



FRONTLINES

WINTER 2022

From Kenya to Cameroon: God is at Work Around the World

God is working through your generous gifts to the 2021 Gift Catalog to move translation work forward around the world. Keep reading for inspiring updates from three of the projects featured in the catalog.

A LONG-AWAITED DESIRE

For years the Nkwen chieftain watched as other people groups gained access to God's Word in their languages.

His community is home to a training center for CABTAL (the Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy). The chieftain was proud to have such an important organization in his region but felt sadness that no Scripture had ever been translated into his own language.

"It was unimaginable that distant communities benefited from this work and not us," the Nkwen leader said. "It was like a pot of stew cooked at home but eaten by other people."

Now in partnership with CABTAL, a team of Nkwen speakers is working to develop their language. Recently, they began crafting oral Bible stories. With the Nkwen team making steady progress, the chieftain can barely contain his excitement. "Our long-awaited [desire] is a reality!" he said.

EAVESDROPPING ON TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE IN KENYA

Justus slipped into a window seat on the taxi van, pulled out his smartphone and plugged in the earphones. As he and the other passengers headed toward Nairobi, Justus — a Chuka translator — kept busy with the Scripture app he and his teammates had been developing.

Soon he noticed the woman next to him glancing over at his phone. Eventually she asked, "Are you reading Chuka stories?" The translator explained it was Scripture and let her listen to the narration. Amazed, she asked if she could get the app.

When Justus promised to send it to her, two men in the back of the bus spoke up. "Send it to me too!" they each said. Since the Scripture app's development, over 800 Chuka speakers have received it and are sharing this tool with others.

EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING IN INDONESIA

The majority of the Yamdena population in Indonesia identify with Christianity. However, many Yamdena

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follow traditional beliefs and see religion as a way to appease God and spirits. Church services are also normally conducted in the national language, which most people don't understand very well.

The translation team is eager for more Yamdena people to hear the story of Jesus in their own language. And with the New Testament nearing completion, excitement is building. "We believe that the Scriptures in Yamdena will be used by the Lord to greatly strengthen his church," the project adviser said.

Goals this year include checking the remaining seven books of the New Testament — Matthew, Mark, John, Romans, 2 Corinthians, Hebrews and Revelation — with a translation consultant. The team is also producing a children's Bible to encourage the future generation of Yamdena people.

Celebrating the Ayta Abellen New Testament

A formal dedication of the Ayta Abellen New Testament was delayed due to COVID-19. The Bible translation team leaders decided to begin distribution among the language community in the Philippines and plan for a formal celebration next year.

One local pastor suggested launching the New Testament at the conclusion of an annual pastor's conference since a majority of all Ayta Abellen pastors would be there.

That's just what they did! During the launch and mini-celebration, a local woman carried the Scriptures in a basket and performed the traditional dance of her people group. Pastor Park, a local pastor, shared about how Scripture in a language and format that speaks to hearts has transformed other people groups and how it could do the same for the Ayta. Thanks to a projector donated by Faith Comes by Hearing, a video of the Gospel of Mark could be shown. Enthusiasm was beginning to build among the Ayta Abellen for Scripture.

