The Rendille community in Kenya has passed down an interesting myth from generation to generation. They believed the Bible meant to come to them was eaten by a camel. All hope seemed lost to ever receive one.

But over 30 years’ wait for Scripture came to an end for the Rendille on August 18, 2018, when their New Testament made its way through a colorful procession on a camel's back.

The much-anticipated Scripture was delivered to a multitude of guests from all corners of the country and beyond. Missionaries and partners from U.S., U.K. and South Africa who faithfully supported this language community were in attendance to witness this once-in-a-lifetime occasion. A choir from the Daasanach community traversed the Chalbi desert — a three-day journey — to be present. It seemed the entire land of Korr in Kenya was determined to witness this momentous occasion.

Then Laban Eysinkeele and Joshua Galimogle — the Rendille translators — and missionary Nick Swanepoel raised the first copy of the Rendille New Testament in the midst of jubilation that echoed through the community.

The Rendille people’s thirst for the Word of God in their language was finally quenched. Tears of joy ran down the cheeks of Rendille men and women as the Rev. David Gargule, a Rendille pastor, delivered the first sermon from the New Testament.

The New Testaments sold out, and many local missions organizations pledged to get more copies for evangelism within the community. It was a double celebration for the people as audio copies of the Rendille New Testament produced in partnership with Cornerstone Church from the United States were also dedicated.

Glory to God!
Jackson Vusaka, Bible Translation and Literacy (BTL) Grants Office, Kenya
Much of the remaining work of Bible translation is happening in countries where the gospel isn’t welcome. As believers, we can connect with people groups and their work through prayer. It’s a significant part of Bible translation!

But how can we pray when we often don’t know specific details? How can we pray when we don’t know the real language name, or maybe even the country that the people live in?

The important thing is that God knows exactly who we’re praying for, where they live and what’s happening in their community. Here are five different groups of people in difficult places you can pray for right now.

**BELIEVERS IN UNDERGROUND CHURCHES.**
» Pray that these believers will know God as their comforter and source of hope.
» Pray that Scripture will reach them through online distribution and encourage them in their faith.

**THOSE WHO NEEDED TO LEAVE THEIR HOME COUNTRY.**
» Pray they will come to know God and the assurance of his presence.

» Pray for opportunities to distribute Scripture to language speakers.

**THOSE PERSEVERING IN BIBLE TRANSLATION.**
» Pray that God will provide the team with unity, smooth progress and the right team members.
» Pray for each team member to grow in wisdom, creativity and skill. Pray that the team will gain better contact with speakers of the language in their home country.
» Pray for those who haven’t received the gospel yet.
» Pray they will have opportunity to learn and respond to the Good News.

**COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENTS.**
» Pray for leaders to be prepared to welcome and receive translation work and, ultimately, the gospel.
» Praise God that he hears our prayers and will answer.

Obstacles and challenges faced by communities living in tough places won’t stop God from continuing to work in the hearts of the people there. Around the world, God is bringing his Word to people groups who don’t have it in their language.
At a village church in the Kabwa language area in Tanzania, a large group of people have gathered to listen together to the Word of God. But no pastor is preaching; no one reads from a Bible. Instead, they’re using audio recordings of Scripture translated into their language — stored on tiny solar-powered MP3 players.

“Many of them are church leaders from the area,” explained Michiel Louter, a translation adviser with the Mara Cluster Project in northern Tanzania. “They were involved in ‘listening workshops’ like this about a year ago. This one is a follow-up, so they have opportunity to tell us about their experience using the audio Scriptures.”

The testimonies share common themes. The players and recordings helped some people better understand Scripture — “especially children and older adults,” Louter emphasized, “since they often don’t yet understand Swahili well.”

Several people also described listening to the Kabwa language recordings at home with their families. The sound attracted neighbors — even those of other major religions — curious to know what the families were listening to. This led to discussion about how to reach those neighbors with the gospel.

One participant gave advice, saying: “When we use these audio Scriptures, we should believe that it is the words of the Holy Spirit we hear. So, before you switch on the player — pray! And after you’ve listened to a chapter — pray! Then the Holy Spirit can do his work.”

As the listening workshop continued, people formed smaller groups to listen to and discuss a chapter or story from the Bible. “One group listened to the whole book of Jonah,” said Louter. “Then they talked together about what God teaches us through that story.”

One man summed up the main point of the book, which seemed most clear to them:

“We shouldn’t say, ‘Those people are so difficult; they are so stubborn, we can’t tell them about the gospel.’ No, that is our task — to go and tell people. God will see to it that they change.”

What if you could help people worldwide experience the same joy the Keliko have found in Scripture? You have the chance to participate in a monthly program that gives to projects and missionaries where help is needed most!

Learn more and become a WordGiver today at wycliffe.org/wordgivers.
1,000 REASONS TO PRAISE GOD

After 20 years of persevering through the hardships of civil unrest and displacement, the Keliko translation team has completed their New Testament!

This translation also represents a significant milestone to celebrate: Keliko is the 1,000th New Testament completed with the engagement of Wycliffe USA and SIL, a primary partner.

