



FRONTLINES

SUMMER
2020

GIFT CATALOG SPOTLIGHT: CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY VIDEOS IN MEXICO

Thank you for partnering with the Steep Mountain Zapotec community through the 2019-2020 Wycliffe Gift Catalog. Because of your prayers and financial support, the people now have the “Deditos” Bible story video series in their language.

“Deditos,” which means “little fingers” in Spanish, uses finger actors to share Old Testament Bible stories with kids who might never have heard them in their language before. The production process for the “Deditos” videos begins with biblical research. Biblical consultants talk with the scriptwriter about the vision for the story to ensure that the videos align with biblical truth. Then the screenwriter writes the script. A committee composed of the scriptwriter, the biblical consultant and a dramatic director meet together to revise the script, looking at it from all angles — cultural, visual and storyline.

The voice actors record the finalized script, and then filming begins at Viña Studios in Guatemala. Originally this involved a finger actor in front of elaborate sets created by the Viña staff. But with the advancement of technology, the finger actors now perform in front of a green screen, and visual effects layer them onto a digitized version of a handmade background. Sets match

the Old Testament locations as closely as possible, both geographically and architecturally.

A local church in the Steep Mountain Zapotec area of Mexico has been reaching out to children, and the result is a growing number of children attending church, even if their parents do not. The “Deditos” videos provide the church with materials to help the Zapotec children grow in their faith.

In addition to creating the videos, Viña has created five lesson plans per video that help the audience better understand the biblical stories portrayed and how the stories apply to their lives.

Children love “Deditos,” and Christ has drawn people to himself through the videos. The videos are used in Mexico and around the world — Peru, the Philippines, Colombia, Thailand, Egypt and many other countries — to bring the Word of God to children in their language. The videos are so effective because many people globally can't read or write in their own language. People are now able to experience Bible stories in a way they hadn't before. The videos are doing big things using such small fingers!

SEEING GOD AT WORK IN THE MIDDLE OF A CRISIS

"I never dreamed I would see a no-handshaking Cameroon, but then [COVID-19] arrived," Bob Ulfers, a Bible translator for the Karang people, said. He was preparing the audio version of the Karang New Testament for distribution via micro SD cards when COVID-19 arrived.

"I hunkered down in the village, away from the city where cases were being reported, and continued to distribute micro SD cards," he said. "I had also given many homemade large print copies of the Karang New Testament to villages across a 300-mile radius." Bob continued: "But then all borders for Cameroon closed. My flight back home was cancelled indefinitely. I was stuck."

He added: "Then just as I was finishing distribution, I received word that the U.S. embassy had a seat for me on a special flight. I had only 48 hours to pack and make the 930 mile trip in my old pickup, 'Eeyore.'"

"Nearing the end I was pushing 60 miles per hour when one of my Cameroonian friends called," Bob said. "I quickly slowed to 10 miles per hour to pull off the road and call him back. That's when my right front tire blew out. That phone call was a God gift that kept me from a major wipe out. I called him right back and said, 'Ibrahima, God used your phone call to save me!'"

God continues to work even in the midst of our most unexpected circumstances!



RESCUE FROM DARKNESS

By Don Toland, former Bible translator for the Rawa and Karo languages in Papua New Guinea

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. — Isaiah 9:2 (NLT)

In 1978 our daughter, Arlene, was nearing graduation from Ukarumpa International School, located in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. She came to me and said, “Dad, before I go back to the U.S., I would like to make one last trip to the village to say goodbye to our Rawa friends.”

Soon after, I took her to the village. When we were still a good hour’s hike from the village, night fell. We still needed to cross the deep ravine and rushing river that was between the village and us. We dared not pick our way over the slippery rocks of the trail leading down the ravine to the river or try to cross the river in the darkness.

We had no matches or a flashlight. Across the ravine, I could see the glowing firelight of the village and the lanterns at the government station next to the village. So we prayed. Then I began to call out in Rawa: “*No oowoone Don* [My name is Don.]. *No soru kini* [I have no light.] *Ye ombuya hooroooweyero* [You come and help me.]”

Over and over again, I called. Then I saw them coming. First a lantern, then a piece of burning wood, until many of my friends were coming to rescue us. Now I know how it feels to be in total darkness, desperately calling out for someone with light.

This story was adapted from “A Journey With The Word,” available at shop.wycliffe.org/collections/books. Get 25% off with code FRONTLINES.

GOD’S WORD IS COMING HOME TO HEARTS IN NIGERIA

As several Ndokwa people walked down the streets of their community in Nigeria, they heard an unfamiliar sound.

