



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

## BIBLE STORYING IS CHANGING LIVES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness... —Psalm 145:7 (NLT)

“It is simple, but it can change people’s lives,” said April, a Manide speaker sharing oral Bible stories in her own language.

Together with local partners, the Manide translation team in the Philippines continues to be involved in events where people can listen to Bible stories in their own language. At a recent youth camp, storytellers shared oral Scripture with young people from several Manide communities. Not only did the youth

hear God’s Word, but they also came together in a way that helped break down social barriers between their different communities, one of which feels especially inferior to the others.

“I thank God for the opportunity to hear the gospel through Bible storying,” said Michelle, a participant at the youth camp. “It is the best way to reach our communities. It was the best experience—to learn more about God, appreciate his creation and realize that we are important to him.”

Oral communication is preferred in the Manide culture, and many people don’t read. Bible stories will be used to start a Bible storytelling movement. Less than one percent of the people are Christians. “Manide Christians need God’s Word for their transformation and for sharing the gospel with others,” says a project adviser.

The Bible stories represent the first time that the Manide people will have God’s Word in their mother tongue!

Above: Bible storytelling is helping to reach young people in the Philippines.

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God's Word in Manide is changing lives in the Philippines.

Through a series of workshops, the translation team will produce 35 oral Bible stories in the form of digital audio recordings with a written transcript. They will invite local believers to participate in the storytelling process—crafting stories, testing and revising them, and providing feedback.

The team will also train pastors to use the materials in their churches. Through storytelling—a key aspect of the Manide culture—advisers hope that people will connect deeply with God's truth and understand more about God and their faith.

*You can give to the Manide Bible storying project at [wycliffe.org/giftcatalog](http://wycliffe.org/giftcatalog).*

**Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection.**

—Proverbs 30:5 (NLT)

## TRANSLATION IN UNISON



**T**he Samoan chief opened the week of meetings with the blowing of a conch shell and a traditional welcome, greeting each person forehead-to-forehead and nose-to-nose. Then he shared from his heart about the perspective with which he was raised—to view the oceans of the Pacific not as barriers to surrounding islands, but as highways to take the gospel to other communities.

Twice a year, this group, known as the Pacific Wa'a Partnership, comes together to build relationships with one another, laying the groundwork for innovation and collaboration. Their focus is on Scripture translation and distribution for the approximately 1,300 language communities that are found in the Pacific.

The fellowship's name is taken from the name of a special canoe.

Polynesians use a "wa'a" for deep sea



Bible translation has been accelerated through partnerships such as the Pacific Wa'a Partnership.

voyages. In order to move the boat forward, a wa'a requires several people to row in perfect unison.

One result of the partnership has been equipping members of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) to adapt scripts for the JESUS film. Since the training initiative began, 39 languages have had the JESUS film recorded.

A local pastor in Papua New Guinea

**He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work...** —Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

shared about the response of the Angal Heneng people to the JESUS film in their heart language. Last December, during the Christmas and New Year showings of the film, 13 church denominations participated. At the end of the gathering, 820 people gave their lives to Jesus.

As God continues to bring organizations, communities, churches and families together, the work accelerates, Bible translation moves forward and the gospel is shared.

With your help through your gifts to the Worldwide Projects Fund (WPF), the Pacific Wa'a Partnership is mobilizing people from nations across the Pacific to share the responsibility for Bible translation.

WPF fills a crucial role in ensuring projects receive the support they need at the right time, enabling them to continue without missing a beat. To learn more about the impact of your gifts to WPF, watch our video at [wycliffe.org/wpf](http://wycliffe.org/wpf).

## FIRST TIME SEEING THE WORD



Deaf Christian leaders in Honduras celebrate a successful first year of translation

**“T**his is the first time Deaf people in Honduras are seeing the Word of God directly,” said the project coordinator who is himself Deaf.

He was explaining the project to a hearing person. “It’s not through a second language like written Spanish, not through an interpreter, but directly from the Word of God in Honduran Sign Language,” he signed, as tears welled up in his eyes.

