July 2016

TRANSLATION *Matters*



Walking the streets of Soweto



Dr Kirk Franklin, Executive Director of the Wycliffe Global Alliance



Telling stories from Africa at each table



Building a flourishing Africa – using Lego blocks

SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS INTERSECT WITH WYCLIFFE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

By Karen Floor, CEO

The Wycliffe Global Alliance leadership team, led by Kirk Franklin, meets twice a year – each time on a different continent. This year they chose to meet on the African continent in Johannesburg, and it was the privilege of the Wycliffe SA team to interact with them, including a joint outing to Soweto.

The week's proceedings concluded with a conference on Saturday, 25 June 2016, entitled "Leaders Intersect". Leaders from different spheres of South African business and ministry were invited to intersect with the leadership of Wycliffe SA and the Wycliffe Global Alliance. The theme for the event was "Anticipating a flourishing Africa", which provided a forum for participants to share stories of transformation, and to creatively express what they believe it will take to see Africa flourish. Lego provided the building blocks for dynamic conversation around the theme. There was a tangible sense of excitement as participants heard about what is happening worldwide and started to realise that collaboration will get the job done so much faster. The job in question is to make God's Word available in every language on the continent – a vital component of seeing Africa flourish.

Master of Ceremonies, Pieter Engelbrecht, commented: "In following up with people, it is clear that the conversation has really just started. The day was all about collaboration, and many conversations took place in this regard. This was by no means a linear type of conference, with one goal or within one industry. It crossed into many spheres, of which ours just happens to be Bible translation. It is the recognition that we are not islands on our own, and that we need each other to see a flourishing Africa come about that was so powerful.

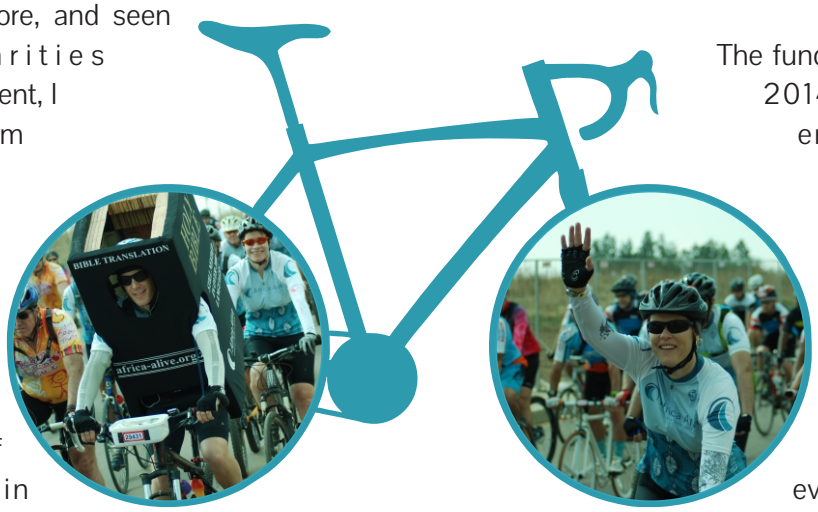
For six hours no one in the room spoke about the multiplicity of negative things on the African continent. Our hearts and ears were poised to listen and to participate in what God is doing. A renewed faith in what God is doing in Africa was stirred up. We recognised anew the power of working together, and from Wycliffe SA's side, we are stirred up to think about the expansion of our partnering."

CYCLISTS TO RIDE WITH GIANT 'BIBLE MAN' IN THE TELKOM 947 CYCLE CHALLENGE

By Bernie Easton, Volunteer

I first heard of Wycliffe when I did the Kairos course at my church. The Kairos course is a short intensive course with the aim of challenging the typical Christian to become aligned to a 24/7 biblical mindset. The heart of the Kairos message, and in fact the Gospel, is that every follower of Christ is called to be involved in advancing the Kingdom of God, whether we go out to the mission field or not.

Since I had cycled the 947 Cycle Challenge a couple of times before, and seen how many charities participated in the event, I decided to put a team together to ride for the Bibleless people of Africa. In September 2013, Wycliffe SA published an article in the Joy magazine regarding the plight of Bible translation in Africa. Grant Easton was moved by the article and called Wycliffe SA to find out how he could get involved. He was redirected to me as the team leader for the Africa Alive Cycle Team, and joined the team. We became friends and a year later we were married! Three things stand out for me about this: 1) God's timing is perfect, 2) He knows the desires of our hearts and 3) He delights in using anyone available to serve Him for His glory.



We rode the 947 Cycle Challenge in 2013 as team "Africa Alive" and raised R50,000. This was far beyond what I expected we would raise, which was so encouraging. We continued to cycle again in 2014 and 2015, with giant "Bible Man" as the team mascot. The "Bible Man" concept was Grant's idea and he worked hard to make the vision of cycling in a Bible suit a reality. This was a big head-turner during the 2015 Cycle Challenge and a great way to raise awareness for the cause.

The funds raised in the 2013, 2014 and 2015 races enabled Wycliffe to kick-start a Bible translation project for the Himba people. There were certainly challenges in the three years of arranging this team event, but nothing that made me want to give up. For me it's about the bigger picture... to see the Word of God made available in every language! Grant and I want to encourage others to get involved by cycling, running, walking or even climbing for Bible translation. The great thing is that these events are for anyone, you don't need to be a pro.

