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Wycliffe®
Bible Translators



FRONTLINES

FALL
2019

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

HOPE THROUGH THE WORD IN ETHIOPIA

I will ... transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope. — Hosea 2:15a (NLT)

Believers who speak the Eastern Oromo language in Ethiopia suffer persecution from those who adhere to the majority religion of the area. Churches struggle to find a place to meet, and Christians struggle to find good jobs. “So many churches were burned down,” said a project coordinator. “But Christians remained steadfast and overcame the challenge through trust in God’s providence.”

Anti-Christian sentiment has run high this year, but the recent translation of the book of Nehemiah

gave believers hope and courage. “It has created great joy in the communities because the book contains messages that transform their lives,” said the project coordinator.

In addition to persecution, many struggle with *khat*, a plant whose leaves are used as a potent drug. Seventy percent of the young people use *khat*. High rates of HIV and AIDS also plague the Eastern Oromo community. The people need to experience the transforming power of God’s Word in

their lives and communities.

Wycliffe Bible Translators is working in partnership with a local team to complete the Eastern Oromo Old Testament and prepare it for publication. The team has already completed translation of the New Testament and the book of Nehemiah. Now, as they complete the Old Testament, the team will also publish the book of Hosea in audio and print formats, as well as Genesis in audio form.

“We are currently challenged by

Above: God’s Word now provides comfort and hope to struggling people in Ethiopia.

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political unrest,” said a local pastor. “We urgently need the book of Hosea that speaks to the people in difficult moments.”

Church leaders plan to use these books in services and small groups to encourage Christians to stand firm in their faith. They also want to use Scripture to confront the *khat* drug epidemic among the youth.

In addition, Old Testament books will be used in outreach efforts since those who follow the majority religion are somewhat familiar with them.

With your help through the 2019 Wycliffe Gift Catalog, the Eastern Oromo translators will continue their work, driven by their faith in God and eagerness for more of his Word.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR CHRISTMAS

WATCH FOR THE WYCLIFFE GIFT CATALOG COMING SOON!

- Gifts with eternal value.
- Gifts that will transform lives and communities.
- Gifts starting from \$12.
- Give Bible story videos or help print a New Testament.

Give the gift of God's Word this Christmas!

wycliffe.org/giftcatalog



DEDICATION OF THE GIRYAMA BIBLE



Church leaders thank God for Scripture and commit themselves to obeying it.

When the complete Giryama Bible finally landed in Kenya at the port of Mombasa and eventually made its way to Kilifi town, news spread very fast to the entire Kilifi County.

Bishop Mmika Kenga of the Light of God Church, who is more than 100 years old, didn't want to wait until April for the dedication. Many others who had translated or participated in the translation work on the Giryama Bible were now very old and wanted to hold the Giryama Bible before they could rest.

No other event in the history of the Giryama church had ever brought together as many bishops as the preparation of the dedication of the Giryama Bible. The dedication also brought together clergy, politicians and administrators!

A procession led by bishops and translators, both young and old, men and women adorned in Giryama traditional dress carrying the Bibles in a Giryama traditional basket, commenced the day. Songs of praise and worship to God led by the Salvation Army band were sung through the procession. More than 2,000 people gathered for the celebration.

Reverend Peter Munguti, National Director for Bible Translation and Literacy of Kenya (BTL), led the dedication ceremony assisted by the BTL patron, Rev. Professor Watson Omulokoli, and Bishop Lawrence Dena, a prominent church leader from the region.

Instead of giving a speech, the chief guest, His Excellency the Deputy President, preached and quoted many verses from the Bible. He then asked all the bishops present to stand and

“God is on our side.
Let’s trust in God.”
— Kenya’s Deputy President

reminded them of their role to the Giryama people. He said, “I have traveled into most of this Giryama land, I have seen the people and I know the kind of spirits affecting them. Bishops, you have some work to do. Some trust in chariots and some in weapons of war, but we trust in the name of the Lord. God is on our side. Let’s trust in God.”

By the end of the day, more than 900 copies were purchased. The Deputy President promised to pay for 1,000 copies to be distributed to the churches in the interior of the country and another politician promised to pay for 500 copies.

