AUG/SEPT 2021

TRANSLATION *Matters*



FILLED TO THE MEASURE

I recently lost a friend to Covid. It was sudden, shocking and sad. His wife phoned me minutes after he died and I could hear the children wailing in the background. "I don't know what to do..." was all she could say, feeling paralysed by an uncertain future.

In the same week we prayed for someone who was critically ill in ICU and needing to go onto life support. She refused. Her sister was called and she prayed over her. Days later she is being called the 'miracle patient' and has moved to a general ward, recovering.

I have been aware that in this season it is difficult to know how to respond and what to think. In some ways, life has come to a standstill. In some ways, there has been acceleration. I commented to a friend recently, "Even turbulence can be the wind in a brave sail."

I have been reminded of two things in these days:

- Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. (Rom 8:34)
- The desire of God is to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory. (Hab 2:14)

These verses speak of the love of Jesus reaching out towards His children as well as to all peoples who are still ignorant of the Gospel. For all, these words from Paul are true:

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:17-19)

This edition of Translation Matters explores areas of Bible translation using the aspects Paul mentions: width, length, height and depth. You will read some inspiring stories of how God's love has touched hearts and accelerated translations despite the restrictions of our current circumstances.

Enjoy the journey and see you where the wind blows...

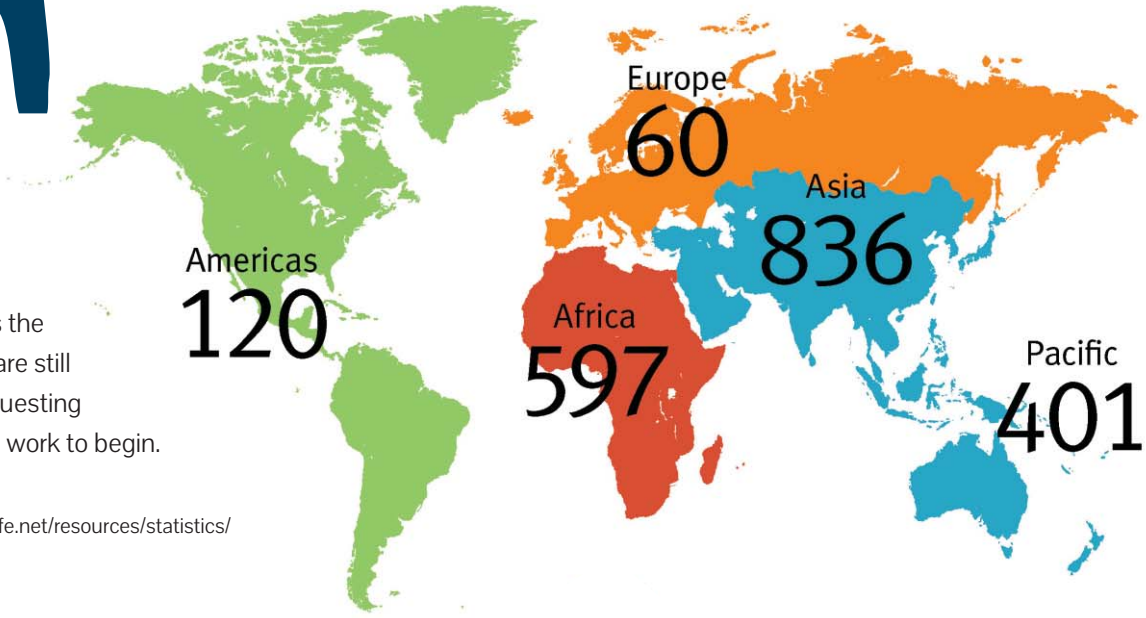
Alan Webster



How Wide? The extent of Bible translation work...

There are **7360** spoken languages in the world today.
Only **704** of these have a Completed Bible.

TOTAL
2,014
(167 MIILION PEOPLE)



This map shows the languages that are still needing and requesting Bible translation work to begin.

Source: www.wycliffe.net/resources/statistics/

Globally	**7360** languages.	**3514** languages have some scripture.	**2014** languages still need work to begin.
Africa	**2189** languages.	**1093** languages have some scripture.	**597** languages still need work to begin.
Southern Africa	**254** languages.	**199** languages have some scripture.	**55** languages still need work to begin.



