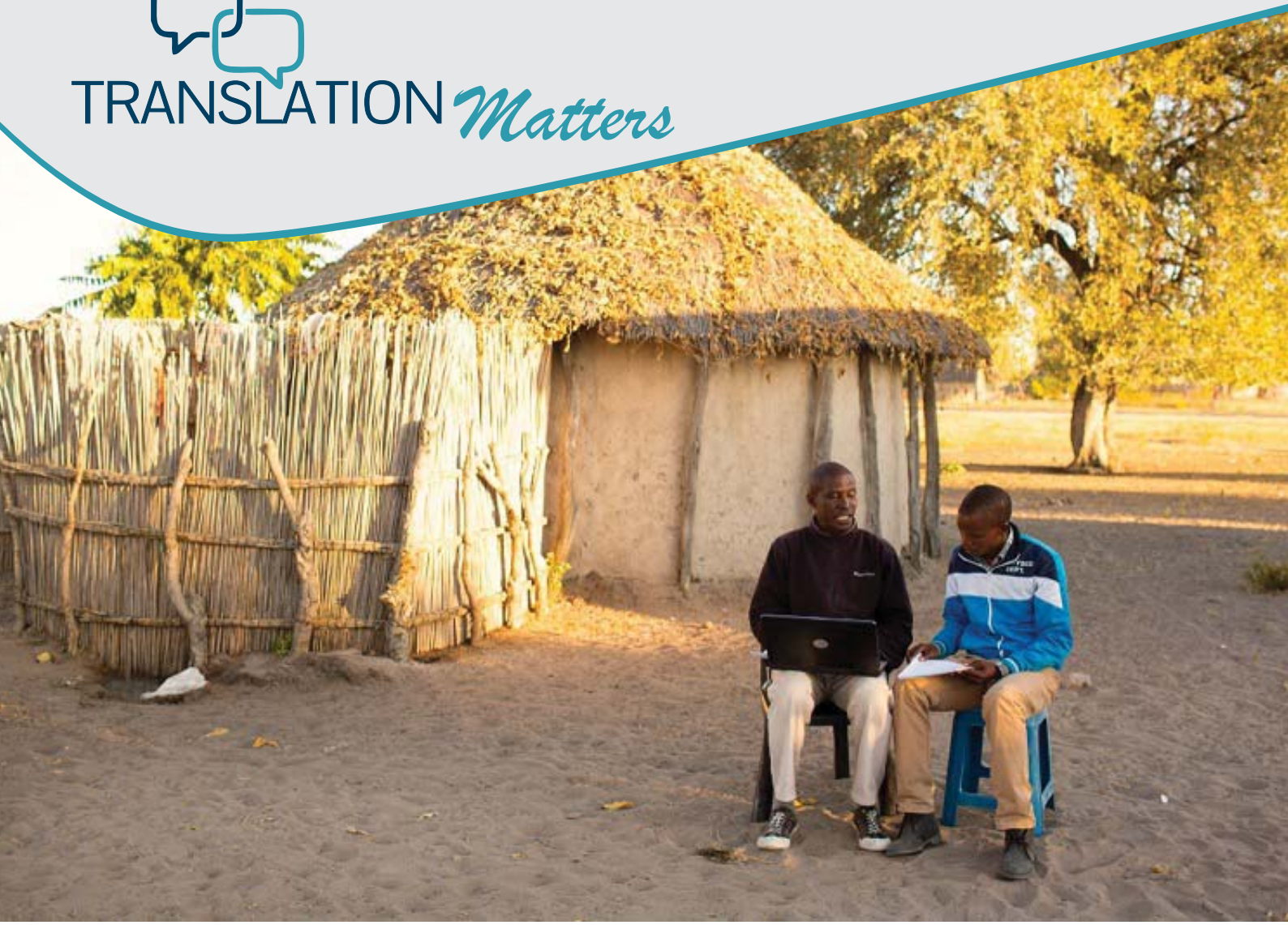
MAY 2020

TRANSLATION *Matters*



ORAL BIBLE TRANSLATION - A SOUND FROM HEAVEN

Lockdown greetings! Translation matters so much to us that we are finding ways to continue the work on the ground under COVID-19 conditions.

In this edition, we reflect on the parallels between Pentecost and Oral Bible Translation. Both highlight God's heart for enabling faith in Christ by hearing God's Word. "Faith comes by hearing the word of God" (Rom.10:17) before reading it, and perhaps never reading...

Exactly 50 days after the Passover (the appointed time for Jesus's death and resurrection) came the Jewish calendar day of Pentecost. That morning, the disciples were gathered together in someone's house when they heard **a sound from heaven** (Acts 2:2). The sound ushered in the Holy Spirit, which made it possible for Jews from every corner of the Roman world to hear the disciples preaching in all the languages of those gathered outside the house to see what was going on.

The sound of heaven is the reason for our commitment to Oral Bible translation. The vast majority of the world's population are oral societies. This is not a matter of literacy, or the lack thereof. Oral societies are those who can't, don't or won't communicate through written words. For them faith is not likely to come by reading, but by hearing the Word of God.

