TRANSLATION Matters

OCT/NOV 2023



STAYING PRAYING

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Which country in the world is the first to see the sunrise? This is what I pondered during the first Global Day of Prayer. The thought that prayer would take place throughout the world meant prayer would happen continuously for 24 hours around the globe.

The idea for 24-7 prayer was made popular by the Moravians who began praying around the clock in 1727 in a continuous prayer meeting that lasted 110 years. One of the churches that the Moravians started sent out 200 missionaries. One of these missionary teams voluntarily sold themselves into slavery so they could identify with slaves and share the gospel with them.

The Commission to go into all the world would always be fuelled by the command to pray. Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."(Matt 9:37-38)

When Jesus taught the value of prayer He didn't say, "If you pray..." but "When you pray..." The assumption for followers of Jesus is that we pray. There are different types of prayers, some of which Paul lists to Timothy: petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving (1 Timothy 2:1). In our God-ordained roles as royal priests, we are a praying people.

In this edition of Translation Matters, we highlight and celebrate prayer. We need people to pray for us. What is the need? Help against a very real enemy; demonic strongholds to give way to the Gospel; resources to be released; relationships to remain in unity; the Church to engage in God's mission.

We give honour to Winsome Schroder who passed away recently, a stalwart prayer champion for Wycliffe South Africa. We are grateful for all who pray for us, for our work, and for the transformation of lives and communities through Bible translation.

Alan Webster

WHEN PRAYER MEETS TRANSLATION

"If we want to leave an indelible mark on the world, there is no more powerful way to do it than by joining in God's purposes through prayer." – Brother Andrew









Such is the power of prayer, that all the translation projects we work with are saturated in prayer. This happens both on the field among those working directly with the translations, and from afar as prayer supporters worldwide cover the projects in prayer.

On the field, daily devotions are held during each workshop. This is the case even where members of the translation team are not followers of Christ, and we have seen the impact of this; in the CD Cluster two Muslim brothers gave their lives to Christ after three days of morning devotions.

In the Maravia district of Mozambique, we saw pastors and local church leaders coming together for the first time in support of the Phimbe translation. The day after meeting together, the whole group went to a nearby mountain to pray together for the project, their churches, and their lives. This had not happened before.

No great missions have been embarked upon for the Kingdom of God without an army of prayer warriors. We invite you to be part of this! You can either sign up as an individual to pray for a particular language group (you will receive regular prayer updates via email), or as a church to adopt a language and commit to building a relationship with them and regularly praying for one another.

You can find out more about these options here:
https://wycliffe.org.za/signup-intercessors-for-africa
https://wycliffe.org.za/contact/adopt-a-language

Below is an overview of our languages and their support base to help you choose where you'd like to slot in:

CD Cluster:	9 people praying (adopted by GodFirst Boksburg)
Hambukushu:	31 people praying (not adopted)
Himba:	40 people praying (adopted by Featherbrook Retirement Village and CityHill Church, Hillcrest)
Huila Cluster:	19 people praying (not adopted)
Kaaps:	5 people praying (not adopted)
Kamakuio Cluster:	8 people praying (not adopted)
Makhuwa Cluster:	15 people praying (not adopted)
Marenje:	6 people praying (adopted by GodFirst Benoni)
Sepulana:	18 people praying (adopted by House of the Lord, Benoni, and Shanan Christian School)
SA Sign Language:	24 people praying (not adopted)
Siphuthi:	23 people praying (adopted by NewLife Church, Boksburg)

THE POWER OF PRAYING PEOPLE



As an organisation we have always believed in the power of prayer. When we pray together our problems and battles are taken to a new level. So, things begin to happen when a prayer group commences to pray for the well-being, protection and effectiveness of the translators and Bible translation. The people groups that our members work with have often had minimal exposure to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore need consistent prayer.

When Wycliffe South Africa was established, a monthly Prayer and Praise bulletin was produced for prayer partners wishing to intercede for the team and the projects we were involved in. Some of these prayer groups were:

- The Florida Group (West Rand) – led by Nan Glasson, who also helped out in the office, travelling all the way from Florida to Kempton Park at the age of 83.
- The Alberton Group (Johannesburg South) - led by Anthea Grobler, sister of translator Nick Swanepoel.
- The Fish Hoek Group (Cape Town) - run by Gerald Martin and his wife Ruby. The Martins were the parents of member Gill Allwright.

In 1986 a concerted effort was made to continue this trend of running prayer meetings, but also starting new ones. Harry Brasem prayed for 10 new prayer groups and his prayers were answered. In 1987 a group was started in Windhoek, Namibia. This was followed by the Berglvliet Group (Cape Town area) run by Viv and Sonia Hobbs. A monthly prayer group meeting was held in the Brasem's home in Kempton Park, and there were also a few informal prayer meetings amongst student bodies in the Johannesburg area and Stellenbosch. Madge Brown, Winsome Schroder, and Marion and George Williamson were others who ran prayer groups in various areas.

