APRIL/MAY 2023

TRANSLATION *Matters*



RUNNING FOR PRECEDENT

No, it's not a spelling mistake, and Wycliffe South Africa is not about to enter politics. We are celebrating our inaugural Run for the Bibleless and hope that it is going to set a precedent for the next 10 years. The dream is that by 2033, we will cover the continent in events to raise awareness and funds for those still waiting for a Bible translation to begin.

We are indebted to BTL Kenya who started Run for the Bibleless over 15 years ago. These Kenyans love to run and in their pre-Covid event, 15,000 eager participants took part. I was impressed by the involvement of hundreds of children taking the challenge and raising sponsorship for the work. Although our event was a lot smaller, it was a wonderful start, and already in 2023, there were events in four countries – Kenya (4 March), South Africa and Zimbabwe (11 March) and Ethiopia (20 March).

There are certain occurrences in Scripture that are meant to set a precedent, and be normal for all believers. I want to highlight two examples which happened at Pentecost.

Using Acts 1:4 as his basis, Armin Gesswein often called the central all-church prayer meeting "Christ's last command, and our first responsibility." Jesus modelled a life of prayer, something the early believers took note of and asked for training in. The Church was birthed in prayer and is sustained from the throne of heaven, which is the seat of intercession.

Gesswein also says, "The Early Church didn't have a prayer meeting; the Early Church was the prayer meeting." We were challenged last year at a LuminAfrica meeting that we are "praying organisations that also translate the Bible". Jesus' life demonstrated what He commanded as a precedent – that we should pray.

The second precedent was the result of the Holy Spirit's empowering:

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them."
(Acts 2:4)

The Church should always be concerned with people having the opportunity of hearing the wonders of God proclaimed in their own mother-tongue (Acts 2:11). I love that God has shaped Wycliffe South Africa to be involved almost entirely in Oral Bible Translation. Instead of focusing on literacy so that people can read the Word, we can focus on translation so that they can hear the Word in a way that is natural to how they speak.

Run for the Bibleless will be the focus in Africa to raise awareness for Bible translation over the next decade. Join us to be a praying people who desire for the Spirit to be poured out on all flesh as the Gospel is proclaimed in every language!

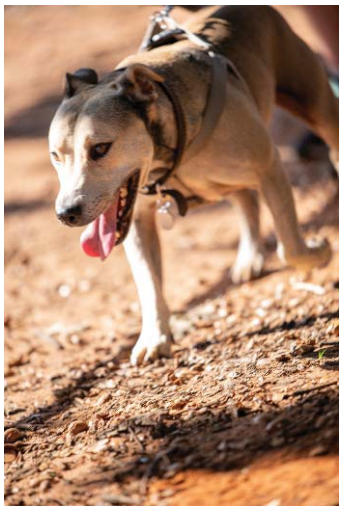
Alan Webster

RUN FOR THE BIBLELESS JOHANNESBURG

By Helen van der Walt







Saturday 11th March marked our first Run for the Bibleless event in South Africa! Despite a few bumps along the way, the organising team did an amazing job to put together such a fun morning. Praise God who directed and encouraged us at every step.

What Happened?

The day started bright and early, with people from far and wide joining the fun run. After some stretches, encouragement and a time of prayer, the first group set off. This group was competing for the fastest times. Our winner of the 7 km route finished in only 25:59 minutes!

The next group to set off were the fun runners and walkers, including some dogs. It was so special to see such a variety of people, all in white and joining together on behalf of the Bibleless people of the world. We even had some people dressing up, with our best-dressed prizes going to Noah's Ark and Queen Esther.

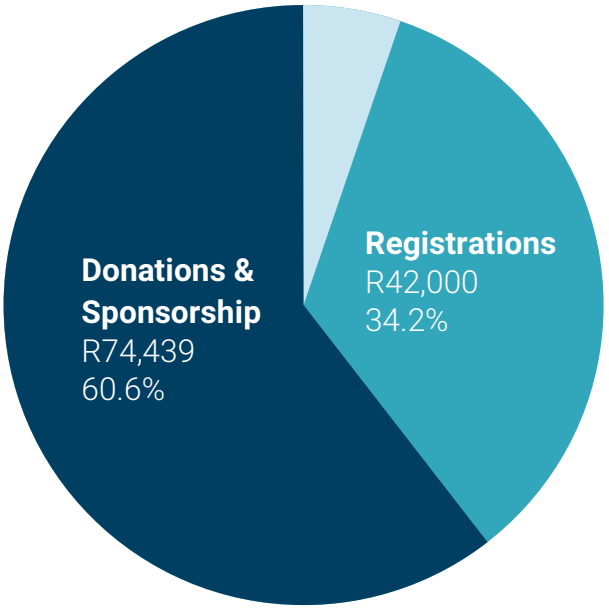
There were also several stalls to visit, a dance show and presentation by the Sepulana language group, and a testimony from our guest of honour Kabelo Mabalane.

Who Joined Us?

Overall, more than 53 churches were represented through the 287 fun runners and 52 volunteers, ranging from ages 3 - 80. We had visitors from organisations like Impact Missions and Trans World Radio, and runners from places like Mpumalanga and as far as Kenya. Even Bible Man made an appearance.