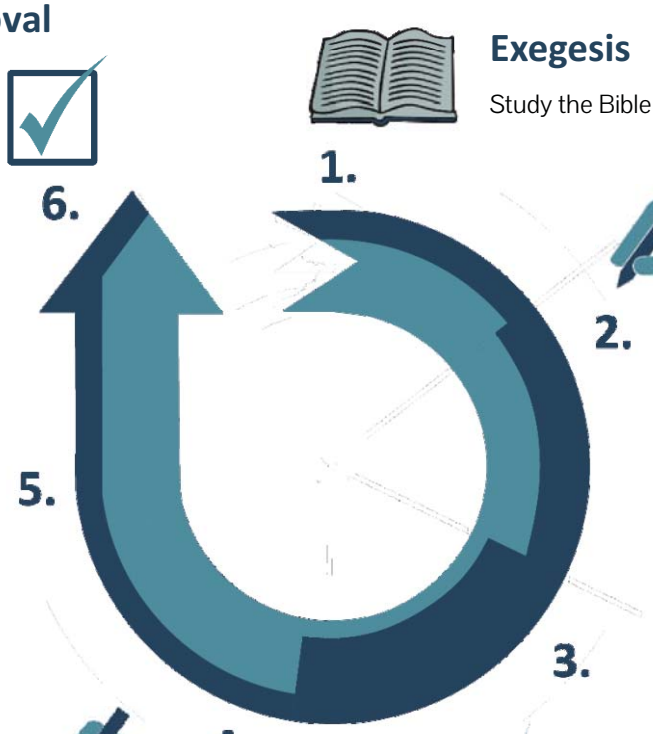
Wycliffe is committed to aligning our translation methods to ensure that they meet the needs of both literary and oral societies. Oral Bible translation allows God's message to overcome communication barriers so that the focus is on the message, rather than on the written medium through which it typically comes. Through the medium of MP3 audio files, Oral Bible translation is increasingly meeting the need for accurate transmission of translated Scripture.

Thank you! Your ongoing support during lockdown enables us to continue the vital ministry of unlocking the message of God's Word through Bible translation.

Karen Floor, CEO

TRANSLATION CONTINUES DURING COVID-19

Translation happens in partnership! As the body of Christ, we stand together to bring God's Word to every race, nation and tongue. In our increasingly connected world, translation can continue despite country borders and travel restrictions. Through software, such as Paratext and Render, online storage solutions and virtual communication, all parties of the translation team (from translators and consultants to IT and financial supporters) can stay in contact and work together whilst scattered across the world. See the diagram and images below to get an idea of the process a Bible passage goes through (subject to context and access to resources). The light blue elements can all continue online, to differing degrees, in both written and oral translation:



1. Exegesis

Study the Bible passage/s to be translated.

2. Translate

Translate into the target language so that it sounds/reads naturally while staying true to God's Word.

(This becomes more difficult if translating in teams or at workshops).

3. Checking

Done with people of the language group, this ensures the translation is understandable, conveys what was intended, and is accepted as being authentically in the target language. (Without physical access to language groups, this becomes very hard).

4. Back Translation

Usually done word-for-word, the translation is translated back into a language of wider communication (e.g. English or Portuguese).

5. Consultant Check

The back translation is consistently sent to someone who has vast knowledge and training in Scripture and its original languages, to ensure the translation is true to God's Word.

6. Approval

When the team have reached their goal amount of translated Scripture, it can start to be distributed and used.



If at any point the team encounter issues with the translation of a Bible passage, they work through previous steps going back as far as step 2. Each phase of translation can include around 60 Bible passages.

As technology develops, God's Word and "the knowledge of the glory of the Lord" (Habakkuk 2:14) continues to spread in language communities across the world.

TRANSLATION UPDATES THROUGH COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us in unprecedented ways, reaching all areas of life. This is true across the world, including the southern African countries where translation is taking place. Read below to see how each language group and their translation work has been affected:

HIMBA



The Himba team in Namibia have not experienced restrictions as other teams have and are able to be in contact and meet together to continue translation work. Even compared to the rest of the country, the restrictions in their town of Opuwo are less compared to Windhoek and the coastal areas which are in lockdown, so the team don't yet need to stop working.

Please pray for protection of the Himba team and their families, that the situation doesn't worsen so that translation and other aspects can continue, and for the town to get running water.

Please also pray for the Wycliffe South Africa team as we plan to conduct a workshop and consultant checks with the team remotely in June, due to international travel restrictions.

HUILA CLUSTER

Despite a fruitful translation workshop at the start of March, the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected this cluster project of 3 languages in Angola. Everyone needs to stay at home, so the teams can't be going into their communities to test their translations and songs in churches, or using them to start Bible studies as planned.



The teams are limited to phone calls to stay in touch, so not much can be done other than using their stories and songs at home for now. Ricardo, one of the coordinators, says, "In this period, the only support needed for us is prayer." We are looking for ways that the languages can continue with other aspects of the translation cycle, on passages that need to be translated, within their own localities.