How Long? Seeing the end of Bible poverty...

Wycliffe South Africa is a part of the Wycliffe Global Alliance, which holds to this global vision to ensure that every language group has access to the Bible:

"By the year 2025 a Bible translation project will be in progress for every people group that needs it."

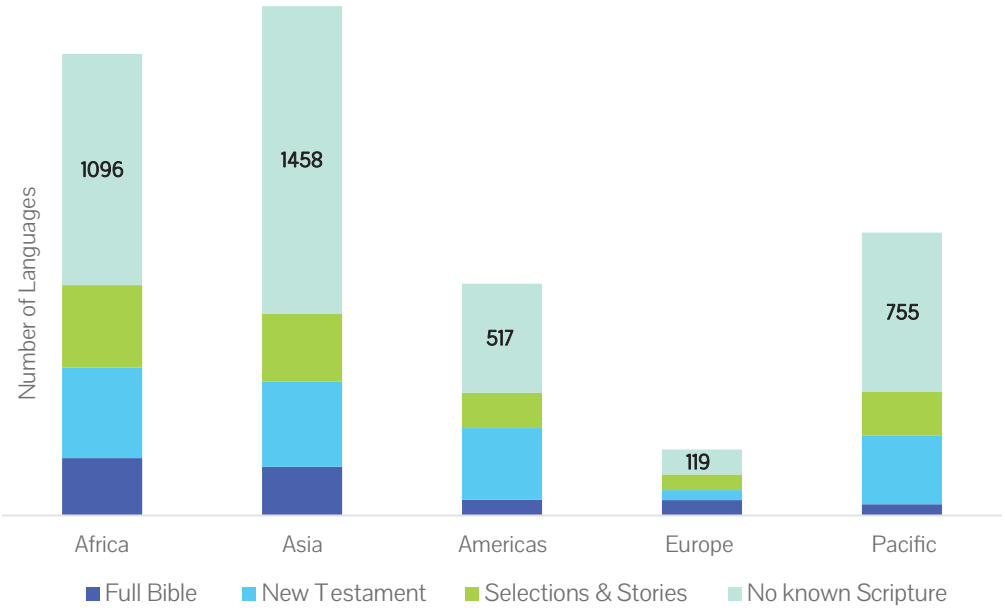
WYCLIFFE
Global Alliance

DID YOU KNOW..?

- It can take 2-3 years of 'research & readiness' for a translation to start.
- It can take twenty years for a New Testament to be written.
- It can cost R500,000 per year for translation work to be done.

How High? Portions of the Bible being translated...



