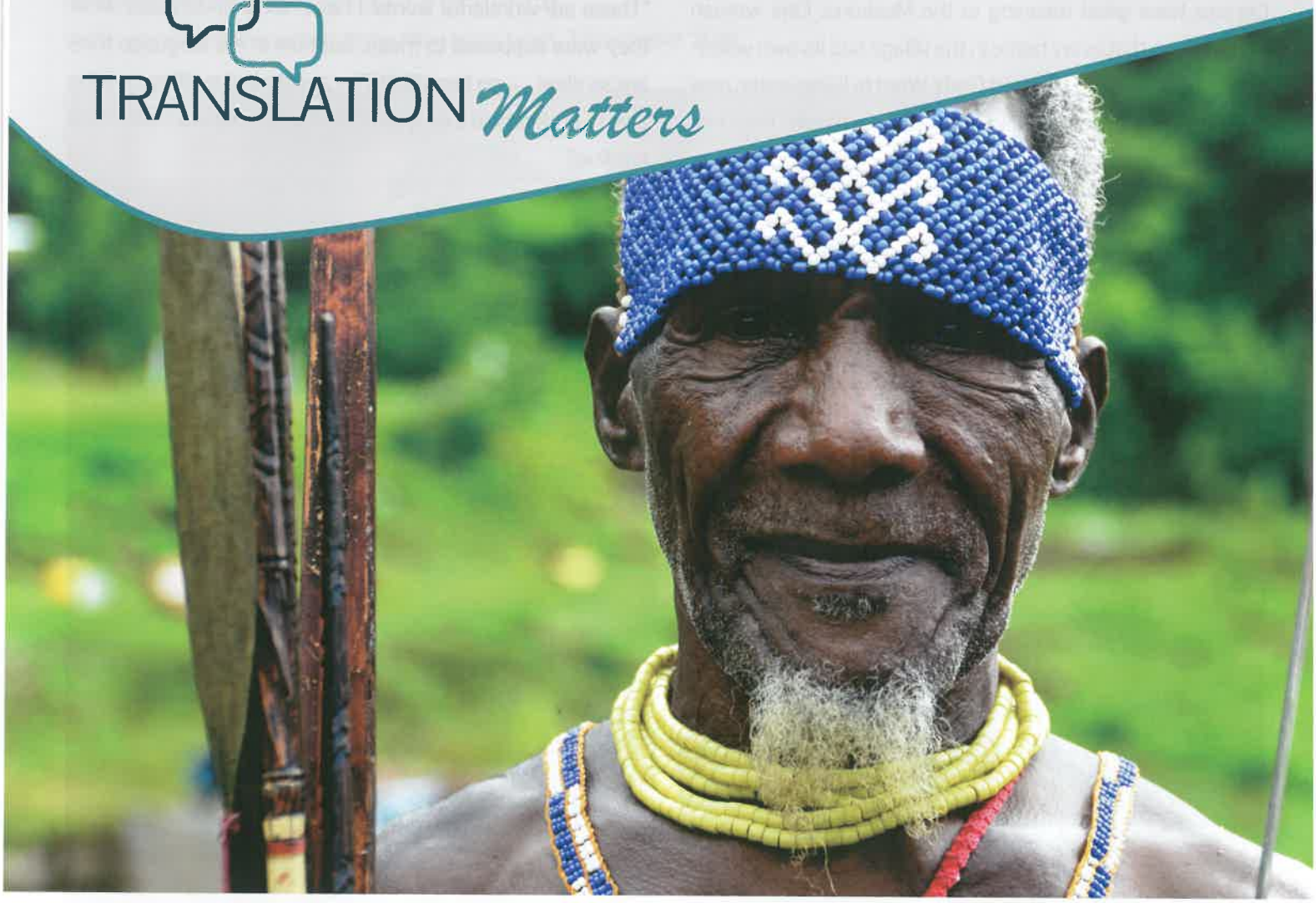
TRANSLATION Matters

DECEMBER 2018



THERE'S WATER IN THE PIPES !

By: Debbie Abbott

A glimpse into the dedication of the North Moskona New Testament.

As the mist slowly lifted from the valley, where Moskona villages nestle, the people weren't waking up as they usually do. They weren't going through their regular morning routines around smoky cooking fires, neither were they feeding their pigs, nor preparing to spend the day in their food gardens. This particular morning no-one needed to wake up, because they never went to sleep in the first place. They were too excited about the celebrations the next day!

