



Exciting updates inside on the vital work of Bible translation!

Wycliffe
BibleTranslators

FRONTLINES

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

A CHANGED PERSPECTIVE

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. — Matthew 5:8 (NLT)

Jamal, a follower of the majority religion, didn't always see eye to eye with his Christian friends. But despite their differences, they shared a common bond — they all were Deaf.

Like most Deaf children, Jamal faced communication barriers, both in his community and in his family. So when he started attending Tanzania's Buguruni School for the Deaf, friendships developed naturally, regardless of religious backgrounds.

However, by the time Jamal reached adulthood, his zeal for his own belief

system had deepened. "I was very proud of my identity," he signed, "to the point of despising all [who adhered to another faith]."

Even so, his interactions with Deaf Christians continued. One reason was Jamal's involvement in Deaf advocacy efforts. This led him to begin participating in community testing organized by the Tanzanian Sign Language Bible translation team.

At those sessions, Jamal and others would watch the team's drafted Scripture videos, then comment on

the clarity and naturalness of the translation. Although the content moved Jamal, it mainly stirred up questions — especially when it came to the divinity of Jesus.

Eventually Jamal decided to take his questions to members of the translation team. "I told them that I couldn't find any place in the Bible where it says that Jesus was God," he signed.

The team was happy to help Jamal. They sat down with him and

Above: You're helping share God's Word with the Deaf in Tanzania.

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immediately started sharing different Scripture videos in Tanzanian Sign Language. As Jamal encountered Scripture verses that pointed to Jesus' divinity, something incredible happened.

"At first it seemed like I was blind or covered by a spiritual dark veil — but then I began to see," he signed. "The words of the Bible had come to life."

After that experience, Jamal became even more involved in the Tanzanian Sign Language project. Now he volunteers his time to advance the Bible translation effort, promoting it in the community and at various events.

But more importantly, Jamal has been baptized as a believer in Christ. He has even changed his name to Joel, which in Hebrew means "the Lord is God."

The decision to follow Jesus, however, has come with a cost. After people learned Joel had abandoned the majority religion, he lost his job. Many of his relatives were displeased as well. Still, Joel has hope for the future and prays that one day everyone in his family will be accepting of his new faith.

"I thank God for revealing the truth to me," he signed. "And I thank the Tanzanian Sign Language team for their support, care and love."



You are helping change lives in Tanzania.

THE LOVE OF GOD IN SIGN LANGUAGE



Your gifts help Toshie Otsubo share God's Word through Japanese Sign Language.

In Japan, there are over 300,000 Deaf people; less than 2% know Christ.

They don't have a Bible or even a New Testament in their language. But ViBi, a national Deaf-led Bible translation team, is working hard to bring Scripture to the Deaf in the language that touches their hearts — Japanese Sign Language.

Many of the team members moved hundreds of miles from their own families and have found community with each other and the Deaf church.

These Christians are worshipping together, sharing meals together, studying Scripture together and celebrating holidays and birthdays together. Their faith and fellowship are being strengthened as their hearts are transformed by visual sign language Scriptures.

Toshie Otsubo, the administrative assistant for the ViBi team, is an older woman who acts as the team's "grandmother."



Watch for the Gift Catalog — Coming Soon!

The 2020 Wycliffe Gift Catalog is filled with ways to give the gift of God's Word this Christmas — including a gift to support the work in Tanzanian Sign Language.

Look for your copy in the mail or visit wycliffe.org/giftcatalog after October 1.

“What I really didn’t get in [written] Japanese, I understood so easily in the JSL Bible.” — **Toshi Otsubo**

Toshie has spent most of her life reading the Japanese Bible. “But when I started working for ViBi, it really changed my perspective,” she signed. “What I really didn’t get in [written] Japanese, I understood so easily in the JSL Bible. In John 3:16, it says that God so loved the world [that] he gave us eternal life. When I read this Scripture in Japanese, I thought that God gave eternal life to someone. But when I watched [it] in JSL ... I truly understood that it includes everyone.”

Toshie concluded: “I was finally able to grasp the deeper context ... [and] I’m so thankful for that. It is my hope and prayer that more and more Deaf people will be reached through the JSL Bible with more understanding of the Word of God.”

There’s nothing more powerful than understanding God’s love in your own language.

YOUR GIFTS ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES!

Learn more about donor-funded projects below.

EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF CHRIST’S LOVE

Faithful partners are helping ensure that Scripture translation continues for people in Tanzania. “The Rangi people are so blessed to have God’s Word in their language,” said a translator, “and to experience his love and the promise of being ‘one thing’ with him.” Thanks be to God for helping people experience the power of Christ’s love in a language that speaks to their hearts.

A LIFE CHANGED BY SCRIPTURE

Throughout the world, the Word of God is reaching more and more people hungry for Scripture in a language they think in, dream in and pray in. For the Borôro people, the impact of having access to Scripture has been life-changing. “I want to be baptized,” said Luciano, a nonbeliever who threw away his idol after hearing the Good News. “It will be a true testimony to my people that now I have Jesus as my only savior.”

YOUR BLESSED COMMITMENT WILL HELP SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD

“It’s the churches’ deepest desire to have the Bible translated,” a project adviser in Nigeria said. “The availability of Scripture in their heart languages will be one of the indispensable factors that will bring their people to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and produce true disciples.” Thank you for ensuring people will have access to life-saving Scripture.

THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

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

of Bible translation projects supported this year

251

Total Funds Distributed

\$8,975,000

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

TIPS FOR TALKING TO YOUR ADULT CHILDREN ABOUT YOUR LEGACY



Talking about the future can be difficult, but having conversations with your adult children about your legacy plans is important. Schedule a visit with your loved ones — whether one-on-one over coffee or all together at an official family meeting — and share your estate plans.

While you're together, be sure to cover the answers to these three questions:

DO YOU HAVE AN UP-TO-DATE WILL?

About 60% of Americans don't have an up-to-date estate plan, and many that do have not shared it with their loved ones. Create or update your will and then have an open and honest dialogue with your family.

HOW HAVE YOU DESIGNATED YOUR ASSETS?

Share the contents of your will and estate plan, explaining what you have planned and why. This will help your family understand your plans and motivations for giving. And having a will in place gives your loved ones the gift of not needing to handle estate plans while they are grieving or to settle things through probate.

WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE?

Your life and example influence your family. They want to hear about the beliefs and values that have shaped your life. Make your time together a chance to talk about the things that you value most and how you want them to be a part of your legacy.

Estate planning can be a simple and powerful way to communicate love and connect with your loved ones on a deeper level. Talking about the future can create more certainty and peace, and even inspire your family to get involved in the causes you are passionate about.

For more information on creating a biblically based will and estate plan, please contact the Wycliffe Foundation at **1-877-493-3600**.

WORDSEARCH

Producing an accurate Bible translation often requires translators to think creatively about how to communicate ideas in their cultural context.

How do you translate “in Christ” into a language that only uses the word “in” to refer to putting physical objects inside of other objects?

The challenge was translating 1-3 John, where John speaks of the believer's intimate union with Christ. In 1 John 2:28, an English translation says, “and now, dear children, remain in him.” The team came up with a solution. Their translation

communicates that believers should be “really fastened/stuck” to Jesus — in the same way a lizard is really stuck to a tree.

“Please pray that all of us would remain stuck to Jesus as we diligently work to translate God's Word into these languages,” the project coordinator said.



Thank you for supporting translation teams like the Arop.