TRANSLATION Matters

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023



FIT TO FLOURISH

When we bought a new car and decided on the make and model, it was amazing how many of the same cars I started to notice on the road. After praying about a theme for 2023, someone spoke a word that caught my attention: "FLOURISH..." and I knew this was it. Since that day, in sermons, social media posts and conversations, I keep hearing the word "flourish". As I let this word percolate in my mind, the theme came together: "Fit to Flourish". I liked the alliteration, but also the play of meaning.

Being fit speaks of growing in vitality - physically, spiritually, emotionally, relationally and financially. I am excited that in March we will be hosting our first Run for The Bibleless and we need to be fit to participate. It is so good to see many in the Wycliffe team embrace physical training. We are getting fit in 2023!

Fit also speaks about being in the best place for our gifting and calling. I want each team member to operate optimally, with joy and purpose.

This applies to how we fit together and collaborate with other teams, too. For example, this year we will partner with Hands With Words as we seek to translate the Bible into many Sign Languages in our region.

Finally, it speaks to our fit with the wider Church and in missions. Last year in Ghana, I heard how Bible translation is welcomed by communities who are usually closed to the Gospel, because it's a way of preserving their language and culture. We may soon be training people in Oral Bible Translation basics to reach these closed communities.

When God fits us, we are in the best condition to flourish. The Psalm for Sabbath says:

> "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree. He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the House of Adonai, they will flourish in the courts of our God." (Ps 92:13-14)

Our prayer for you is that this year you will be fit to flourish, and you will be fulfilled and fruitful as you serve our wonderful King Jesus.

Alan Webster



EACH PERSON BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE TO FLOURISH

By Sarah-Odwa Madyibi

Another way I can phrase this idea is: "each person being the right person at the right place to flourish." I have always been fascinated by the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8. In my understanding, this parable shows me that it is not enough that the seed one sows is faultless; the soil into which the seed is sown also plays a huge role in the final productivity. In other words, both the seed and the soil must find each other and when that happens, the seed will flourish and bear fruit from the soil. It is a mutually beneficial relationship.

In our context as Wycliffe South Africa, I see the seed as the role the leadership plays in creating a fitting environment for the rest of the team to be productive towards the fulfilment of our vision. The soil is the heart, attitude, commitment and diligence of each member of the team. When these two find each other, it is impossible not to flourish.

As a 'newbie' who has just joined the team and has no prior experience of Bible Translation, it has been such a fulfilling, informative and humbling experience for me to get to know the members of the office team. I have come out of each of these meetings with my heart resounding a big "YES, Sarah-Odwa, you are the right person at the right place to flourish!" I look forward to having this experience with those on the wider team I have yet to meet and hearing their stories of how they have fitted into God's purpose, bringing hope to marginalised communities through the gift of God's Word in their heart language.

I would like to end my thoughts with this Scripture below:

> "He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts to grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."
> Ephesians 4:16 NLT

OUR FIT IN THE WIDER BIBLE TRANSLATION COMMUNITY

By Helen van der Walt

One of the most beautiful things about God's people for me is the seeming contradiction of diversity and unity. How can such diverse people, both across cultures and borders and within our own community, possibly be united? Yet, this diversity was perfectly orchestrated and created by God.

There are many players in the Bible Translation community, all working side-by-side in partnership, competition, or oblivious to one another. I believe God's desire is for His people to work together; we are each gifted with different skills, talents, personalities, and experiences. I love how 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 describes a body with many parts: each part is equally needed, where God wants it, and

standing together in harmony and solidarity. God has a place for WSA in His mission. However, by design, we have limited capacity. We aren't fit to flourish when we stand alone. As Ecclesiastes 4 describes, we are stronger together.

So let's motivate one another, meet together and encourage one another (Hebrews 10:23-25). There is so much competition in the world, but God's plan is for harmony. Let's make this true for every part of the Bible Translation community.