Now, the trial version of the very first Scripture passage, Genesis 1:1-2:3, is in the hands of Honduran Deaf Christian leaders who will share the publication with others!

It was a successful first year for the Honduran Sign Language project, in which two groups of translators are working on portions of Genesis and the Gospel of Luke.

Your gifts to the Gift Catalog in 2017 helped moved this project forward!

## YOUR GIFTS CHANGE LIVES

We're so grateful for your partnership that has been vital in supporting the work of **408** Bible translation projects in **66** countries/regions over the past 12 months.

Thank you for your gifts that are advancing Christ's kingdom through Bible translation.

You can help see more lives changed with your gift today. Please use the enclosed form, visit [wycliffe.org](http://wycliffe.org) or call us at 1-800-WYCLIFFE.



## A PLAN FOR PARTNERSHIP

Throughout Erin's journey to bring God's Word to communities in Mexico, she has found a strong partner in Alamance Presbyterian Church. From the beginning, her home church encouraged her to pursue God's call on her life to spread the gospel through cross-cultural work.

"My home church watched me grow up from the time I was three," Erin says. "They saw the whole process of me figuring out that missions is where I need to be. They really felt led to come alongside me and continue to be with me through the rest of the journey."

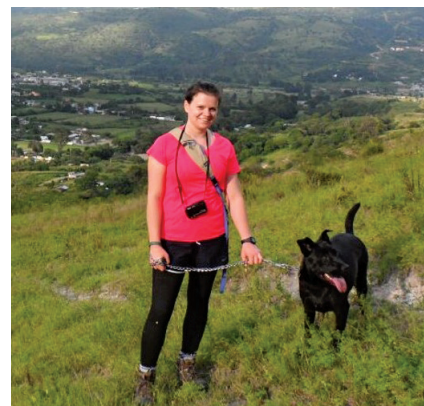
When Erin joined Wycliffe, Alamance Presbyterian decided to partner with her in a unique way through the Missionary

Partnership Plan. This option offered by the Wycliffe Foundation makes it easy for Erin's church family to invest in her life and ministry, helping keep Erin in the field and focused on her translation work.

"It's made it really easy for my home church to give in a meaningful way. They don't have to think about it beyond once—they send a check and then they know it's taken care of. It's nice for me because I have that peace of mind.

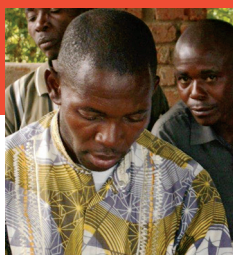
"The community [at my church] has stood with me in prayer, encouraged me and stood by me financially. It's not just me doing the work—it's the whole body."

A Missionary Partnership Plan



Erin, a Wycliffe missionary, has the confidence of knowing her church supports her through the Missionary Partnership Plan.

allows individuals and churches to give a single gift that sets up ongoing support both now, and into the future. For more information on a Missionary Partnership Plan, please visit [wycliffefoundation.org](http://wycliffefoundation.org) or contact the Wycliffe Foundation at 1-877-493-3600.



## WORDSEARCH

*Bible translation teams use unchurched local speakers to check their work—and the errors they find can be funny in retrospect.*

In Tanzania, a group of Lugungu speakers were checking the translation of the Gospel of Luke. The Bible translation team had translated Luke 1:5 in Lugungu as: "Herodi hayaabbereeri mukama wa Buyudaaya, haalingiho nyakatagara gibeetengiZaakaaliya."

The translation team thought that meant "When Herod was governor of Judea, there was a priest who was called Zechariah." However, the Lugungu tester understood it as: "When Herod was

governor of Judea, there was a stubborn woman who was called Zechariah."

Thankfully, the translators discovered that the word "nyakatagara" was not a good choice! So, the translation was changed to "mulaami wa Ruhanga," which literally means "priest of God."

Thanks to the checking process, the Lugungu speakers ensured the translation was accurate—and the team was able to enjoy a chuckle as well.

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