



# FRONTLINES

## SPRING 2021

## Bible Translation Moves Forward in South Asia

Though South Asia can be a challenging region of the world for Christians to serve faithfully in ministry, Bible translation is moving forward and God is blessing his people!

In one area, the New Testament was recently completed for 12 people groups, and the focus has now shifted to translating the Old Testament. The five-year project involves training more than 60 local people. Some will become translators while others will serve as quality checkers.

### A Life Changed

As the work progresses, people's lives are being changed. One remarkable story involves Sai.\* He's blind but he doesn't let that deter him from walking with God. Sai committed his life to Jesus Christ a few years ago. Recently there was a torrential downpour but Sai grabbed his walking stick and started an arduous uphill climb to reach a house church where he could hear the audio Scriptures in his language. Drenched and breathing heavily, Sai leaned against his stick and called out, "Brother, can you help me climb?"

The approaching Bible translation team immediately recognized Sai and quickly assisted him. The team was inspired by his commitment. "It was breathtaking to see a blind man [overcome his struggles to] hear the audio Bible," a staff member later said.

Since that encounter, the New Testament has been completed in Sai's language and he now plays the audio Scripture for his friends and neighbors. When they hear the stories of Jesus in their language, they're receptive to the truth of God's Word.

### Family Transformed

Saanvi's\* life also was transformed by the Scriptures, and her family is making a lasting difference for the cause of Bible translation. Like most in this region, she practiced a traditional religion. But when she heard the Good News, she chose to follow Jesus. Despite persecution, she took a bold step to be baptized, and her family members joined her.

One evening, Saanvi sensed the Lord's leading to urgently get her loved ones out of the house. Shortly afterward, a sudden heavy rain triggered a flash flood and her home was destroyed. But praise God that no one was hurt! Saanvi recovered her Bible. Though it was in another language, she treasured the worn book. Over the years, Saanvi passed this reverence for Scripture on to her children. Today her daughter is a Bible translator with the five-year Old Testament translation project and their team produced the New Testament in a language her mother clearly understands.

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*\*Name changed*



Thank you for your prayers and gifts. You're helping translate the Bible in a region that desperately needs Jesus and his Word. Please continue to pray with us!

**Prayer points:**

- » Continued work for team members in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- » Good health for the team.
- » The translated Scripture will impact many South Asian lives.

This summer you can help provide God's Word for more believers like Sai, who are waiting for Scripture in a language they clearly understand. Visit [wycliffe.org/changelives](https://www.wycliffe.org/changelives) after May 1 to learn more.

# WORDSEARCH

## Translating "Certainly Not"

When the Arop Bible translation team in Papua New Guinea worked on 1-2 Thessalonians, they spent extra time on 1 Thessalonians 4:15, wanting to ensure its accuracy and to make sure people didn't get the wrong meaning: "According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep" (NLT).

Emil Ninkure, one of the translators, found the most natural way to convey in Arop Paul's words "certainly not." Paul was emphasizing how wrong that teaching was. He did so very naturally in Greek, stringing together two words for "not." In first century Greek, the negatives didn't cancel each other out; they strengthened each other. So "not not" in Greek is accurately rendered "certainly not" in 21st century English.

But in Arop, the negative is put with the verb and the strong emphasis at the end of the sentence. "We women-men (i.e. 'people') being alive here will not jump ahead of the people who have already died and meet him ahead of them. No way!"





## A Grand Plan: Generations Partnering in Bible Translation

Each November, writer, speaker and Bible teacher Shellie Tomlinson celebrates “30 Days of Thankfulness.” For Shellie, this is a season to invite her friends to contribute to a cause. “I wanted to encourage my readers to do something beyond giving thanks with our mouths throughout November,” said Shellie. “I wanted us to put action to that — to build that gratitude in a way that would touch other people.” Together Shellie and her readers have given to help drill a well in Africa, build an orphanage and fund local ministries.

