NOVEMBER 2017

TRANSLATION *Matters*



THE FASTEST RUNNER IN THE WORLD

I've just returned from Cape Town where YWAM leaders were gathered to fan the flame of the vision to End Bible Poverty. In a resounding faith-building message YWAM's founding leader, Loren Cunningham, shared his sense of urgency to see the Word of God running swiftly to accomplish the Great Commission. In practical terms, the goal is to get a Bible into every home of every nation.

What kind of a harvesting machine would it take to accomplish that?

I was reminded of the Scripture in Isaiah 41:15 which says: "See, I will make you a new threshing instrument with many sharp teeth." (New Living Translation) What could these teeth be? Reflecting on this I thought of the urgent need to mobilise specific areas of expertise in order for the Word of God to run more swiftly; through Bible translation, Bible production, Bible distribution, Bible education and Bible engagement.

And so, in this edition we'd like to share with you some of the new teeth I believe the Lord of the harvest is calling out to be part of a threshing machine He is building to bring in the harvest!

Karen Floor, CEO

LOOKING FOR SHARP, NEW TEETH

There are so many ways to be a part of this enormous and exciting task of bringing in the harvest. God has gifted you in a unique and specific way for such a time as this. Whether you work in IT, Communications, Finance, Linguistics or in fact in almost any other field, there is a role for you to play. All it takes is your willingness and availability to serve.

Technology

We praise God for how technology is advancing the spread of God's Word. Experts in information technology and electrical engineering are some of the new teeth God is calling to be part of His harvesting machine. Their expertise makes it possible to develop applications that distribute Scripture in digital form. MicroSD cards carry micro-sized Bibles for use in smartphones. People living in restricted areas can download the Bible and Jesus Film via the internet. Electrical engineers have developed solar powered equipment, such as projectors to show the Jesus film. Software developers work alongside Bible translators who need complex programmes for all that goes into an accurate translation of God's Word.

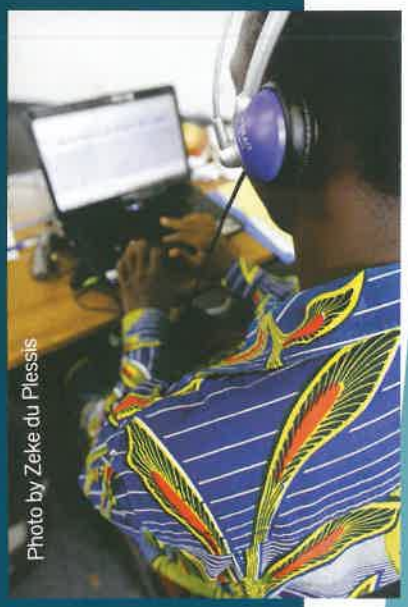


Photo by Zeke du Plessis

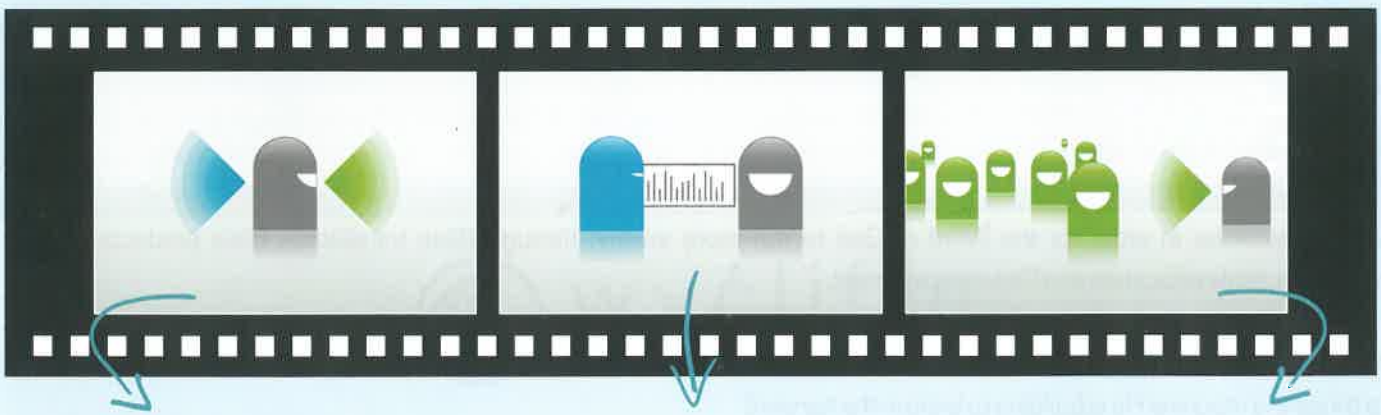
Communications M

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powerful tool in the secular world. H
for the Kingdom! God is calling men a
the skills to be leaders in the field of
media. People serving God in this area
teeth in the harvesting machine as t
gift to communicating the Good News
with integrity and creativity. Often
professional, but Kingdom-
communications that others sit up a
that God could use them and their gifts
harvest. As Bible translators we have so
news to share about how God is makin
for more and more people to have
available in their heart language. We are
communications professionals to join us.