The previous day, the New Testament in the North Moskona language arrived by plane - the only way to access the isolated villages in the interior of Papua, Indonesia. Miraculously, the boxes of this precious cargo had reached the airport just half an hour before the cut-off time. The singing began from the moment the boxes were off-loaded in the village, and continued all night long in celebration and thanksgiving.

Now, the big day of the dedication celebrations swirled with the colors and sounds of traditional festivity. But it was the son of the Moskona translator who really caught our eyes. Petrus had always been dedicated to getting the Word of God into his people's hands and hearts. When asked to travel or work overtime, his reply was always, "SIAP!" which means READY! Now, his son stood, sobbing uncontrollably. He told us how his father had always been despised for holding a low position in the village. Everyone called him a loser. 'Now I know, he sobbed. What my father has done is worth more than anyone else's work, because it is God's work! I want to be just like my father, and say "I'm ready!" to do what God calls me to do and I will start by teaching the children!'

Dreams have great meaning to the Moskona; One woman had a dream that every home in the village had its own water-pipe connection. She likened God's Word to living water, now available to every household. If people are thirsty, they just need to open the tap!

"These are wonderful words! I have never understood what they were supposed to mean, but now in my language they are so clear — so beautiful! The people in the village will be able to understand this at last! This tastes so good, I can't stop reading!"











Moskona photo credit: Andy and Debbie Abbott

INTERVIEW WITH A SÍPHÙTHÌ SPEAKER

At the commissioning of the Africa Alive cycle team, 3 November 2018



Dr. Letzadso Kometsi

Please tell us something about yourself?

My name is Letzadso Kometsi, I am a Baphùthì, from Lesotho. I work as a lecturer at law, but I have dedicated the other part of life to leading the Baphùthì people to realise their cultural identity, and to advocate for their inclusion in the the kingdom of Lesotho. We also reach out to Baphùthì outside of Lesotho.

Many people would not know about the Baphùthì, won't you just tell us more about the Baphùthì people and the Síphùthì language.

The Baphùthì are a nation of Nguni origin. They trace their history to some parts of Sutherland, to the Tugela, down to Lesotho. During the 16th century, they are said to be more than the first arrivals in that part of the country that we call Lesotho today. They are presently settled in the southern districts of Lesotho presently Quthing in Lesotho, and they are found in some parts of South Africa – Matatiele and Herschel districts. We speak a unique language which is called Síphùthì. The language is of Nguni origin, but it became Síphùthì as a result of the Baphùthì people's sojourn with other clans of the original Sotho during the 18th century.

Why the need for Bible translation and the Word of God for the Síphùthì language specifically?

Everybody needs the God's Word in their language.The source of wisdom is to fear God. With the Baphùthì, they have missed out on direct conversation with God in their language. Our language doesn't have an orthography, so it is not taught in schools. It is not used to communicate with students at schools at all. The translation of the Bible will give the Baphùthì a more channels to do communicate in their lanuage, in society and in their relationship with God.

Unique aspects of the Baphùthì people:

They have initiative, consistency and is passionate about keeping their language alive. It is a vibrant language still spoken in their homes and is the first language that their children speak. The language community formed a society with daily Whatsapp communication.

KIDS AND MOUNTAIN BIKERS LEAD THE WAY!

By: Pieter Engelbrecht

On 10 & 11 November 2018, the kids and mountain bikers led the way by cycling for the Síphùthì Bible language translation in the 22nd edition of Telkom 947 Cycle Challenge.

On a hot day, hundreds of kids were seen charging out of their respective holding pens for 1,5km - 8 kms of tremendous fun. It was quite a sight to see parents running behind them and cheering them on towards the finish line, where a well deserved hot dog and juice awaited them. The Africa Alive participants all crossed the finish line and did extremely well. You have inspired us all and we are all very proud of you.

The mountain bikers also rode well! One cyclist took a fall with some scars that will remind us all that, as with Bible translation, this is not as easy as it looks.

Watch this space in our next edition as we report back on the main road race that took place on 18 November 2018. In that edition, we will also report back on the total funds raised for the Síphùthì Bible language translation project by the Africa Alive cycling team. If you would like to also participate in donating to this particular project, please use the Snapscan code in this edition below or see our banking details below for an EFT transfer.



Snap here to pay

SnapScan

Síphùthì And 947 Photo Credit: Jennifer Sophie

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BIBLE TRANSLATION

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