Other intercessors of note include:
Tony Pitwood | Hanna Britz | Erasmia Grim | Daphne Foord | Claris van der Merwe | St Andrews Presbyterian Church | Loes Kaper | Joy Boyle | Tuffy and Bev Birkholz | Judith Manhanga | Peggy Pennington | Natanya Mpinyuri

The list is endless. There are approximately 200 intercessors praying at any one time, all of them making a valuable and unique contribution to the work, and whose ministry we value greatly.
You can read the full tribute to our prayer warriors on our blog: https://bit.ly/3Zzczpk

A TRIBUTE TO WINSOME SCHRODER: PRAYER WARRIOR



Many of the older Wycliffe South Africa team members have good memories of a very special person who became a legend as a prayer warrior and true friend: Winsome Schroder. We were blessed and privileged to have her loving concern, support and encouragement, and we benefited from her faithful intercession. She ran a Wycliffe prayer group for many years in her home, and she used every opportunity to recruit intercessors for the members and work of Wycliffe South Africa. She was released into glory on 9 July 2023 at the age of 93. We will miss her enthusiastic and cheerful support and her special ministry of prayer.

WYCLIFFE TEAM PRAYER

At Wycliffe South Africa we hold a weekly prayer meeting on Mondays where we devote ourselves to half an hour of prayer for our team, translation projects, the country, and whatever else is laid upon our hearts. We also have a prayer room available for anyone to use as needed. Below are reflections on prayer from some of our team.

Busani Mcingolwane

"The culture of prayer at Wycliffe South Africa shows that we really live by faith. The size of the vision showcases the size of our God, not the individuals that run with it. The culture of prayer showcases the faith we have in God and His ability to provide for the vision He has inspired."

Harry & Elsbeth Brasem

"Harry has written in the front of his Bible, 'If praying was breathing, would you be alive?'
We have seen God move in amazing and wonderful ways in response to prayer within the organisation. There are so many testimonies to His faithfulness and care, not only for the Wycliffe South Africa members but also for those "forgotten" or hidden people groups without His precious Word."

Sarah-Odwa Madyibi

"God has answered prayers in the area of finances where we moved from a deficit to a positive. God has come through for the teams that do work on the ground as they have been faced with various challenges from members passing away to finances not released by the banks on time. God has come through in answering personal requests for visas, health, financial, and relational challenges."

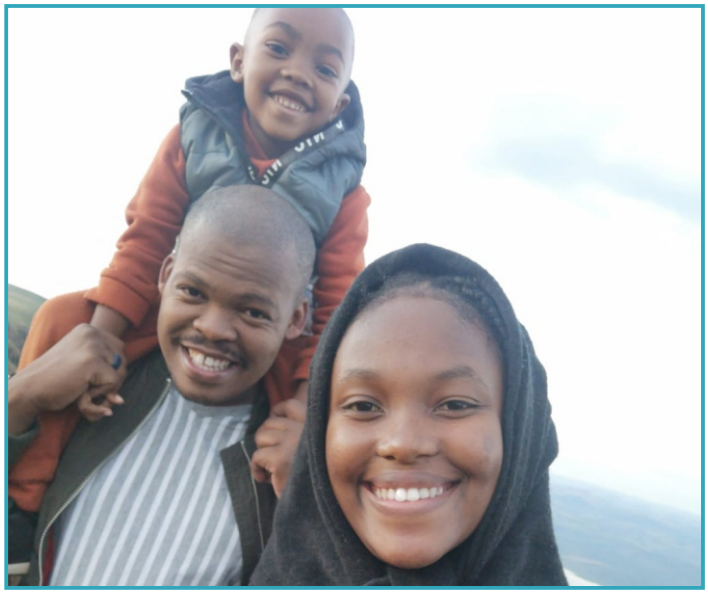


ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcoming Busani Mcingolwane

Busani joined the Wycliffe South Africa team as the Church Engagement & Partner Development Coordinator, a role which will also involve helping to mobilise resources for Bible Translation. He is passionate about inspiring, encouraging, and equipping people to make their contribution to God's Kingdom.



Welcoming Mesuli Tshele

Mesuli joined Wycliffe South Africa to mobilise funding for the organisation by engaging existing relationships with foundations, organisations and church movements, and establishing new relationships with these organisations.



Bible Man Walks the Talk for the Kamukuio Cluster

Last month Mpho Tsekwa participated in the 702 Walk the Talk as Bible Man to raise funds for audio Scripture devices to send to the Kamukuio Cluster in Angola. We want to give special thanks to supporters in Brazil who donated close to $300, as well as Kulumi for donating devices for distribution. Thank you also to Mpho for organising the fundraiser and to all others who have donated!

If you'd like to give to Bible Translation you can do so here: wycliffe.org.za/give/bible-translation-2023



Prayer Week 2-8 October

Wycliffe South Africa is joining hands with Jericho Walls International Prayer Network and the LuminAfrica Bible Translation Collaborative in prayer. Over these seven days, these ministries and others will partner in 24-7 Prayer for Spiritual Breakthrough in Global Food Security and Bible Translation. You can join us by praying each day of this week. A prayer guide will be shared.

Click on this link:
https://chat.whatsapp.com/LC30fuXBzja0H3ExdD91ke



World Day of Prayer: 11 November 2023

Wycliffe Global Alliance holds an annual day of prayer for Alliance organisations to take part in. The theme of this year's Prayer Day is "Abundantly Enough". Bookmark the date and join us in praying for Bible Translation on this day.



Inviting all worship teams, songwriters and artists.

This is an opportunity to delve deeply into the psalms, to creatively internalise and experience them, and to then create worship and performances directly from the Scriptures.

Sat 7 Oct | 10:00-16:30 | G1 Fourways | R50

www.wycliffe.org.za/psalms-registration

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