A man was reading aloud from John 1:1. The voice captured their attention. They recognized his words as Scripture, but something was different. Normally they heard the Bible read in another language that’s spoken in the region. But this man was reading in Ndokwa, their own language.

Curious, the people stopped to find out what was going on. An Ndokwa Bible translator was reading a draft of the Gospel of John to a group of people and asked for feedback. He wanted to ensure the meaning of the text was understood clearly by Ndokwa speakers. As he read, the Scripture attracted others who joined the discussion. Some children who were listening began to ask the translator questions about what he was reading. Meanwhile the adults were delighted to discover that God’s Word was being translated into their language.

“When will it be finished?” they asked.

Others have also responded with joy. On a different occasion, a young woman’s eyes lit up as she listened to a portion of the Gospel of Luke in her language.

“Is this in the Bible?” she asked. The Ndokwa translator who was reading Scripture to the woman and her daughter nodded.

The woman couldn’t remember hearing the story before. Although she was familiar with Scripture, this was the first time she was hearing it in her language. It seemed as if the Bible was coming home to her heart. After listening to the portions of God’s Word in Ndokwa, both mother and daughter decided to follow Christ!

As God’s Word is made available in Ndokwa, many people — including this woman and her daughter — are discovering the joy of the Lord for the first time.

A LIST THAT BRINGS PEACE OF MIND

Has your family ever said to you, “I wouldn’t know how to take care of this if you weren’t around”? In most families there’s one person who knows all the key household information.

Consider working through a “legacy list” which helps you gather everything your family would need to know if something happened. The items can be gathered as a computer file, in notebooks or in a file drawer. While it takes time to pull together your documents in this way, the peace of mind you will bring your loved ones is more than worth the effort.

THE LEGACY LIST

Content Guide: An inventory of the documents you’ve collected.

Estate Plans: All information pertaining to your will or trust including the executor/trustee, powers of attorney, letters to your loved ones and funeral instructions such as an outline of your memorial wishes.

Contact Information: Phone number or email address for key advisors such as your attorney, executor/trustee, financial and/or investment advisor, life insurance agent, certified public accountant and tax preparer.

Financial Information: All the necessary information for bank accounts, credit cards and loans.

Passwords: Include all passwords, combinations, usernames and PIN numbers.

Legal Documents: Deeds/titles, birth certificates and social security cards.

Tax Returns: Assemble all of your tax records in case your estate is audited.

Insurance Policies: Paperwork for all health, car, disability and term life insurance or other forms of insurance.

Monthly Expenses: A detailed budget will help your family continue household operations. Include how each expense is paid, necessary logins and passwords.

Maintenance Information: Include maintenance schedules and information on which vendors to contact for each service (e.g., auto mechanic, heating and cooling repair company).

If you’d like more information on leaving a legacy for your loved ones, please contact the Wycliffe Foundation by emailing info@wycliffefoundation.org or calling **1-877-493-3600**.





