MARCH 2021

TRANSLATION *Matters*



A NEW DAY DAWNS...

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb 'He is not here; he has risen' So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell the disciples." (Matthew 28:1,5,8)

On that Passover weekend, everything seemed so bleak. Jesus had died and was buried; the disciples were locked away in fear; darkness and earthquakes punctuated the misery of those days. The angel of death hadn't seemed to pass over that year, but was visiting into the homes and hearts of those who had hoped in the Messiah. And then, at dawn on the third day, everything changed.

Our world has been gripped in a season of misery. The 'old norm' is gone. The global population has been locked away in fear. We may put our trust in a vaccine or in protocols and social distancing, but nothing comforts us when confronted by our own fragile existence.

That is why this season is so vital. The echoes of a distant story reverberate through time and burst forth into the present: "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Hallelujah!" Resurrection speaks of a new day and a new hope, and it's a story that needs to be told.

The angel told the women at the empty tomb, "Go quickly now and tell his disciples " To our neighbourhoods isolated by trepidation we need to go quickly and tell the news. To a family locked in the grief of lost loved ones, we must hurry to tell about hope beyond the grave. To the widows and orphans, abandoned and alone, we need to rush to their side with the only news that can comfort.

And to those nations who have nothing of the Gospel in a language their ears can hear and hearts embrace, we must move speedily to tell and translate so that the Scriptures can touch and forever transform.

What a joy to be the prophets of this new day. Thank-you for your partnership in this kingdom assignment. Pray for us at Wycliffe SA for fruitful work in this new season.

Alan Webster

TRANSLATION BEGINNINGS: HOW A NEW TRANSLATION PROCESS STARTS

1

Early Stirrings
Either Wycliffe SA is approached by someone who has heard of our work and tells us of a language needing translation, or our own research helps us identify prospective language groups with whom we initiate a conversation. Consulting established language databases helps us check the language status, number of speakers and other details.

2

Initial Contact
A trip is made to the language location to establish contact with the people and potential partners, such as local churches, to share what we do. We gather data to confirm the number of speakers, gauge the need and interest, and decide whether this translation is viable.

3

Informal Meetings
We build on this process through informal meetings, discussing how to work as partners, what's involved in the process, and the philosophies that guide us. Once a need and definite interest are established, it becomes a pipeline project and funding is sourced.

4

Formal Invitation
A formal invitation is then extended by the local partner(s) to Wycliffe SA, to confirm that their community and church need the scriptures and would like to be a partner in making the scriptures available.

5

Admin & Paperwork
Once a suitable partner(s) has been identified, agreements are then drawn up to provide guidance to all stakeholders regarding their roles and responsibilities, how the project will be managed, as well as setting translation goals for the project.

6

Commencement of Project
When step five is complete and the local partner is ready, the first workshop launches the project. This usually focuses on training and orientation in Bible Translation and project management. Scripture production starts in the second workshop.

7

Completing a Project
At the end of a project cycle (typically 2-3 years), a review is conducted to ascertain if the translation goals have been met, and to allow the local partner to indicate whether the local church requires more scriptures. Subject to available funds and agreement by all stakeholders, the project starts a new cycle.



Early stirrings; mountains en route to the CD Cluster



First contact; gauging interest, Tete Cluster



Workshops and translation meetings; second Siphuti workshop

TRANSLATION STATUS

Pipeline: Steps 1-3

Kiholo & Kisuku Cluster (Angola)
Contact with potential partner made electronically. A follow up meeting planned for May 2021

Majenje (Mozambique)
First meeting is being planned for May 2021

Tete Cluster (Mozambique)
Initial meeting is being planned for May 2021

Bhaca (South Africa)
Initial meeting held, a follow up is being planned for April

Initials Meetings & Paperwork: Steps 4-5

CD Cluster
Start of translation work scheduled for April 2021

Project Underway: Step 6

Siphuti (Lesotho)
First set of scripture translations underway

Sepulana (South Africa)
First set of scripture translations underway

Makhuwa Cluster (Mozambique)
First set of scripture translations underway

Huila Cluster (Angola)
First set of scripture translations nearly complete, discussions underway for a second set

Project Close & New Cycle: Step 7

Hambukushu (Botswana)
Second set of scripture translations underway

Himba (Namibia)
Second set of scripture translations underway

Kamukuio Cluster (Angola)
Third set of scripture translations underway



First portions of scripture being read in a Hambukushu church



Celebrations of completed scriptures among the Himba

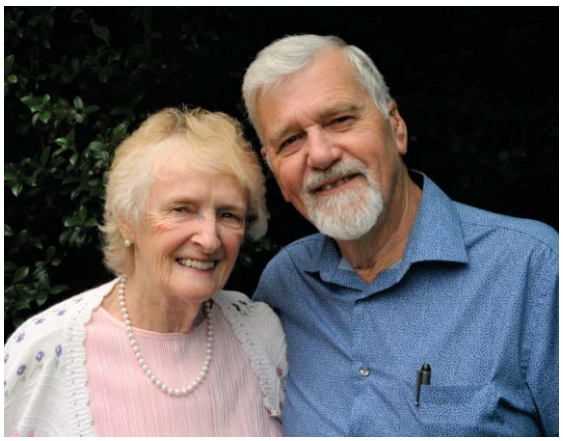


Subsequent cycles increase portions of scripture available; complete New Testament, Kenya

ANNOUNCING NEW SEASONS OF SERVICE



Sebastian and Karen Floor joined Wycliffe SA in 1987. Their first assignment was to Bible translation in N. Mozambique, where they served for 20 years. Later, they were assigned to Wycliffe SA, in support of a leadership transition, and an open door to respond to translation needs in Southern Africa. After 11 years, we say farewell to Karen, in her capacity as CEO. Karen and Sebastian continue as members of Wycliffe SA, serving in new roles within the Bible translation world: Sebastian in translation consulting and consultant training; and Karen in support of developing organizational capacity and interorganizational collaboration in the Bible Translation arena.



Roy and Rose Tibbit will be returning to Canada in April, after 50 golden years of dedicated service within the wider family of Wycliffe. They have served in a wide range of roles across the globe, including Colombia, the Philippines, and South Africa. For the past 10 years, Roy and Rose have played a key role in setting up a support base for regional services, as Wycliffe SA answered to the Macedonina calls coming from the region. Roy served in Communications, and Rose in Prayer ministry, before serving together in Member Care. We wish them well as they get ready to leave South Africa to settle near their family in Canada.



Roland and Susan Seiler will be leaving South Africa in May. As members of SIL Southern Africa, Susan has met the need for expert typesetting of the final manuscripts of completed Bible translations. Since 2012, Roland has served Wycliffe SA's Finance department as systems developer, trainer, and whatever was most needed to support Wycliffe SA's provision of essential financial services to local translation teams across the Southern Africa region. Roland will take up an assignment with SIL SOA to help start an IT Technical support service for SC projects in Southern Africa. We wish them well as they return to their sending church and family in Canada.

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BIBLE TRANSLATION

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