Please pray for the country of Angola as they navigate COVID-19. Pray also for the Huila teams; for protection, patience and wisdom as we partner together and look for a way to keep moving forward.

KAMUKUIO CLUSTER



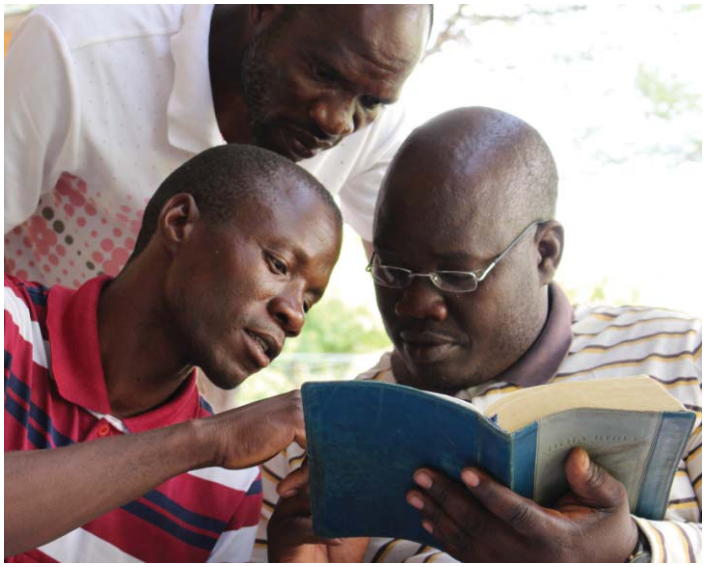
The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected this cluster project of 4 languages in Angola. Everyone needs to stay at home, so the translation teams can't continue to meet together. Communication is also very difficult, as some team members don't have a phone number and the coordinator has limited access to data.

However, the teams are full of faith that God will bring them through to continue translation work. João Francisco Bartolomeu says, "We are not ok, but we still have faith in God. Stay strong, keep the faith and we will overcome this." Plans are being made for the teams to resume work in June on 30 new Bible passages.



Please pray for the Kamukuio teams, that God protects them from this pandemic, gives them strong faith, uses this time to teach them, and that when the lockdown is over they will have the strength and faith to finish the remaining passages.

HAMBUKUSHU



The translations for Phase 1 were completed at the end of 2019. However, despite approval, COVID-19 obstructed the dedication and celebration of the translations in both Botswana on 17 April and Namibia on 18 April. Paulus Chapi, the coordinator in Botswana, says "This was the weekend of lockdown. I was not able to finish my tasks for the events, and we were not able to travel and meet with the Hambukushu chiefs in Botswana and Namibia to share in the preparations."

Communication is hard for the translation team, often limited to phone calls or a small amount of data for WhatsApp. Despite all these challenges, Wycliffe South Africa and the Hambukushu Steering Committee can visualize the possibility of moving to phase 2 of translation. Right now, we are busy with paper work and contacting other external stakeholders.



Please pray for the Hambukushu people who are ready to receive the translations, for the logistics of getting the Bible audio devices and Scripture booklets to the team for distribution, and as the team and all partners prepare to start phase 2 and continue translation.

SIPHUTHI

As a cross-border language, the team is spread out across Lesotho and a small area of South Africa. They are able to keep in regular contact though via WhatsApp and social media.



Due to safety precautions, the team were not able to visit Quthing for community testing in April and have been advised to only continue with local checking when it is safe to do so. There were plans for a translation workshop in July, but this is now subject to government regulations and travel restrictions.

Please pray for God's hand over this pandemic and its effects across Lesotho and South Africa, and for wisdom as the team conduct testing and plan for the next translation workshop. Pray also for God's sovereignty over the break in a couple months ago and for the insurance process for the stolen property.

MAKHUWA CLUSTER



After a fruitful workshop at the start of March, this cluster project of 4 language teams travelled through many churches and communities where the scriptures had never been heard in their own mother tongues. Andre Raul, the coordinator, says, "Many people packed the churches to listen to the Word of God in their own language and variant. People were very eager to listen to it and they were asking the translators to produce more copies."

However, Mozambique declared lockdown very shortly after this. The teams are all still in regular contact through phone and email, but there is no movement allowed so the checking has had to stop. The next translation workshop is planned for the second week of June, and plans are being made to have an exegete available for each language in their local areas to start the translation process with other Bible passages. Community and consultant checking can then continue when restrictions ease.

Please pray for the teams and their work while everything is on standby and for plans moving forward, for safety amidst COVID-19 and the unrest in the north of Mozambique, and for health facilities across the country as they also deal with outbreaks of cholera and measles.

wycliffe
BIBLE TRANSLATION

Standard Bank • Branch: Kempton Park • Code: 012442 • Account number: 200711547 • Reference: Your name / Chosen project
1 Syringa Place, 29 Smith Avenue, Edenglen, 1609, Johannesburg, South Africa • PostNet Suite 30, Private Bag X1, Edenglen, 1613
+27 11 452 2714/5 • wycliffe@wycliffe.org.za • www.wycliffe.org.za