JANUARY 2019

PRAYER *Matters*



PRAYER REALLY MATTERS

Prayer is the fibre that runs through everything we do, every decision we take, and every translation partnership we're involved in. At the start of another year, we focus intensely on this core value of ours. Join us on this journey of bringing blessing to the nations, through the challenging ministry of Bible translation. Like Paul, in Romans 15:30, we urge you: 'Dear brothers and sisters', 'in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to join us in our struggle by praying to God for us.'

We invite you to 'devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart' (Colossians 4:2), as we focus our prayer attention on the following key areas:

- **Our valued partners,** without whom we could not hope to participate in the mission God calls us to be part of, together with Him and the rest of His body on earth
- **The next generation** (our children and youth), whom God is calling to join Him in His mission to bless the nations.
- **Our Wycliffe leaders** (global, regional and local) - who earnestly seek to discern God's voice in stewarding the relationships and resources entrusted to them
- **Deep transformation** in our own lives, and in the lives of people and nations everywhere, as they hear Scripture in the languages of their hearts.

And may the heavens open as we pray!

Karen Floor, CEO

CELEBRATING FIRST HIMBA SCRIPTURE

Opuwo home to the Ova-Himba people, the last (semi) nomadic people of Namibia. Modern Himba women can be seen carrying cell phones on their waistbands, or listening to music from earphones attached to their MP3 players. At the same time, their beautiful ochre-wrapped locks, leather clothing and copper bracelets, reveal their strong traditional identity.

Where does Bible translation come in to all of this? Can the balance be found between the past and future of a people so steeped in their cultural traditions and semi-nomadic lifestyle? Three years ago, we were invited to partner with the Pastors Forum of the Himba community to facilitate the translation of core Scripture selections, in a format that serves their nomadic lifestyle. It was decided that translation would need to be orally drafted, and after being checked and approved for accuracy, produced as MP3 files for the Himba to carry with them on audio devices.

PRAYER

- Pray for the Opuwo Pastors Forum, who have promised to improve their involvement of the project. Their support is needed as the team tackles the challenge of translating the books of Genesis, Acts, Romans, Hebrews, and more.
- Pray for new leadership of the translation team, with the previous team leader having stepped down due to other ministry commitments.
- The translated material of the first phase still needs to be distributed on MP3 devices. Please pray that the gospel of Mark, plus 83 Bible stories and Scripture based songs will soon be distributed to the churches and individuals who attended the celebration event, as well as many others who were not able to attend.

PRAISE

- The next generation is embracing and reciting Scripture - the first generation of young people to have access to Scripture in the Himba language.
- Testimonies of God's Word at work in the lives of Himba people are bringing hope for better marriages, and freedom from spiritual fear.
- Praise God for widespread interest to continue with further translation. The Opuwo Pastors Forum has indicated the need for the whole Bible in oral format. All are agreed that this is meeting a real need.







YOUTH SUPPORT SÍPHÙTÌ BIBLE PARTNERSHIP







Wycliffe's 2018 cycle team included several young people who rode their hearts out for Bible translation to raise awareness and funds for the Síphùtì Bible translation partnership in Lesotho. The youthful energy of our roadside supporters was greatly appreciated.

Meanwhile, at a Síphùtì language community awareness event in Quting, Lesotho, former minister of Education, Mr. Mohlabi Tsekoa, told school learners in the audience: 'This is an historic moment. One day, when we have our Síphùtì Bible, you'll be able to say, "I was there when it all started!" Remember this day, and never forget the fact that all those who came before you never had this privilege.'

PRAISE

- Praise God for raising up young people for His mission to reach the nations with the Good News for all people. Many of them are the offspring of Wycliffe SA staff, which is special joy to us.
- Praise God for the audience of school learners who witnessed the start of the Síphùtì Bible translation partnership in Lesotho.
- Thank God for every cyclist, every roadside supporter, and every intercessor partnering with Wycliffe SA in the Síphùtì Bible translation partnership in Lesotho.

PRAYER

- Pray for community leaders in Lesotho and South Africa, as we all trust God to provide the resources for His mission among the Ebaphùtì people.
- Pray for the next generation, as they respond to God's invitation to join Him in the mission of blessing the nations with His living and active Word.

As we pray for the next generation:

"Rise during the night and cry out.
Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord.

Lift up your hands to Him in prayer,
Pleading for your children"

(Lamentations 2:19)

PRAY FOR LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

The Wycliffe Global Alliance is made up of over 100 inter-dependent Alliance organisations across the globe. Wycliffe South Africa is one of these. Join us in thanking God for our leaders, and please pray for us in the face of some significant leadership transitions.

Pray for our global Executive Director, Kirk Franklin, for strength, wisdom and grace as he prepares for the last two-year stretch of his tenure. Pray for Kirk, the Alliance Leadership Team, and the Alliance community, as we position ourselves for the next Global Gathering of Alliance leaders, to be held in Johannesburg, September 2020.

The Alliance network covers four geographical areas, including Africa. Please pray for our outgoing Africa Area Director, Mundara Muturi, and his incoming successor, Wairimu Irungu, who will take office in May 2019.

The Board and Leadership of Wycliffe South Africa also value your earnest intercession regarding succession planning for key leadership positions. We cannot do this without your partnership, so we thank you with all our hearts, as you 'pray in the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Jude 1:20).



Mundara Muturi



Kirk Franklin



Wairimu Irungu

All newsletter photo's credit: Jennifer Sophie

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

Standard Bank • Branch: Kempton Park • Code: 012442 • Account number: 200711547 • Reference: Your name / Chosen allocation
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