet work together in love. I need to show this same kind of love to others, especially my brothers and sisters from other churches."

Thank you for bringing God's Word to Dzudzumau, Papua New Guinea and enabling SALT to guide them in applying God's truths to their daily lives. Your partnership has helped spread God's light and salt around Papua New Guinea, and the world.

Number of Projects: 201

Total Funds Distributed: \$1,195,435.95

Funds for Featured Projects: \$8,251.00



MY WORD ALWAYS PRODUCES FRUIT

Thanks to you, the Old Testament in the Nuni language in Burkina Faso is several steps closer to completion! Translators recently finished the first drafts of Isaiah and Hosea as well as the back translation of Deuteronomy. Now the Nuni people can know how deeply God pursues them as well as what it means to love God with all their hearts, souls and strength.

The consultant team was also able to complete checks of Lamentations, Obadiah and Malachi. One man had the blessing of joining this team and wrote about what God taught him through the book of Malachi.

“I was specifically touched by the message of Malachi when I heard God complaining about being given sick animals as offerings,” he said. “I felt very much concerned. It is true, I do not give animals as offerings to God but I made a deduction from the fact that I do give money. And usually, it is the worn coins which I know the shopkeepers will not accept that I used to throw into the

offerings basket. I really felt ashamed when I heard God’s reaction. I did not know that God was that concerned about what we give as offerings. Since then, I have decided to give my best to God as offerings.”

Celebrate the fact that God has revealed these little truths through his Word! Deductions like this would not be possible through reading an unfamiliar language. But because God can speak the Nuni language, he can speak to their hearts and bring growth.

Thank you for helping bring God’s Word to the Nuni.

His Word continues to bear fruit — two new church plants have grown in those communities! Continue to pray for the Nuni churches to grow in their desire for God, and also pray for the translation team as they start working on both Ecclesiastes and Job.



NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE FIELD

Please pray for these Wycliffe projects around the world.



THE LANGUAGE OF OUR KITCHEN

In the Kingdom of Tonga, the Niufo'ou people are the only minority language group. Often they are considered as somewhat inferior. So they try to hide the fact they are from Niufo'ou by speaking to each other in the national language of Tongan when in public. When the Niufo'ou leaders were approached about the need for a translation, they were initially skeptical but now are strong supporters. The Niufo'ou have been impacted by hearing the Bible message read in public, since their language is mostly spoken in the privacy of people's homes. Rejoice with the Niufo'ou who now feel that, "God speaks the language of our kitchen!"

SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

The traditional religion in the Yakut communities in Siberia is shamanism, although today their religion is also influenced by Orthodox Christianity. This mixing of beliefs results in a community that largely views Christianity as a foreign religion. A translation team has been working to bring Scripture to the Yakut in their language. While there, the team has received many questions about God and the Bible from some Yakut people. One believer had the opportunity to speak with a man about God until 4 a.m. while several of the man's brothers slept in the other room. In the morning, the brothers said that they had not been sleeping, but had been listening to the conversation! Rejoice as God brings more opportunities to share the gospel in Siberia with the Yakut.



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PLANNING THAT BRINGS PEACE OF MIND

Stan and Mary last updated their estate plans more than 15 years ago. During the lapsed time, much had changed with their family and the assets in their estate. They knew if the Lord was to call them home, the estate he had entrusted to them would not be distributed in the manner they believed was his plan.

So they made an appointment to meet with one of the Wycliffe Foundation's gift planning advisors. The advisor led them through a conversation on biblically-based estate planning. The couple discussed what they felt God was leading them to do and why. Based on the meeting, the advisor created an estate design plan that was attorney ready for implementation.

The process gave Stan and Mary peace of mind. They felt good knowing that their new estate design provided for the individuals and charities important to them. The design also ensured that the transfer of the couple's estate would come at the lowest possible cost and with the fewest delays.

If you would like to take advantage of the Wycliffe Foundation's biblical estate design service, please contact the Wycliffe Foundation by calling, toll-free, 877-493-3600, or by emailing info@wycliffefoundation.org. Our estate design service is provided in a confidential manner without charge or obligation to our ministry donors. We also provide reviews of existing estate plans.

We would be pleased to assist you and will provide you with two professional publications to help you get started: "Guide to Planning Your Estate" and "Confidential Estate Inventory."



WORDSEARCH

When Bible Translators Find Just the Right Word

Kingdom of God

When the Tigak people in Papua New Guinea came across the word "kingdom," they had to pause. How could they translate "kingdom" when they didn't have a word for "king"? One member suggested the Tigak word galon which refers to a secret, safe place where the chief's son would be raised until he was ready to rule. But this was a fenced area, far away from the village. Was this the word God wanted them to use?

After a long discussion, they finally settled upon using the phrase "the place where God ruled." This discussion has energized the community to continue talking about translation and how to best communicate key terms in their culture and language. Please continue to pray for the Tigak translation team as they choose which words to use to help the kingdom of God come into Tigak hearts.