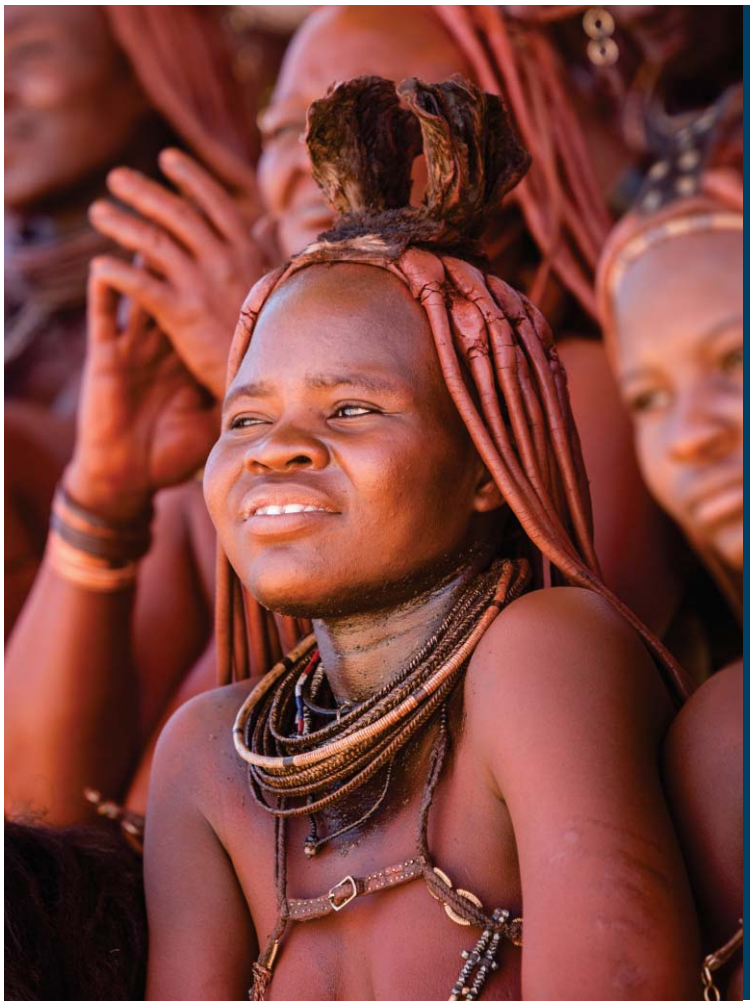


This graph shows how much of the Bible has been translated and the high priority to start translations.

How Deep? Impacting lives and nations...



Ultimately, translating God's Word is about transforming lives. Its purpose is for the knowledge of His Glory and the presence of His Kingdom to fill the earth, and for us to be reconciled to each other and Himself through the message of the Bible.



IMPACTING THE HIMBA

Even during Covid, there has been steady progress on the Himba (Namibia) phase 2 translation goals, which were to complete translating Genesis and Romans by September 2021.

There was a set-back when one of the funding partners could not provide funds for 2021. On the same day the Wycliffe leaders met to discuss this, a call came in from the CityHill Church in Hillcrest who were willing to join as funding partners to provide the shortfall. The translation team was able to finish the phase on time.

As we look forward to distributing the already translated and recorded material by the end of September, one of the church's ministries, Bibles Beyond Borders, is in discussions to provide radios and/or audio devices as evangelism and discipleship tools to our ministry partners.

MADAGASCAR: TRANSLATION AGAINST ALL ODDS



Translation work in Madagascar is divided into four regional clusters, with 5-6 language varieties in each. Local mother tongue speakers are the core of every translation team. The work is done through formal workshops (led by international consultants), with teams then returning home for team checking and community testing.

Translations typically run in three-year phases, but Covid has disrupted the regular processes. International consultants needed to return home and many months were 'lost' for the vital consultant checks to be done.

Southern Madagascar is also experiencing the most severe famine in living memory, (see https://youtu.be/hOYL2eNi2Ds) and groups of thieving bandits have been terrorising villages.

All of the southern teams have been severely affected, but the experienced teams simply continued to translate. Amazingly, they reached all their project goals, and although unable to meet with their consultants to finalise their translations, they just continued to draft and check their work.

The Tanôsy team, led by Pastor Celestin Mosa, were expected to complete just under 40% of the New Testament by September 2021, but have now already draft translated the entire New Testament, and have team checked more than half of it. Additionally, they went on to draft all of the Old Testament portions for the Protestant lectionary.

Filipo, a farmer and Lutheran catechist, says "I am amazed and grateful that God chose me to be a translator, and I sense God's love and blessings over me." Fideline, a Catholic housewife, is delighted that she is now being asked to explain God's Word when the catechist isn't there, which is often.

Instead of becoming disheartened, the overwhelming attitude of the teams is gratitude, joy, faith, and a commitment to see God's Word made available for all. What a joy for Wycliffe South Africa to witness God blessing these people in continuing against all the odds!



Some ways you can get involved in the translation process:

- **Pray** for our work, our team, or join Intercessors for Africa.
- **Give** financially.
- **Invite** one of our team to your business, home or church to share more about Bible Translation.
- **Learn** God's heart for nations in the Kairos Course.
- **Cycle** with our 947 cycle team. WhatsApp Tanya on 078 727 2850

For more information visit wycliffe.org.za/get-involved or call our office on 011 425 2714

wycliffe
BIBLE TRANSLATION

Standard Bank, Branch Code: 002442, Account Number: 20263309, Reference: "Your Full Name / Translation, Person or other purpose"
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