Last fall, Shellie prayed about a cause to share in the 14th year of the campaign. “I asked the Lord to lead me to someone who had a desire to do something beyond themselves. ... It never crossed my mind it’d be my own grands!”

Shellie’s granddaughters — 11-year-old Emerson and 9-year-old Carlisle — had been learning about the history of Cameron Townsend, the founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators, in school. When the girls heard that many people are still waiting for God’s Word in their language, they decided to raise money for Bible translation by sewing and selling tea towels. Emerson and Carlisle hoped that their “Keggie,” Shellie, would share about the project on her blog.

“[My grand girls] know how much I love God’s Word,” Shellie said. Each week, Shellie and her grandchildren choose a Bible verse to memorize together. “They knew that I would be on board.”

Shellie, Emerson and Carlisle decided to make the tea towel project the official 2020 thankfulness campaign. Friends, family and readers of Shellie’s blog responded

generously. Within a few days of launching the fundraiser, Shellie and the girls had to close tea towel orders due to their capacity to fulfill all the requests!

Emerson and Carlisle, with their mom and Shellie’s help, sewed 162 tea towels from the beginning of November up until Christmas. The girls surpassed their fundraising goal of \$1,500 and raised a total of \$1,912. The funds will help translate the New Testament into four languages that are part of the Anioma-Ghotuo Cluster project in Nigeria.

Shellie’s highlight from the campaign was seeing the values of gratitude, generosity and love for Scripture reflected back to her by her granddaughters. The girls’ initiative shows that they’re internalizing the very same priorities Shellie hopes to pass on to them. And as a result, more people in Nigeria will have the opportunity to meet Jesus through his Word in a language that speaks to their hearts.

### Share Your Love of Scripture With Generations to Come

Looking for ways to share your faith and values with your family, both now and for generations to come? Wycliffe Foundation can help you create will and estate plans that honor God, provide for your family and invest in ministries you care deeply about. For more information on the free services available to Wycliffe donors, please call our team at **877-493-3600**.



# A Maturing Church

Five days a week. That's how often a group of Borôro Christians in Brazil were meeting together to listen to and discuss God's Word in their language.

Since the Borôro are an oral culture, making Scripture accessible to local communities in audio format has been the key strategy of the translation project. And it's working.

"This recording project has had a direct impact in helping the Borôro church to be born," an adviser said. After team members recorded New Testament portions in one community, six people decided to follow Jesus!

Such transformation is having a wide impact among the Borôro. One exciting example is a Christian-initiated reconciliation movement which has been the catalyst for healing and forgiveness among quarreling factions in the area. Additionally, a group of believers has been demonstrating love for their neighbors by assisting with local building projects. They even helped build a house for a non-Christian man whose family has strongly opposed followers of Jesus.

Borôro believers also took the lead in planning an event to celebrate the completion of the audio New Testament.

During the gathering, USB flash drives containing the recording were distributed, and a baptismal service took place. Since then the translation team's visits to Borôro communities have revealed a maturing body of believers devoted to growing their knowledge of Scripture.

Your generous gifts to the Worldwide Projects Fund have opened the door for Borôro people to experience God's Word in a language and format that speaks to their hearts! We are deeply grateful for your partnership in meeting the urgent needs of Bible translation.



Hdi Somrai Mango  
Manda Zulgo-Gemzek Malila  
MixtecSoutheasternNochixtlán  
Moluccan B Mixteclxtayutla Aringa  
Gapapaiwa PameNorthern Fuliiru Kinga  
Leipon C'Lela S Z Nyole Quekala Buwal Kisi  
Aghem Piapoco U Nukna Migum Dela-Oenale  
Huichol Rikou G Mukulu NumunM Vwanji Gwere Kwasio  
MalayNorth K TunenNdut Nek Nchane Lote  
Me'phaaAcatepec Yasa Phuie Zaysete Auye Kemedzung  
Hawai'iPidgin Sari Pangwa Tem Awing  
Awajún MixtecAyutla Bungu  
NahuatlEasternDurango  
Batanga WounMeu Lika  
A Tugbiri-Niragu  
Kipfokomo Markweeta Kitharaka

# The 9-to-5 Guide to Praying Around the World

No matter how busy your day is, you can still use little, ordinary moments to make an impact in the lives of people around the world through prayer! Whether you're driving to work or sitting down to lunch, prayer can seamlessly fit into your daily routine. Not sure how? We've got some ideas for you!