The New Testament dedication took place in northern Uganda, where members of the translation team had fled when civil unrest broke out in their homeland. For 70,000 Keliko speakers from South Sudan — many of whom now live as refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda — the ability to access God’s Word in their own language is finally a reality.

During the celebration on August 11, the lead Keliko translator proclaimed, “Thank you, thank you, thank you to God because this [New Testament] will now speak to the hearts of the people. Hallelujah!”

A newly signed peace agreement could raise hopes of the Keliko returning home. But now the Keliko know an even deeper peace than that — the peace of promises from the Word of God.

God is using your partnership with people groups like the Keliko to continue to move Bible translation forward. With each milestone, we are closer to the day when people from every language on earth will be gathered around the throne, praising God.

Join us in praying that God continues to use these 1,000 translated New Testaments to work in the hearts of communities around the world. And pray, too, that waiting communities will soon have the chance to engage with his Word in a language and form that speaks to their hearts.

In the fall of 2018, Wycliffe celebrated with 30 people groups — including the Keliko — who now have Scripture in a language that speaks to their hearts. Through your financial partnership, you helped bring the Word to two of the people groups represented at our Scripture celebration! You can even watch a recording of the event at wycliffe.org/scripturecelebrationfall2018.
LEARNING TO RECEIVE AND GIVE

Gathering a partnership team to become Wycliffe missionaries was radical for Theresa and Phil Foxworth.* They both grew up in families that emphasized self-sufficiency. Phil says, “We were taught to work to support yourself and take care of your family. It was a big change to ask others for help. We had to learn to receive as well as give.”

Over their 40-year career as missionaries, the Foxworths watched God meet every need through the help of their partnership team made up of churches, families, businesses and individuals. As they neared retirement, Phil and Theresa wanted to look into ways they could use their finances and estate to spread God’s Word in the future. Theresa says, “What we have belongs to God. We want to honor him with what he’s entrusted to us. Our legacy goal is to provide a strong testimony of love for Jesus and his Word and a desire for others to come to know him.”

In order to achieve those goals, the Foxworths met with David Davies, a gift planning advisor with the Wycliffe Foundation. Dave helped them consider estate design options so they’d be ready to complete their new estate plan with a Christian estate planning attorney. Dave also helped the Foxworths establish a charitable gift annuity that they funded with inheritance received from a family farm.

Phil says, “We didn’t know where to turn for help. Dave provided us with information and educated us on the possibilities. He sat down with us and helped us think through everything. We were quite amazed with what God provided.”

Dave then suggested the Foxworths meet with Jim Wise, senior private wealth advisor at Ronald Blue Trust, a wealth management firm that shares Wycliffe’s goal of seeing God’s Word made available for every person in a language they understand. Jim helped the Foxworths set stewardship priorities for the present and future.

Theresa says, “We have a plan to provide for our needs, help our kids with current gifts and make a special planned gift to Bible translation. We depended on God to provide through others [for our ministry]; it’s a privilege to do that now for others working in Bible translation. God has been so faithful to us, and we want to testify to that with our resources.”

*Name changed

If you would like to learn more about Christian estate plans, charitable gift annuities or other kingdom-building tools, please call us toll-free at 877-493-3600, or email info@wycliffe foundation.org.

LEARNING TO RECEIVE AND GIVE

The Gbari Bible translation team in Nigeria had an interesting time figuring out the best wording for “denarii” when they encountered it in John 12’s story of Mary washing Jesus’ feet with her hair and expensive perfume. Initially the team’s translation for denarii was the phrase “300 metal money.” But the team realized that, as people read it, the intended meaning wouldn’t be clear. In Nigeria, “kobo” (coins) are no longer used and represent a very small amount of money — not even enough to buy a piece of candy. Using the translation of “300 metal money” would probably give the opposite intended meaning — that the perfume that Mary used was cheap. In the end, the team settled on a translation which said “the amount that a person would earn in a year,” emphasizing the value of Mary’s actions.
One of the Kasem Bible translators in Burkina Faso had the opportunity to speak at a local church. She read and shared from an Old Testament passage translated into Kasem. “The Lord did well to this church through the reading of his holy Scriptures,” said the translator. “Many were sorry for their evil deeds, and humbled themselves before Christ for forgiveness.”

A young woman who attended the church told the translator, “I have read this passage several times, but today it is exactly for me that the Lord has brought you here. I am in joy. May all the glory be to our Savior, Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the life of his people.”

“EXACTLY FOR ME!”

In Kenya, several Chonyi people gathered to help the translation team review the draft of Matthew’s Gospel to verify it communicated clearly and accurately. In the process, the people began to see deep truths of Scripture and how it applied to their lives.

One person confessed that he needed to repent — he realized he had a duty to visit prisoners, but he hadn’t done it. Another man noticed that churches in his community could often be misguided — they had time to build magnificent places of worship, but no time to get involved in Christ’s mission of reaching the lost. Other people noticed wrong assumptions they had made about Scripture in the past.

The translation team was inspired once again to fulfill the dream of translating the Bible into the language of the Chonyi people!