God has been faithful to the Giryama people. The project took many difficult years, but God has empowered the community to write their history and have his Word in the Giryama language.

YOUR GIFTS ARE CHANGING LIVES!

Learn more about donor-funded projects below.

FROM FIRST WORDS TO CHANGED LIVES

Wycliffe donors are helping provide food for people who are hungry for God’s Word. Even in cultures where men and women don’t worship together, audio Scriptures are bringing churches and families together. That’s what’s happening among the Chori people of Eurasia because of gifts to provide the first words of Scripture.

YOU’RE HELPING FEED PEOPLE HUNGRY FOR GOD’S WORD

Through generous year-end gifts, the Aitape translation team has produced Scripture portions of Titus, Philemon, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude. Recently translators arrived in one community and showed the people what was completed. Then one man rushed up and said, “You expect me to look only! No way, we want to buy a copy right now!” So he did, and sat down immediately and began to read them all.

YOUR GENEROSITY CHANGES LIVES IN SENSITIVE COUNTRIES

God’s Word is coming to people in Eurasia, including countries where believers are persecuted for following Christ. Donors have helped provide Scripture in a form that can be accessed discreetly and safely on smartphones. Also, says one translator, “Small groups will have the entire Bible in their language to use for worship.”

YOUR GIFTS CHANGE LIVES

Partners like you are vital in advancing the work of Bible translation and seeing lives changed by God’s Word around the world.

of Projects Supported this year **192**

Total Funds Distributed **\$3,228,211.99**

You can help see more lives changed with your gift today.
Please use the enclosed form, visit wycliffe.org/donate or call 1-800-WYCLIFFE.

INCREASING YOUR KINGDOM IMPACT WITH A DONOR-ADVISED FUND

Ed and Donna, longtime donors to the work and ministry of Wycliffe Bible Translators, felt led by the Holy Spirit to “do something significant” beyond their normal ministry giving. However, their cash flow was tight and they weren’t sure how to make it happen.

The couple decided to meet with a Wycliffe Foundation gift planning Advisor to discuss their situation. The advisor encouraged them to look beyond their checkbook, and consider giving from their assets. He also recommended that they consider using a donor-advised fund (DAF), which would allow them to

make a single asset gift for the benefit of multiple ministries.

Ed and Donna owned several pieces of real estate, and they were considering selling one of them to make a charitable gift. But the thought of paying capital gains taxes on the sale gave them pause. Their gift planning advisor explained that one benefit of a DAF was avoiding these capital gains taxes.

Ed and Donna agreed this would be an excellent asset to give through a Wycliffe Foundation donor-advised fund. Once the real estate was given to Wycliffe, it was sold, and the couple was able to make significant grants through

the DAF to Wycliffe Bible Translators and two other ministries. The resulting grants were many times greater than their annual cash gifts.

Reflecting on their gift, Donna said, “We never thought we could make gifts of this size and magnitude. By giving an asset through our donor-advised fund we were able to dramatically increase our impact for Great Commission work!”

If you would like to learn more about donor-advised funds, gifts of assets or other kingdom-building tools, please call us toll-free at 877-493-3600, or email info@wycliffefoundation.org.

LOOKING BEYOND YOUR CHECKBOOK

Did you know: 90% of the wealth held in America is in assets like securities, savings accounts, retirement assets, real estate, business interests, insurance and collectibles. Only 10% of our resources reside in our checking accounts.

WORDSEARCH

When Bible Translators Find Just the Right Word

During the last week of a translation workshop in Papua New Guinea, teams from the Aitape West translation project finished final checking of 1-2 Peter and 1-2 Thessalonians in nine languages. One of the difficult terms to translate was Peter’s description of false teachers in 2 Peter 2:17 as “springs without water.”

After discussion, one translator suggested they use the term *raiyn iyn tokkoiynpaija takwama ropon epin kamlan*, which means “water that boils through and up from a deep hole has dried.” He explained how they have springs like this in his area that provide clean water for drinking. However, when the spring dries up it becomes a useless, stinking and overgrown hole in the ground.