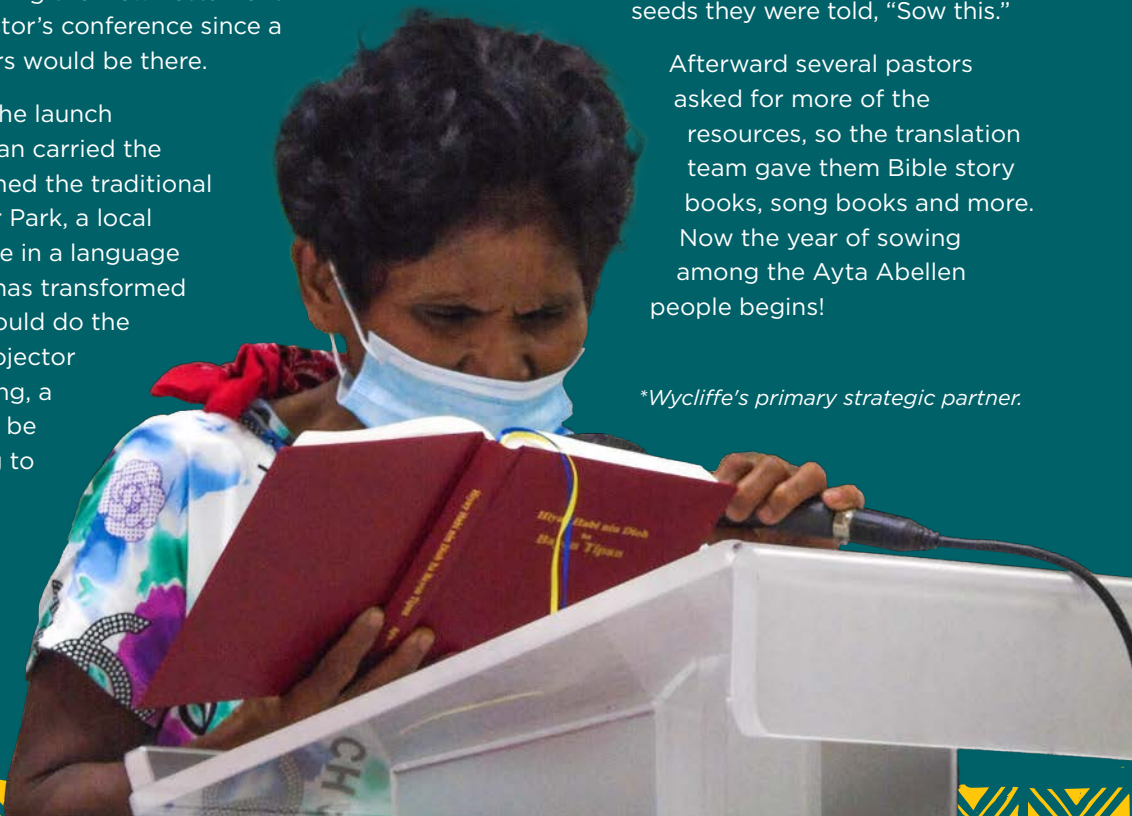
Roger Stone, SIL* project adviser, shared how this was the beginning of a season of sowing the seed of God's Word among the Ayta Abellen. Roger

provided examples of ways to sow God's Word through solar MP3 players, cellphone audio, cellphone apps and printed Bibles. He challenged the people to sow for a year and pray for a harvest that will be celebrated next year at a bigger gathering.

Roger then gave each of the 35 pastors in attendance a solar MP3 player loaded with the Ayta Abellen New Testament as well as songs and Bible stories. He gave them a memory card with even more resources and a printed Bible. As each pastor received their seeds they were told, "Sow this."

Afterward several pastors asked for more of the resources, so the translation team gave them Bible story books, song books and more. Now the year of sowing among the Ayta Abellen people begins!

**Wycliffe's primary strategic partner.*



Blessings in the Midst of Mourning

A pastor walked to the podium, opened the Bible, read a passage and preached from the verses he just read. The congregation understood the message and was edified. This scenario is a familiar one for many people, but several communities in Nigeria have only recently experienced this and are eager for more. For some, they first heard and understood Scripture at a funeral.

Before his death, a man named Nicodimus pledged his support to the Numana translation team. As a local government official, he was happy about the translation work and eager to help in whatever way his role would allow. He wanted to personally do something to benefit the project, so he donated his house to the Numana team for use as an office after his passing. However, this wasn't the only way God blessed the project through Nicodimus.

His funeral drew a number of mourners, including members of the translation team. During the service, one of the team members read a recently translated Scripture passage and preached in Numana. Many people were deeply moved as they heard Scripture in their own

language for the first time. News of the service spread, and local pastors began inviting team members to come to their churches and preach in Numana too. As a result, many Numana speakers said they now have a better understanding of the Bible's message. Nicodimus left more than a house for the Numana project: He left the lasting legacy of God's Word!

The Numana Bible translation team is working together with other language teams as part of the GENAAT Cluster project. Their goal is to translate New Testament portions and Scripture stories into Gwandara, Eloyi, Numana, Alago, and Arumu-Tesu in Nigeria.