## MORNING COMMUTE — 3-30 MINUTES

If your commute involves sitting in traffic or even simply walking to your kitchen table, you can kick off your work day by using this time to cover the world in prayer. Consider focusing on the five regions of the world (Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific) and praying for the people who live in each of these areas.

## LUNCH — 60 MINUTES

Taking a lunch break gives you an opportunity to briefly hit the “pause” button on the busyness of your day. As you munch on chips or sip soup, you can also use the time to pray for the remaining Bible translation needs around the world (see map below for remaining needs).

## STRETCH BREAK — 3 MINUTES

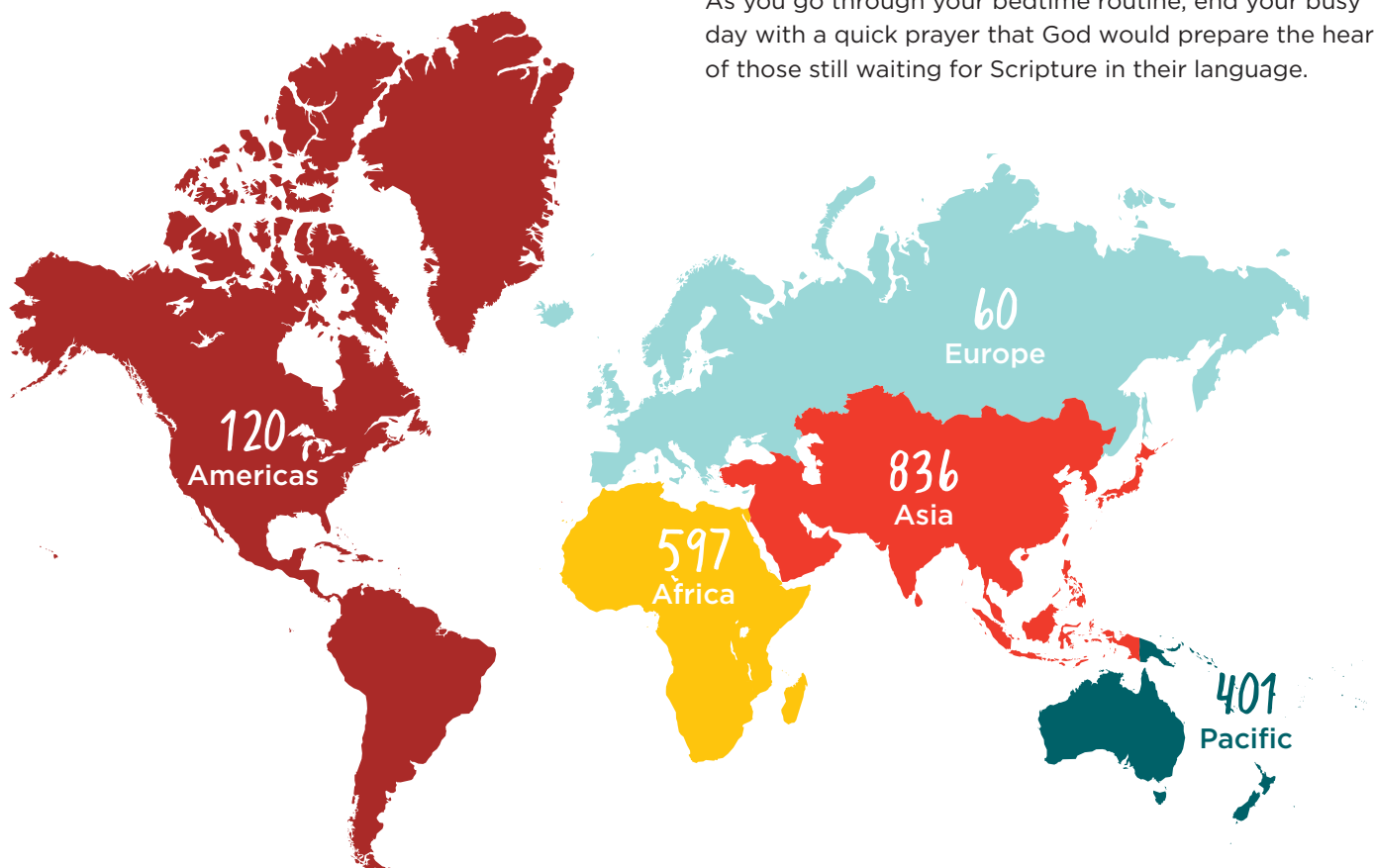
It's time to stand up, stretch out and take a break from what you've been working on. As you reflect on your remaining tasks of the day, say a prayer for the Bible translators and missionaries around the world working diligently toward the goal of everyone having the Bible in a language and format they can clearly understand.

