JULY 2020

TRANSLATION *Matters*



THE SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION CHANGES EVERYTHING

Who would have thought that under CoVID-19 conditions, we would be sharing such good news?

God is on the move, and His Word is not in lockdown. Spreading the Word of God to EVERY language is the essence of a movement made possible by God alone. We call it the Bible Translation movement.

Instead of shutting down this year, or putting everything on ice, we are overjoyed at the start of 7 new Bible translation projects in southern Africa, the continuation of 10 projects started last year, and preparations for another 12 pipeline projects for production next year.

How is this possible?
The answer lies in how God has brought us together in a community endeavor called the **Bible Translation Collaborative:**

"In the spirit of collaboration, governed by a common vision to see the Scriptures made accessible to ALL people in their preferred language, medium and format, seven Bible translation agencies in South Africa, and local resource partners, share a commitment to work together to provide accurate Scripture translation into Written, Oral and Sign Languages."

It is no small thing to go from talking about collaboration to actually doing it. A vision for collective impact is inspiring, but comes at a price; moving forward only at the pace of trust. A few years ago, we would not have imagined taking hands as we are doing now: Wycliffe, taking hands with the Bible Society, Biblica, Hands With Words, SIL, The Word For The World, and Seed Company.

Our inspiration comes from co-creating solutions to a problem we all care about: so many lack one verse of the Bible, while we (a privileged minority) enjoy several versions of the Bible in the language of our choice.

The quest is to co-operate with God in building His Kingdom through the spreading of His Word in EVERY language.

There are many ways to join the movement!

Karen Floor

SEVEN BIBLE TRANSLATION AGENCIES JOIN HANDS

"In the spirit of collaboration, governed by a common vision to see the Scriptures made accessible to all people in their preferred language, medium and format, several Bible translation agencies in South Africa, and local resource partners, share a commitment to work together to provide accurate Scripture translation into Written, Oral and Sign Languages."

Wycliffe South Africa is privileged to be part of this collaborative alliance.

Recognising the extent of remaining translation needs in southern Africa, our aim is to work together to accelerate the fulfilment of our shared vision to make God's Word accessible to all people. Our combined efforts are complementary, rather than competitive, which underlines the spirit of collaboration.

Below, see a map of what was started in 2019, has begun in 2020, and is in the pipeline for 2021 as a result of Bible translation collaboration:



1. Kiholo Cluster:
   2x Research and Readiness
2. Aushi & Bwile:
   Full Bible projects (text)
3. Regional Sign Languages:
   3x Research and Readiness
4. Rovuma Cluster:
   3x Oral Bible projects (MP3)
5. Ngoni:
   New Testament project (text)
6. Mozambican Portuguese:
   NIV Bible project (text)
7. Makhuwa Cluster:
   4x Oral Bible projects (MP3)
8. Tete Cluster:
   3x Research and Readiness
9. Marenje:
   Research and Readiness
10. Sepulana:
    Oral Bible project (MP3)
11. Siphuti:
    Oral Bible project (MP3)
12. Bhaca:
    Research and Readiness
13. SASL:
    Visual Bible project (MP4)
14. Khwedam:
    Full Bible project (text)
15. !Xuntali:
    Full Bible project (text)



2019 projects
2020 projects
2021 Pipeline projects







Collaborating with churches and organisations within the language community of a translation is a huge blessing and advantage.

In response to CoVID-19 and subsequent restrictions on travel, both internationally and nationally, translation teams were asked to propose and put into action things that they felt could continue during this time. We received lots of positive feedback and proposals, and were thrilled to see the enthusiasm and commitment of each team. The capabilities of virtual communication also spurred the teams on and allowed for continued support and contact. All of this, combined in collaboration, has enabled us to do so much more than we first thought possible at the start of lock down.

FROM PLAN A TO PLAN B: THE WORK MUST GO ON!



"Ontem mesmo reuni com os Pastores Mupei, Ndungundungu e Ev. Ricardo, na presença do Irmão Oséias, para analisarmos a sua proposta de tarefas durante o COVID-19. O resultado foi que a proposta foi aceite e eles estão animados a realizarem a tarefa! Bênçãos de Deus."

- Dinis Eurico, President of IESA

Which translates as:

"Yesterday I met with Pastors Mupei, Ndungundungu and Ev. Ricardo, in the presence of Brother Oseias, to analyze his proposal for tasks during COVID-19. The result was that the proposal was accepted and they are excited to do the job! God's blessings."

"The Himba team didn't know that it would be possible to connect other than face to face. So they were so happy that zoom enabled them to connect with Bonifacio Paulo [consultant and head of Translation services] for translation checking this month. They expressed huge appreciation and gratitude."

- Mpho Tsekwa, Field Coordinator



THE CIRCLE GROWS TO SPREAD GOD'S WORD

Over the years, the Wycliffe South Africa collaborative circle has grown in many areas. More and more people are collaborating, through prayer, financial partnership, and volunteering their time and skills. An amazing team of cyclists has ridden 94.7 km on behalf of Bible translation over the past 7 years. We are so grateful to all who have joined as co-labourers in God's mission.



This year, we are excited to share a new opportunity to collaborate! See a sneak peek below, and watch out for more information in August and September about how you can get involved.



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