God has truly been at work throughout this project, but there is still so much to be done. You can participate by praying for the team and the work they are doing. Ask the Lord to provide the translation committees with wisdom and endurance. Pray that lives will be changed through the power of God's Word. Praise God that translated Scripture is already making an impact.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership!



A Servant-Hearted Retirement

For 30 years, retired couple Ray and Lucille Bergthold have devoted their time and resources to supporting Bible translation. Both were raised in Christian homes and saved at age 10. Lucille always knew that she was going to be a missionary, and after she and Ray were married, they pursued becoming missionaries together. However, God kept closing the door. Again and again, he would tell them: "Not yet."

Missions remained an important part of their lives as they raised their four sons. They prayed for and partnered with missionaries. They also faithfully gave to their church. Even when Ray was out of work for over a year, they continued to be generous and trust God for provision.

Ray and Lucille never lacked what they needed. But after depleting their savings, they no longer had the funds they had saved to do the mission work God had called them to do in their upcoming retirement. God showed himself faithful, however, by providing each of them with jobs. Ray and Lucille were able to open a savings account with excellent interest rates. By the time they retired in their early 60s, they were well-supplied to serve as missionaries.

The couple began traveling as volunteers with Wycliffe: Ray served as a handyman and Lucille served wherever there was the most need. To this day, the money they need to travel and serve is always there. Once, before leaving for an assignment, Lucille left some checks with a friend to pay for their home's utilities and rent. When they returned, the same amount was still in their bank account as when they had left! "I don't understand God's math, but I like it!" Lucille laughed.

Ray and Lucille's love for Scripture is what moves them to give their time and financial resources to Bible translation. After the Bergtholds served in Mexico alongside the Otomi translation team, they began giving a monthly gift

to help fund the project. Today the project is fully funded thanks to Ray, Lucille and donors just like them. Now the couple gives monthly to support translation projects around the world.



One way the Bergtholds give to Bible translation is through gifts from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA). This allows them to give toward a charity of their choice from their retirement account while saving on taxes. "I don't know what we would do without God's Word," Lucille said. She and Ray want everyone to have the opportunity to experience Scripture that they clearly understand and that touches their hearts.

To those willing to live generously, Lucille and Ray give the assurance: "They will be blessed more than they can give."

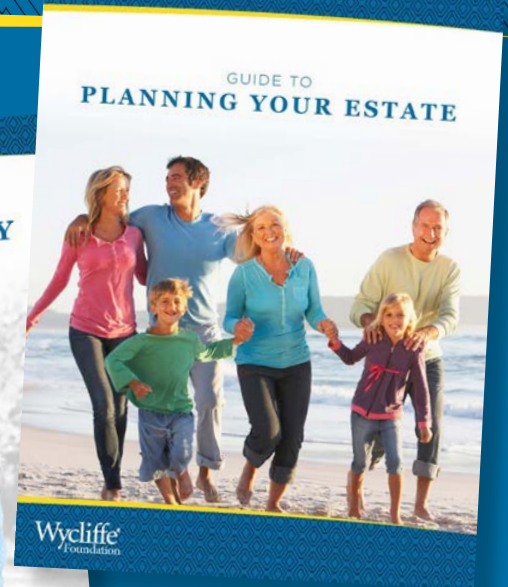
To learn more about how an IRA gift can be used to support the work of Bible translation, please contact Wycliffe Foundation at 877-493-3600 or visit wycliffefoundation.org.

We Have a Gift for You!

The beginning of the year is a very productive time for many people. Maybe that means working on to-do list items you've had for a while. One task that is worth the investment is creating a will and estate plan.