## DINNER PREP — 20 MINUTES

As you chop and broil, consider how difficult the simple task of food prep would be if the instructions were in a language you didn't understand. Now consider how hard it would be to wrap your mind around difficult concepts in the Bible if it was in a different language. For people who communicate using the approximately 2,000 languages around the world without Scripture, it's their reality. Take a moment during your dinner prep to pray for the people who speak or sign in languages where no translation work has started yet.

## BEFORE BED — 1 MINUTE

As you go through your bedtime routine, end your busy day with a quick prayer that God would prepare the hearts of those still waiting for Scripture in their language.



Check out our complete “9-to-5 Guide to Praying Around the World” for additional prayer prompts, sample prayers and more by visiting [wycliffe.org/blog/featured/the-9to5-guide-to-praying-around-the-world](http://wycliffe.org/blog/featured/the-9to5-guide-to-praying-around-the-world)



# News and Notes from the Field



## *Bible Apps Reach Quechua with God's Word*

Serving in Peru, Wycliffe missionaries Mark and Patti Bean helped a committee from several Quechua language groups translate six entire Bibles. Now they're sharing these new Scriptures online.

"Thus far over a half million people have been reached by the ads for the Bible apps we've placed on Facebook," shared Mark and Patti. "More importantly, many people have accessed the Bible on their phones, 945 people in just the past month!"

Media is a powerful tool for spreading the gospel in today's electronic world, and Quechua individuals are experiencing the joy of easy access to Scripture through the internet and phones. Thanks to Quechua partners recording Old Testament books, Mark is also including some audio in one of the Scripture apps. This resource opens the Word of God to people who read with difficulty so that all are able to interact with Scripture in a language their hearts understand.



## *Ed Stetzer Interviews John Chesnut*

At the beginning of December, Ed Stetzer, executive director of the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center, interviewed John Chesnut on his Moody radio program, "Ed Stetzer Live."

During their conversation in the Discovery Center at Wycliffe's Orlando headquarters, John and Ed discussed several topics — from what Bible translation looks like

for oral cultures, to how technology allows for greater collaboration in translation work and how people can get involved in serving with Wycliffe.

"Wycliffe Bible Translators is literally working on making that Revelation 7 vision [of people from every language worshipping God] a reality," Ed said. "There's a great task before us."

Listen in on the full interview by visiting: [christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2020/december/bringing-bible-to-unreached.html](http://christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2020/december/bringing-bible-to-unreached.html)