May 2016

TRANSLATION *Matters*









Photos by Ansie van der Merwe

SA CHURCH PARTNERS WITH TONGA PROJECT

It is one thing to say supportive things. It is helpful to send support. It is quite another thing to get in the car and take the support right to the doorstep of the ones who need it. This is what Honeyridge Baptist Church in Randburg did!

> *"When we heard ten bicycles were needed for the Tonga Bible translators, we wanted to help. We never dreamed we'd actually be the ones to deliver them!"*

The Tonga Bible Project started in November 2015. From the outset, Tonga church leaders felt it was important to include translators from all five Tonga districts in Zimbabwe. "This will ensure widespread ownership of the Bible translation process," said Bishop Mudenda, "and ultimately it will ensure that Tonga people all over will feel it is their Bible, and use it". For translation to progress, the translators needed to meet regularly, but this was difficult given the lack of transport to cover great distances.

Not just any bike would do. Ten robust bikes were needed to stand up to bad road conditions. A few months later (17-21 March 2016), representatives from Honeyridge could be spotted in a land cruiser travelling up to Zimbabwe to deliver ten bicycles, five laptops, branded team shirts and caps to the Tonga translation team near Bulawayo. What began as a project has become a firm friendship – the basis of every Kingdom partnership!

It gives me great pleasure to share news about the Tonga Bible Translation Project. God is clearly at work to bring His Word to the Tonga people at this time in their history. Please join me in praising God for much progress since translation started last year. We also ask you to prayerfully consider joining our "Intercessors for Africa" team in praying for one of four projects over the next three years; the Tonga project being one of the four. Interceding on a daily basis will carry the work forward through the unlocking of significant resources, and the preparation of hearts to respond to the Word made alive in the hearts of all who hear it in their own language!

Karen Floor, CEO

HEARTFELT THANKS



One of our field coordinators, Ansie van der Merwe, accompanied representatives from Honeyridge Baptist Church on the trip to Zimbabwe.The bikes, laptops, shirts and caps were handed over at a presentation ceremony. Charles Katiyatiya, Chairperson of the Council of Elders for the project expressed his thanks at the ceremony. The council comprises leaders of various denominations in the Tonga community.

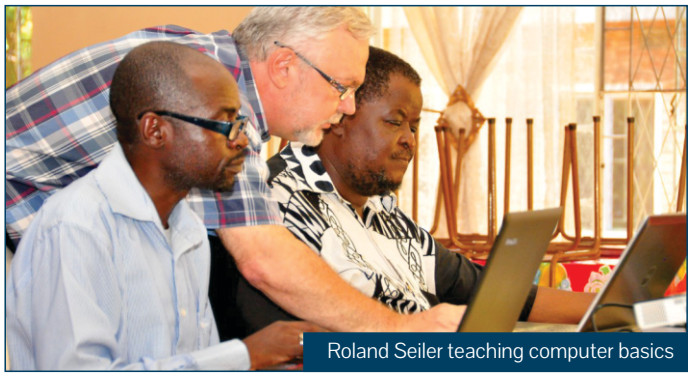
Here is an excerpt from his speech:

Ladies and gentlemen, we are commanded to preach the good news to the poor. Let us realise that the poor are people who are more than those who live in human poverty. Those who are really poor are the ones who are yet to be enriched with all the spiritual blessings of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Zimbabwe Tonga Bible Translation Project is one of the many ways of bringing the gospel to the poor. We would like to express our deepest thanks for your recent donation. Generous gifts from donors like you provide the support needed to continue our mission. With your contributions of the bicycles, t-shirts, caps and laptops, you have demonstrated your deep commitment to our work of making the word of God accessible to the Tonga people. We look forward to a continuing partnership with you. On behalf of the Council of Elders, the national coordinator and all on this mission; I thank you.

TREKKING TO THE TONGA

By Roy Tibbit

The flight and the six-hour trip to Binga, Zimbabwe, was more than worth it for Roland Seiler and me after meeting the Tonga translation team. Their enthusiasm and great desire to see the scriptures in the Tonga language was so evident. The purpose of the trip was for Roland to orient the ten translators to the computers they had been given by Honeyridge Baptist Church, and to leave them with enough experience to be able to enter data and practice typing. Roland will make another trip in the coming weeks to install and teach them how to use Paratext, the main software they will use for the translation process. It is so encouraging to see the team that God is putting together since Wycliffe South Africa decided to trust God for the financial means to fund the Tonga translation.



Roland Seiler teaching computer basics



Roy Tibbit with the Zimbabwean Tonga translation team

Photos by Roy Tibbit

BREAKFAST WITH A CHALLENGE

A group of 15 Dutch Reformed leaders from Pretoria gathered on 12 April 2016 for a breakfast hosted by Wycliffe at Skuilkrans NG Church. The purpose of the breakfast was to share the good news of what Wycliffe is doing in southern Africa, and to connect with leaders who also have a heart for reaching the nations. After great fellowship, a hearty breakfast and a presentation by Pieter Engelbrecht, Partnering Executive at Wycliffe South Africa; the Chairman of the Wycliffe Board, Piet Meiring, challenged the group to get involved. We pray for ongoing relationships and spiritual fruit from this event. Wycliffe continues to build relationships with different church streams as we acknowledge the centrality of the Church in the fulfilment of God's mission on earth.