We received R42,000 from registrations, R6,335 from sales, and R74,439 from donations and sponsorship so far. A huge thank you to House of the Lord Benoni, NewLife Boksburg, Maranatha, GodFirst Benoni and GodFirst Fourways for being the churches with the biggest contributions!

What a special day – the first of 10 events to be held in Joburg in partnership with BTL Kenya. Our dream is for this event to spread across Africa and to see God's Word transforming lives in every language.



View our highlights video and full photo gallery online here: www.wycliffe.org.za/event/r4tb-2023-gallery


RUN
BIBLELESS


RUN
BIBLELESS




RUN
BIBLELESS
RUN
BIBLELESS


RUN
BIBLELESS


RUN
BIBLELESS
Run for the Bibleless 2023
1st Place






BIBLE TRANSLATION
www.wycliffe.org.za




BIBLE TRANSLATION
www.wycliffe.org.za


TEAM

RESPONSES AND FEEDBACK



"In my opinion, this was a morning well worth it and if you were not there you missed out!"

"Thank you to our Lord and Saviour for blessing such an event."

"I pray that it was a successful event for God's kingdom. It was certainly fun."

"First time volunteering at an event this size. It was a very fun experience and I would definitely do it again!"

"It was awesome!!! I thoroughly enjoyed being there with people from so many different churches."

"We were so blessed to be a part of this weekend."

REMOTE RUNS

In total, there were about 30 people who ran in different locations in South Africa in support of Bible Translation.

Let My People Go Ministries

On the 11th of March 2023, Let My People Go Ministries was involved in a fun run and walk. This activity was in support of Wycliffe SA's initiative (Run for the Bibleless). A group of about 25 youth took part in the event. Most of them opted to walk 7 km and a few (about 7) ran the same distance. The fastest three runners were given trophies, and their excitement was unbelievable.

The money raised on the day was R243, and after the walk, the young people shared a meal and played football inside the church yard.





Lee Gooch

This is Lee Gooch, a cancer survivor who ran in Boskruin with a couple of other runners. Before the event, she said:

"So looking forward. It's my first big walk since receiving news on 21 February that I am in remission from cancer."

RUN FOR THE BIBLELESS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Kenya - March 4th



The morning of March 4th 2023 turned out to be a pleasantly warm and vibrant day at the Carnivore Grounds in Nairobi. This was the day that the annual fundraising event, Run for the Bibleless, was being held in Nairobi, Nakuru and Eldoret. In Nairobi, the young and old alike arrived early at the venue. Some came riding their bicycles, while others were on their roller skates; all were welcome to be a part of this initiative. The various corporate sponsors of the event also settled at their designated spots waiting to offer their services to the Run participants.

Soon, the grounds were filled to capacity with over 10,000 participants. With the arrival of the Chief Guest, H.E. Hon. Johnson Sakaja, the Governor of Nairobi County, the event was ready to start. In his remarks, Hon. Sakaja noted the value of the Scriptures, saying "many of us are where we are because of God's Word, how we were raised depended on it and it is unfair that many don't have that opportunity because of their unwritten languages. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God, and many people need to get that opportunity."

BTL's National Director, Rev. Peter Munguti, reminisced about the growth of the Nairobi Run since 2008, when it was first launched. He also appreciated the participants for taking part in the Run every year, saying "Thank you for attending the Run in the years. We are running so that the Pokomo, Daasanach, Rendille, Samburu and other small language groups can receive the Bible for the very first time and their lives are transformed."

Mr. Ngetich was one of the participants in the Run. He hardly fails to attend the event. This year he came with his entire family including an infant. "For me, the Run is a great time to bond with my family as we walk together in support of a worthwhile cause. Thank you BTL for giving us this platform".

The funds raised from this event will help to meet the cost of completing five New Testaments and two full Bibles that are at the final stages of translation in the 2023 calendar year.

Ethiopia - March 20th



This year SIL Ethiopia celebrated its 50th anniversary. We hosted a Run for the Bibleless event as part of a chain of other events, like the presentation of papers related to SIL Ethiopia, a panel discussion, a youth symposium, and a "come and see" initiative where we opened SIL to visitors and gave information about what SIL Ethiopia has been doing in the Bible translation and language development ministries. The whole event ran from March 2nd to March 20th, 2023.

Our "Run for the Bibleless People" event was a closing event. We invited churches, theological institutions, students, SIL Ethiopia partners, individual Christians, SIL Ethiopia staff, and staff families. A total of 230 people were registered and around 150 people participated.

The event had three groups of runners; those doing the adult 5 km, adult 2 km, and children's 1 km run. This event took place in the well-known and beautiful "Entot Park"; a quiet highland area of Addis Ababa. The event was opened by Michel Kenmogne Ph.D. (Executive Director of SIL International) and the speakers included Yonatan Zeamanuel, Ph.D. (the Area Director for Anglophone and Lusophone Africa) and Johnstone Ndunde, Ph.D. We all ran with joy for the Bibleless People while also celebrating our 50th anniversary which marks the next mission of SIL Ethiopia.

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