THIS YEAR'S CHALLENGE:

We invite you to ride with us for a Kingdom purpose. This year we are riding to raise funds for the Tonga Translation Project in Zimbabwe. Earlier this year, 10 bicycles were delivered to the 10 pastors devoted to translating the Tonga Bible for their people. To get the work done they cover great distances on hot, dusty roads to meet with each other and the communities they serve. Please join us in getting behind these 10 Tonga cyclists to raise the funds needed to get this important life-changing work done as soon as possible. If you are interested in joining the "Africa Alive" Cycle Team to ride for a Kingdom purpose, please visit www.wycliffe.org.za. For more information about the Telkom 947 Cycle Challenge, go to www.cyclechallenge.co.za/rideforapurpose. Help us grow the team to 100 cyclists this year. The more riders we have, the more Bible translation we get done. Registration closes at the end of August, so don't delay and enter today!

TONGA TRANSLATORS PUT THEIR TRAINING TO THE TEST

By Wilfred Ball, Training Consultant

I recently travelled to Zimbabwe, from 3 to 10 June 2016, with fellow Training Consultant, Roland Seiler. The main purpose of the trip was a three-day workshop in Binga for the Tonga translators, teaching them how to use the ParaText software. Chawa Mulengo (Training Consultant), Rev. Petros Karekera (Exegetical Advisor), Roland Seiler and I assisted with the workshop in different ways.



Wilfred Ball working with Charles Katiyatiya and Betty Munsaka

On the first day, the teams started with technical training for the translation of the Gospel of Mark. On the second day, Bishop Josias Mudenda (National Coordinator) used ParaText on his laptop to do a preliminary review of the text that had been inputted by the translation team members. He reminded the translators of the goal of the project to produce a translation that is "meaning-based", and encouraged them to produce a translation that sounds natural for a Tonga speaker.

I was very impressed with the Tonga team. Petros did a marvellous job coordinating the workshop so that all the necessary pieces were in place. As a result, the workshop ran smoothly, and the translators were able to practise all the activities they will need to perform on a regular basis when back in their hometowns.

Bishop Mudenda was very encouraging in his interactions with the translators. He inspired them to embrace the task as very important for the Tonga people of Zimbabwe. I believe that his ongoing encouragement and assistance will be key to the success of the project.



Kneeling in front from left to right: Stefan Mutale, Ian Munsaka, Chawa Mulengo. Standing from left to right: Elek Syambombe, Roland Seiler, Charles Katiyatiya, Isaac Mudenda, Betty Munsaka, Moses Denis, January Muchimba, Eugene Mugande

Photos by Wilfred Ball

CALLING INTERCESSORS FOR AFRICA

By Harry & Elsbeth Brasem, Intercessors for Africa Coordinators

We led two meetings at retirement homes, Featherbrooke in Krugersdorp and Inyoni Creek in Edenvale; both were well attended and the residents very responsive. Field Coordinator, Ansie van der Merwe, encouraged people to become intercessors at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Benoni, which resulted in 8 intercessors signing up. A Zulu Women's Methodist prayer group has decided to start praying for the Tonga people. It is exciting to see how the Lord is raising up prayer warriors all over South Africa. Sign up today by sending an email to harry_brasem@wycliffe.org.za and see lives changed for eternity.

Number of intercessors as at 6th July



CITYHILL CHURCH ON THEIR KNEES

By Pieter Engelbrecht, Partnering and Strategy

On the morning of Sunday, 12 June 2016, I served on a panel at CityHill Church in Hillcrest, KwaZulu-Natal to promote Bible translation, and in particular the Zimbabwean Tonga Project. Steve Wimble, senior leader at CityHill, was really touched, and at the end of the panel he asked about 1,200 people to get on their knees and pray for the nations and for those who still need to hear the Gospel in their own language. There was a real sense of God's presence in that moment, and we trust that God will continue to stir their hearts to partner with Wycliffe SA for the translation of the transforming Word of God for the Tonga people.

SHARING THE GOSPEL BY TELLING STORIES THAT COME ALIVE

By Josh Bartlett, Bible Engagement, Wycliffe Australia

From 19-21 May and 28-29 May 2016, Wycliffe SA Field Coordinator, Ansie van der Merwe, and I ran Bible storytelling workshops at Hermanus United Church and Gereformeerde Kerk Sasolburg respectively.

Rev. Dr James Gray, the Pastor at Hermanus United Church, participated in the workshop and was very enthusiastic. He said that he wanted to get more of his leadership team trained to be able to tell Bible stories whenever the opportunity arises. At the end of the workshop he said, "You know, they say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Well, you can... I've learnt a huge amount in this workshop. Through this workshop I've seen gifts being released in people... I think this is going to introduce people to a new side of ministry and outreach."



Josh telling a story from the Bible

By the end of the Sasolburg workshop, most participants had stories that were well-crafted for a first story. On the Saturday we ran the marketplace activity, and sent participants out onto the streets in pairs to strike up conversations with strangers and to look for opportunities to tell Bible stories. Many participants were profoundly impacted by hearing one another share about their experiences during the marketplace activity. At the end of the workshop, one of the participants said, "Because of this workshop, I will read the Bible in a new way. I will see the stories that change people's lives, not just the theory or theology."

Ansie had the following to add: "A highlight for me was seeing people that do not usually get involved in ministry start to move out of their comfort zones. The workshop challenges participants to speak in front of others and gives them the tools they need to confidently share the Gospel in a non-confrontational way. A person without theological knowledge will be able to get out of the pews and into the street to share the Gospel. The Sasolburg Church has since started holding an evening service on a Sunday using Bible storytelling, which they call an interactive service. I think it is wonderful that the workshop has inspired people to a renewed interest in God's Word."

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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