Scripture Engagement

Scripture IN, Scripture OUT is what Bible Storytelling is all about. Many of those who don't yet have access to God's Word in their language might never be functionally literate. So how do we ensure that they have Scripture to feed on? One way is through audio Bibles – that is sound recordings of written translations of Scripture. Another way is through the Jesus Film, based on the book of Luke. Still another way is to train Storytellers to digest passages of Scripture to tell in the communities they serve in. Scripture 'runners' become sharp teeth in the threshing machine because they take the oral distribution of God's Word seriously, through faithful adherence to biblical accuracy in the passages they pass on to communities who don't yet have the written Scriptures in their language.

Graphics used by permission from Issachar Initiative



The Storyteller knows both the base language and the local language

The Storyteller learns Bible stories and passes them on to others

The Storyteller tells stories to the community in their own language

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Financial Stewardship

We stand amazed at how God provides through the generosity of His people. Many times the provision comes from unexpected quarters which proves that God's generous spirit is at work. This calls for good stewardship, so we know God is calling out faithful stewards with the skill to administer all things Finance. Often they are surprised to discover how working with Kingdom finances brings them into contact with people working on the frontline of Bible translation. Good stewardship builds trust and forges deep relationships that honour God.





Photo by Heather Pubols

Prayer

All of these sharp teeth are fuelled by prayer – the prayer of faith that leans into what God has authorised in Psalm 147:15: "He sends His command to the earth; His Word runs swiftly." What prayer could be more effective than when we agree with Jesus that no human can live by bread alone? Everyone needs to feed on every word that comes from the mouth of God. This gives us confidence that our prayer will have great effect. More than anything it is prayer that will complete the Great Commission Jesus gave us. Let's pray fervently that Bible poverty will end so that He may have disciples everywhere, among those near to us, as well as those far from us. God is calling out those who are ready to watch with Him as intercessors, until the knowledge of the Lord fills the earth, as the waters cover the sea! If you are willing to pray in this way, you can join our "Intercessors for Africa" at wycliffe@wycliffe.org.za. You could also go to EndBiblePovertyNow.com to sign the pledge to pray that Bible poverty will end soon. Imagine a million intercessors praying round the clock for God's Word to run swiftly through the earth. You could be one of them!

LANGUAGE SURVEY

Language Survey Specialist, Linda Jordan, recently completed a term in Angola. She explains what her role encompasses and the impact it has on communities: Language survey is far more than a simplistic assessment of "Do these people need a Bible translation, yes or no?" What I love is how language survey helps us to look at a community in a holistic way. It recognises who they are, where they live and what they feel about many things, including their language. As I move around an area to survey its sociolinguistic situation, I see how my role helps create connections and build bridges between people. Making the results of a language survey available enables good decisions about Bible translation, as well as informing a variety of other ministries interested in partnering within the framework of a community vision. Language survey promotes networking between different groups, and this is like glue that connects people who would otherwise be totally disconnected.



JOINING HANDS TO END BIBLE POVERTY

More than ever before God is stirring up unity in the body of Christ to carry out the Great Commission we read about in Matthew 28. Earlier this year six Bible Translation organisations in South Africa, including Wycliffe, signed their commitment to collaborate with each other to complete the urgent task of Bible translation in southern Africa. The six are Bible Society of South Africa, Biblica, Hands With Words, Seed Company, SIL and Wycliffe.

> "We share a common vision that all people should have access to the Scriptures in their preferred language, form and format. Recognising the extent of the remaining Bible translation needs in southern Africa, we commit to working in collaboration to accelerate the fulfilment of this vision."

At a global level, fifteen ministries have joined hands to end Bible poverty. They are: American Bible Society; Every Tribe Every Nation; Faith Comes by Hearing; Global Recordings; International Mission Board; Issachar Initiative; Jesus Film Project; One Story; Renew Outreach; Pacific Wa'a; Pioneers; Seed Company; SIL; Transworld Radio; Wycliffe.

We invite you to join the worldwide movement to end Bible poverty.
For more information, please contact us on wycliffe@wycliffe.org.za or visit EndBiblePovertyNow.com.

WYCLIFFE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Since 11 November 1933, Wycliffe and partners have been praying for Bible translation movements, for the impact of God's Word on individuals and communities, and for language communities who don't yet have His Word in their own language. On 11 November every year, we come together in prayer, united in hearts and minds in all our diverse contexts and locations. The theme for 2017 is "Serving the God of the Impossible", as we believe God for a translation to be started in every language that needs one by 2025.


Photo by Elyse Patten

Interceding for the Visual Bible for the Deaf

We have launched a new prayer project which you can pray for with our "Intercessors for Africa". If you would like to join us in praying for the Visual Bible translation for the Deaf, please contact us at wycliffe@wycliffe.org.za.

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.

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