SEPTEMBER 2017

TRANSLATION *Matters*



THE VOICE OF THE ADVOCATE SPEAKS VOLUMES

Greetings from a busy season in Edenvale, home of the Wycliffe office! During the past two months we have held our Annual General Meeting, hosted our WordAlive event and facilitated close on 100 registrations for our Africa Alive Cycle team entering the Telkom 947 Cycle Challenge.

Time and again I am in awe of the God-sized task of Bible translation worldwide. We speak often about Vision 2025 – our strategic goal of starting Bible translation in every language that needs one by the year 2025.

I see God stirring hearts in a new wave of participation in God's invitation for each and every one of us to play our part. The sound of the wave is the voice of the advocate that God is using to spark a movement in Bible translation in southern Africa. This makes our relationship with YOU a top priority for us!

Wycliffe South Africa is blessed to have many advocates already. You will read about some of them in this issue. But to reach Vision 2025, we recognise the need for God to raise up many more advocates to join us. In this edition we celebrate new friendships formed and the joy we share of being part of what God is doing in our day.

As you read, I invite you to consider how God might be leading you to use the gifts He has given you – your platform, your connections, your ability to serve, even in seemingly small ways – for the sake of those still waiting to hear. May God give you the voice of an advocate, for His glory and for those still waiting to 'hear God speak' in the language they understand best!

Karen Floor, CEO

SPREADING THE JOY OF PARTICIPATION

Featuring Rosalie Williams

Is your message contagious?

Rosalie's enthusiasm for spreading God's Word into everyone's heart language is contagious. This year she recruited five cyclists for the 947, just by talking about it as she goes about her daily rounds – to the vet, home affairs, the grocery store. Her unassuming and caring message touches hearts wherever she goes.

Dave, the vet, signed up right away to ride for the Africa Alive cycle team. By the end of the day, he had already sent in his first contribution towards the team's vision to raise funds for the Visual Bible translation for the Deaf!



"It's such a joy for me to be a voice for the Bibleless", says Rosalie. "Too many are still waiting to have access to the message of the Bible in their heart language. I love speaking up on their behalf and watching how people respond."

Rosalie's face lights up as she describes the joy of watching how people's hearts are stirred. Their desire to show generosity towards those still queuing at the door, as it were, moves them to action. People are delighted to hear they can do something to help, wherever and whoever they are. Everyone can be part of God's heart to make His Word come alive in everyone's language!

Rosalie is a wonderful picture of what we mean by an advocate. She finds a myriad of creative ways to share the vision in a way that blesses people and makes them feel special. She believes people would care enough to do something if they only knew how many people are still denied access to the Bible in a language that really speaks to their hearts. Through Bible translation many who are currently denied access will have the joy of feeling they have been invited to the table of feasting on God's Word. You too can be part of spreading the joy of participation!

WORDALIVE BENEFIT CONCERT

We were blessed and inspired by the voices of the Soweto Gospel Choir, who gave a stirring performance that resonated with the message of the WordAlive event, held 2 September 2017.

Message from the choir director:
"Congratulations on a very special event. It was excellently organised, and there was such a warm, friendly and appreciative atmosphere. The choir really enjoyed the occasion, especially the fuss made of them over coffee. Thank you for your kind treatment of them. They truly appreciated the individual thank you cards, each with a personal message. What a special kindness, and very heart-warming to know that the choir and I made a difference to your event. We wish you and your organisation much success in spreading the Word."



One of our 55 new advocates who signed up to help spread the vision to share God's Word through Bible translation.

THE SERVANT VOICE OF THE BIBLE STORY TELLER

Featuring Suzanne van Dyk & Sarel van der Merwe

It is far too easy for us to get comfortable as just a casual observer in ministry. We rely on the pastors and ministers or even missionaries to be the ones to spiritually feed us and to feed others. But through Bible Storytelling workshops, hundreds of people across Southern Africa are moving from casual observers to empowered advocates of God's Word to the world.

And the best part is – you can share your faith with anyone by learning just one Bible story!

Wycliffe's Bible Storytelling coordinator, Sarel van der Merwe, explains it well, "The Word of God has the power to stand alone. All we have to do is share it and not water it down with what we think a passage means. We just need to leave it to God to speak to the people we are sharing it with."

"My mindset changed from being served by the church to being the one who is serving."

Workshop facilitator Suzanne van Dyk shared about her own transformation through Bible Storytelling. Suzanne grew up in a culture where religion was very personal, so it was not a topic she would talk about. She never learned how to share her faith with others until she started attending Bible Storytelling workshops in her home church.

And the result? "My mindset changed from being served by the church to being the one who is serving", explained Suzanne. Since then, Suzanne and others in her church have started to lead regular "interactive" evening services by using simple Bible stories to stimulate deep discussion with the whole congregation.

"The workshop makes the great command to love others more practical... it teaches us the communication skills we need to relate and connect with others", said Suzanne.



Photo by Laura Dyer

Olivia Razafinjatoniary tells the story of Jairus kneeling before Jesus (Matthew 9:18-26) during a Bible Storytelling workshop with SIL International in Cape Town

Are you ready to learn how to share the Bible with others in a non-threatening way?
Are you willing to go beyond casual observing to trusting God to use you in simple, powerful ways?
Then contact Wycliffe to find out more about holding a Bible Storytelling Workshop at your church!

For more info, contact Sarel van der Merwe @ 073 854 9742.

SIDELINE AND FRONTLINE UNITE WITH ONE VOICE

Featuring Marvin & Ninette Oliver

SUPPORTERS + CYCLISTS = VISUAL BIBLE FOR THE DEAF

We would all agree that riding 10km, 25km or 55km, and especially 94.7km is no easy task. Yet year after year, our Africa Alive cycle team takes on that challenge for the sake of Bibleless people in Southern Africa. But if you were to ask them how they do it, Team Captain Marvin Oliver will tell you that the enthusiastic support from the refreshment tent is a huge motivator.

"A cold refreshment, some nutritional sustenance and even just a few words of encouragement seem to rejuvenate the spirit and motivate the cyclist to complete the task at hand!" said Marvin.

So, who are these encouragers? Marvin's wife, Ninette, who organises our Africa Alive refreshment tent and volunteers, explains why her role as a volunteer is so important.

"I'm not a cyclist, so I do what I can from the sidelines. What better way to support the cyclists than to be on the sidelines cheering and encouraging them to continue on!" said Ninette. And for the cyclists, those on the sidelines are just as important as those in the race.

"Whilst it may appear that the cyclists get to experience the joy of crossing the finish line after a long ride, it's really the entire team of volunteers behind the cyclists - the sponsors, intercessors, admin and finance staff - that make it possible for us to finish the race and to help one more people group experience the love of God through His Word!" said Marvin.



Cyclists receive encouragement from Ninette Oliver and her team of Africa Alive supporters.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – YOU CAN BE AN ADVOCATE!

Hand out water. Make sandwiches. Cheer on the team. We are calling for 4-8 supporters on Saturday 11 November or Sunday 12 November for the MTB race and 12-16 supporters on Sunday 19 November for the 94.7km race.

For more info, contact Ninette Oliver at ninetteoliver75@gmail.com

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 wycliffe@wycliffe.org.za.

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BIBLE TRANSLATION

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