WORDSEARCH

MORE THAN WE FIRST THOUGHT

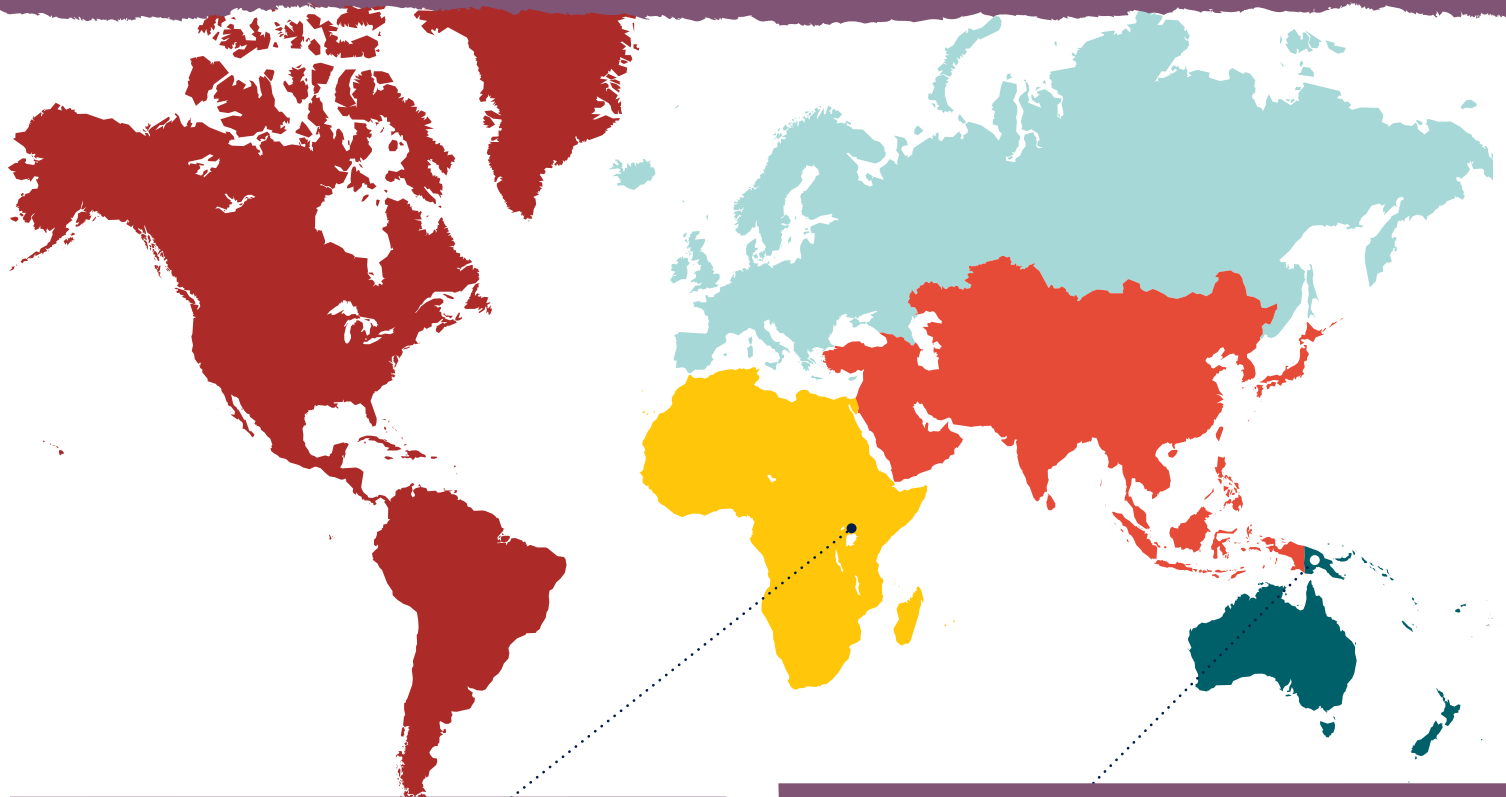
Each workday the Japanese Sign Language team gathers for morning devotions. Together they watch a little of the Scripture they've produced and then share their thoughts about it.

Their discussion has also led the team to examine the Scriptural terms and keywords. They've been considering what these concepts communicate to others.

Recently one team member shared that they used to think the word "mercy" only meant pitying someone, or that God pities people. "When I watched the JSL Bible, I learned that the word 'mercy' not only means God sympathizing with us, but that his great love is also part of it."



NEWS+NOTES FROM THE FIELD



BECOMING SALT AND LIGHT

The Aringa translation team in Uganda recently completed a draft of the book of Joshua. Following a community testing of this draft, one of the participants, Joyce, shared: “Thank God for this life-transforming exercise. I have learned that I should not love material things more than God. I have learned that one person’s sin can harm a whole family, community and generation. This is an important lesson for me. I pray that God helps me not to be like Achan.”

Joyce explained that her busy schedule as a head teacher of the local school made it difficult for her to find time to study God’s Word. “Today I have seen how important it is,” she added. “I will try to make time for studying Scripture more regularly.”

As the discussion concluded, Joyce asked the translators to produce materials for Bible studies in the Aringa language. “This will increase our own understanding of God’s Word,” she told Charles Onduga, one of the Aringa translators. “This is the only way the church in Aringa can become salt and light to the world.” The other participants agreed with this statement with loud applause.

HIDDEN TALK BECOMES CLEAR

The Yamap translation team in Papua New Guinea has a passion for sharing the Scriptures. They travel to different villages and settlements and call their trips “Yamap Patrols.” They stay in each area for a couple of days or up to a week to teach the people to read the Yamap Scriptures and distribute booklets that include the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

“What I’ve seen on our patrols is that kids sit still and ‘put their ears’ [on] to hear when someone is reading the Yamap language,” said Isaac, one of the translators. “In church, when they hear Tok Pisin [a national language] spoken and read, they move around and come and go like butterflies — they don’t sit still. When they hear Yamap, they don’t make a noise and they sit still and listen. The kids grow up with the language and they know it.”

Isaac continued: “The adults say that ‘Yes, God’s Word came in Tok Pisin and we read it and know what it says; but when we read in Yamap, the ‘hidden talk’ becomes clear and we understand.’”

Read the full story at thepngexperience.wordpress.com.