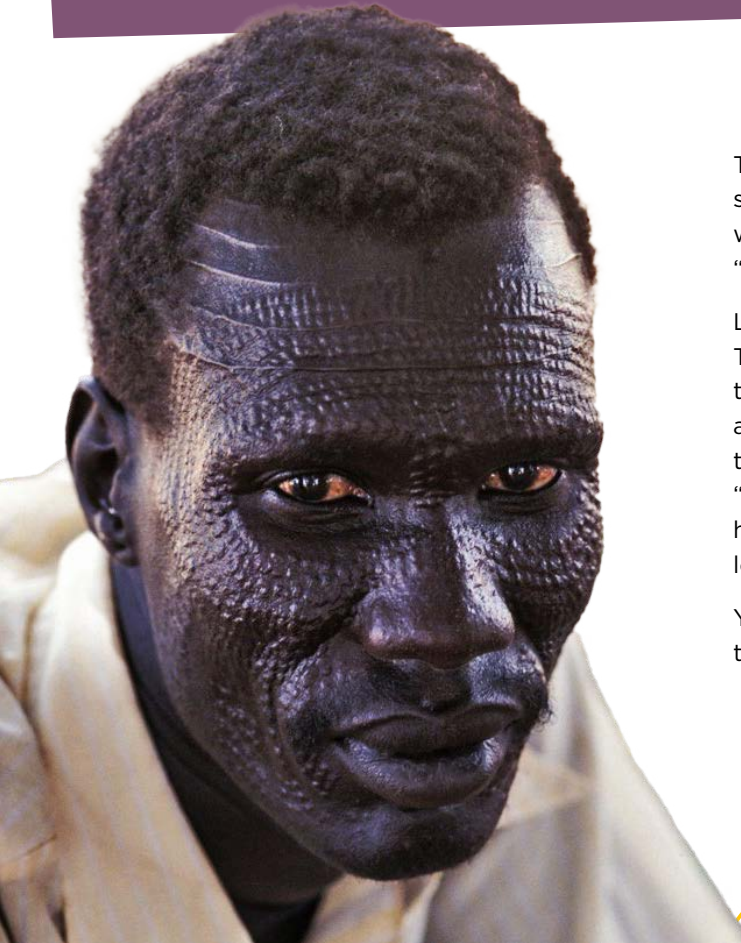
To help you start 2022 off with peace of mind, Wycliffe Foundation would like to offer you two free gift-planning tools: the "Guide to Planning Your Estate" and the "Confidential Estate Inventory."

To claim this gift, please check the box on the enclosed card, contact our office at info@wycliffefoundation.org or call **1-877-493-3600**.



WORDSEARCH

Eastern Nuer Need Clear Scripture Translation



The Scripture passage didn't make sense to the Eastern Nuer speakers. In the only Bible available to them, Luke 16:22 used a word for "beggar" that was misleading. They understood it as a "left-handed man," which changed the meaning of the passage.

Local church leaders feel frustrated because of issues like this. They long to have access to a version of God's Word in a language that can impact the hearts of the people. "[Local church leaders are] finding that the existing translation is hampering their ability to evangelize and disciple new believers," a project adviser said. "Having Scripture that is clear and easy to understand will greatly help Eastern Nuer leaders fulfill their efforts to shepherd and grow local churches."

Your prayers and gifts will help the Eastern Nuer people experience the transforming power of Scripture in their own language!

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Reading God's Word, Building a Movement

The Manado Malay New Testament, which was completed in 2018, is bringing hope and joy to the Manadonese* people in Indonesia. Recently this community created a Bible reading campaign to encourage people to read the translated New Testament together. The campaign challenged participants to read two chapters a day. "We believe that God's Word is powerful," said Ayu Suwandi, director of a local Bible translation center. "It gives hope especially in times like these."

At the end of the campaign, a charity walk was held to raise funds to translate the Bible for other people groups in Indonesia. Through the fundraiser and encouraging Manado people to pray together, Ayu hopes to see Manado people involved more in the Bible translation movement.

About 6,000 Manado people have joined the campaign since its launch, and at least 4,000 copies of the New Testament have been sold. People are now sharing Scriptures on social media, and pastors are preaching from the New Testament.

** Also known as Minahasans.*



Become a WordGiver!

Join a special community of donors who are investing in a world where everyone has God's Word in their language. As a WordGiver, you'll see the impact your monthly gifts make for people groups around the world through Bible translation. You'll receive:

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- » Special invites to Wycliffe's Scripture Celebrations events.

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