Case Study: Wycliffe Links

wycliffe LINKS



Praying for the Hambukushu Genesis booklet



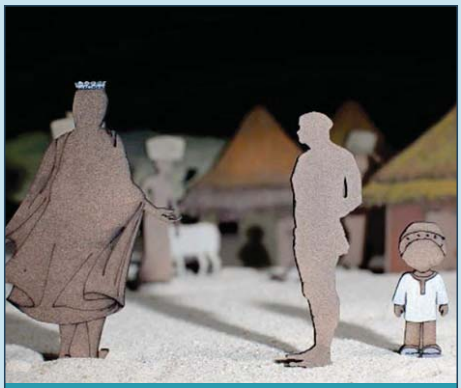
Trauma Healing Network



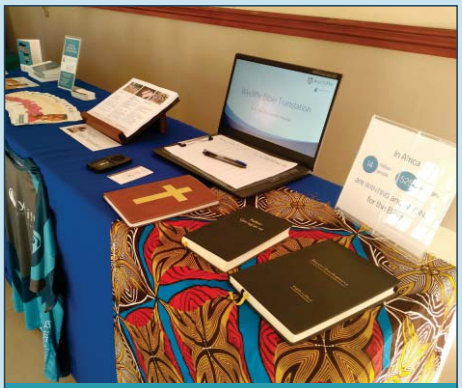
WSA at the Missions Expo



Youth Mission Conference



The Sandbox Bible



Display of Bibles and resources

The purpose of Wycliffe Links is to link God's people to develop Bible Translation and build capacity for mission.

Over this first year of Wycliffe Links, we have seen opportunities previously ignored or unnoticed come to fruition:

- Through partnerships such as the Sandbox Bible we are seeing language groups engage with their translations through videos and resources that actually impact and attract people.
- Through partnerships such as the Trauma Healing Network we are seeing healing and transformation using God's Word.
- Through partnerships with certain groups, such as some students in Gauteng, we are seeing people come to know the huge need and impact of Bible Translation and getting involved.
- Through partnerships with those who have experience and expertise we are seeing the Church equipped for mission and language groups empowered and transformed.

Praise God for all He is doing through His diverse and unified body.

PHYSICALLY FIT

Cycle213: Praise God for Willing Hearts
By Sarah Coutlakis

"If everyone contributed just a little bit, it would make a big difference."

I first heard of Wycliffe Bible Translation when we had some visiting speakers at our church. I was utterly shocked to hear that over half the languages in the world have NO Scripture. Today, the number is 213 million people with NO Scripture in their language. I had no idea. This led me to join the Wycliffe cycle team for the 947, which was awesome.

When Covid hit, Wycliffe decided to do a "Move for God's Word" challenge instead of the 947. I invited a bunch of friends to join me in doing a 12-hr cycle relay to raise awareness and funds. However, students are normally penniless, so the relay didn't bring in much support. I still wanted to help, but didn't know how...

I prayed, and then decided to try again. This time, learning from the cycle-relay, I tried for a popular bike park to attract attention. I cut and sold plants again, and asked those who wanted to join if they could commit to raising a sum of money. This turned into the event called Cycle213 – for the 213 million people with not a single Bible verse in their language. All glory to God, it was a success! Everyone who came and got involved was a major support.

God used one of my friends mightily: Urs challenged his friends all over South Africa and Switzerland to contribute at least R1/km. In the end, sponsors gave up to R34/km for his 33 km. He had 32 sponsors in total and collected R 44,112.53 in sponsorship! Praise God for willing hearts.







In total, Sarah Coutlakis and her team cycled 235 km and walked 28 km, raising R 52,140.12!

Read the full story here: wycliffe.org.za/stories-and-news/event-stories/204-cycle213-praise-god

A huge thank you to Sarah and her friends, to all who cycled, the prayers and sponsors, and to anyone else that was involved in any way. If you are interested in hosting an event, go to this link for more information - www.wycliffe.org.za/event/get-active

RUN FOR THE BIBLELESS - REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

This is your opportunity to physically fit in with the work of Bible Translation. Join us and many others for a family day out as we run and walk on behalf of those who do not have access to God's transforming Word in their heart language.

Date: 11 March 2023, 7:00 - 12:00
Cost: R150pp (includes a t-shirt)
Venue: Bunny Park, Benoni

Go to www.wycliffe.org.za/r4tb for more information and to register.

WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS



André Raul

André Raul has been involved in Bible translation for several years in Mozambique. In 2019 he joined an internship run by the Seed Company, in partnership with WSA, and last year he received his Master's degree in Bible Translation. He is now a CIT (consultant in training) and is working with Wycliffe SA as a Field Coordinator in Mozambique. André is married with four children and also pastors a local church in the suburbs of Nampula town.



Sarah-Odwa Madyibi

Sarah has come on board this year in the capacity of Head of Personnel. With a degree in Organisational Psychology and a background in Supply Chain Management, she brings a wealth of experience with her. Sarah describes herself as "a Kingdom Ambassador, Nation Builder, and Public Servant". Her objective in our team is to help create an enabling environment to build the people who build WSA and fulfil its vision.



Hellen (Mathudi) de Bruijn

Hellen joined us as an intern in the Media and Communications department last year, and this year we welcome her on board as a Marketing and Media Coordinator!

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BIBLE TRANSLATION

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