HOWICK HAPPENINGS

Wycliffe believes strongly in the importance of church partnership, and another worthy example is our partnership with Howick Community Church (HCC). Two years ago they sent six cyclists up to Joburg to ride with Wycliffe's "Africa Alive" team in the Momentum 94.7 cycle challenge. HCC's backing of the "Africa Alive" team contributed to the Himba Bible translation project getting started in 2015.



Cycle team from Howick Community Church

Partnership is however a two-way street. This year Wycliffe spent a weekend with HCC to express our appreciation of this relationship. A team of seven from our office in Johannesburg hit the road to Howick from 19-21 February 2016. One of our team members, Lindsey Alexander, wrote about the Bible translation awareness trip: Voices of happy chatter filled the air as we began Youth ministry on Friday night. Soon we had the youthful excitement channelled into positive energy, as the kids entered a journey of discovering what it would be like to be a Bible translator. We gave them the opportunity to create their own language and to stand in the shoes of a Bible translator through several interactive games. Having Tshegofalo dress up as Bible Billy to speak to the children and sing worship songs with them brought an extra element of fun for the kids. It was encouraging to be able to speak to the next generation about something as important as Bible translation. Who knows? Maybe one or even several of the kids could end up joining God in sharing the Good News through the heart language ministry of Bible translation.



Photos by Lindsey Alexander

Bible Billy (Tshegofalo Siele) accompanied by Lindsey Alexander

On the Saturday we spent time with the adults on a scenic prayer hike and fellowship over a braai. On Sunday morning a panel of Wycliffe team members were interviewed by the Church leadership, while the rest of the team led the children's ministry. In the evening we formed a blended worship team with a band of Howick and Wycliffe musicians. Music and laughter characterised the weekend. We had a joyful, enriching time sharing our passion for God's Word and our appreciation of the Howick church community!

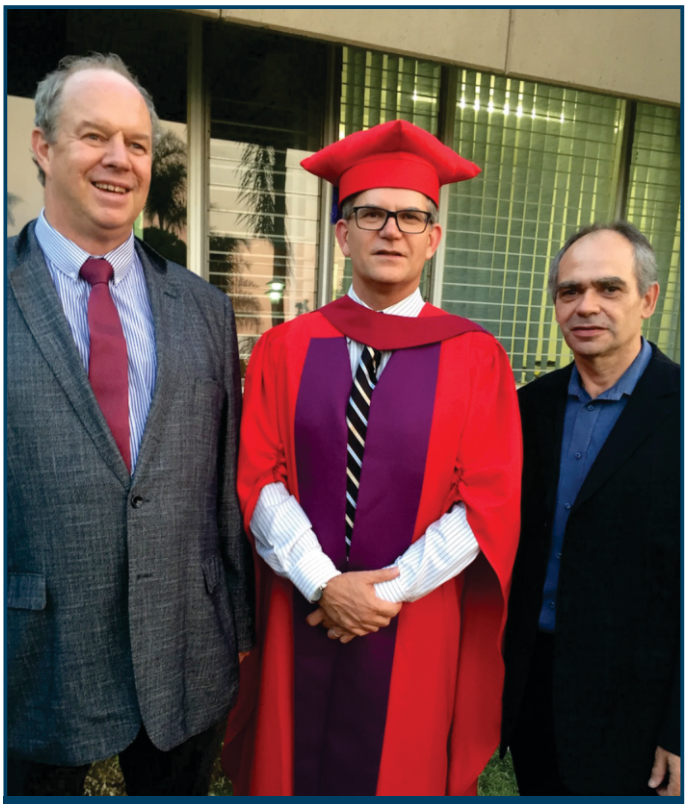


Our team from the Wycliffe office hiking with HCC friends: Lindsey Alexander, Tshegofalo Siele, Corine Govender, Helen Cobbald, Karen Floor, Bonifacio Paulo, Kerrin Twigg (HCC), Pieter Engelbrecht & Michael Fivaz (HCC)

GRADUATIONS APLENTY

On 13 April 2016, the Wycliffe South Africa family was privileged to celebrate with Kirk Franklin, Executive Director of the Wycliffe Global Alliance, who obtained a PhD in Missiology from the University of Pretoria (UP).

His research results in a paradigm for global mission leadership that informs other movements navigating within the complexities of leading within a global mission context.



Prof. Niemand (UP), Kirk Franklin and Stephen Coertze

In addition, two members of our Wycliffe South Africa team also celebrated great achievements. Busie Khanyile graduated with a Masters in Literature and Education on 17 March 2016 at Stellenbosch University, and Tshegofalo Siele graduated on 29 March 2016 with a BComm in Accounting at Wits University.

Busie is involved with training pastors in advanced reading skills once a portion of Scripture has been dedicated, as well as training readers to read Scripture during church services. Tshegofalo plays an integral part in supporting the Tonga project, amongst many other projects, as she handles the finances and project accounting.

We are so proud of our graduates and pray for God to use their skills for His Kingdom work.



Busie Khanyile



Tshegofalo Siele

HELP SAVE TREES

We are constantly updating our database, so if any of your details are going to change, please let us know. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email (and save some trees in the process), please send a request to nicola_king@wycliffe.org.za.

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BIBLE TRANSLATION

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