



2016

ANNUAL REPORT





Bruce A. Smith

PRESIDENT/CEO
WYCLIFFE ASSOCIATES

A WORD FROM BRUCE

In 2016 God shone the light of His Word where it has never reached before. It's amazing to see. I'm humbled beyond words to have a part in that work, and I'm overjoyed to share with you the ways that your partnership is advancing His kingdom.

God is opening doors in so many places that it's hard to tell you about all of them. From the Pacific Islands to the Himalayas to the unreached regions of Africa—

He is giving more people than ever access to the Bible in their own heart language through our incredible MAST strategy (Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation).

In His grace God has given us the technology needed to accomplish and accelerate this work. Tools such as Print On Demand (POD), Bible Translation Recording Kits (BTRKs), and Tablets for National Translators (TNTs) are making Bible translation faster and more feasible than ever. People in remote areas can now translate and produce their own Bibles from start to finish. And with today's portable equipment, those who live in places hostile to the Bible can work without being detected.

How wise and good our God is!

As you read this report, I'm sure you'll be in awe of God's power and grace as I am. But I hope you'll also realize just how important your role is. With your generous support, you have released resources that are now having an impact around the globe. We're all insufficient by ourselves, but when we act in concert we accomplish great things. So with all my heart, I thank you.

Your continued partnership will enable Bible translation to keep accelerating—bringing us closer to the day when every people group will have God's Word in their own heart language.

I thank God for you always as you share this journey with us.

Translating Truth

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



In 2016, supporters like you helped advance Bible translation in 76 countries around the world. Here are just some of the projects your generosity funded:

- *MAST (Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation)*
- *POD (Print On Demand)*
- *TNT (Tablets for National Translators)*
- *BTAKs (Bible Translation Acceleration Kits)*
- *BTRKs (Bible Translation Recording Kits)*
- *translationStudio Android App*
- *Scriptures for New Frontiers*
- *Open Bible Stories*
- *Operation Timothy (Digital Scriptures)*
- *Democratic Republic of the Congo National Bible Translation Training Center*
- *Under Attack Project*
- *North Cameroon Translation Training Center*
- *Angola Bible Translation*
- *Southeast Asia Translation Projects*
- *Operation Clean Water*
- *Papua New Guinea Advance*



2016

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MAST—A REVOLUTION IN BIBLE TRANSLATION

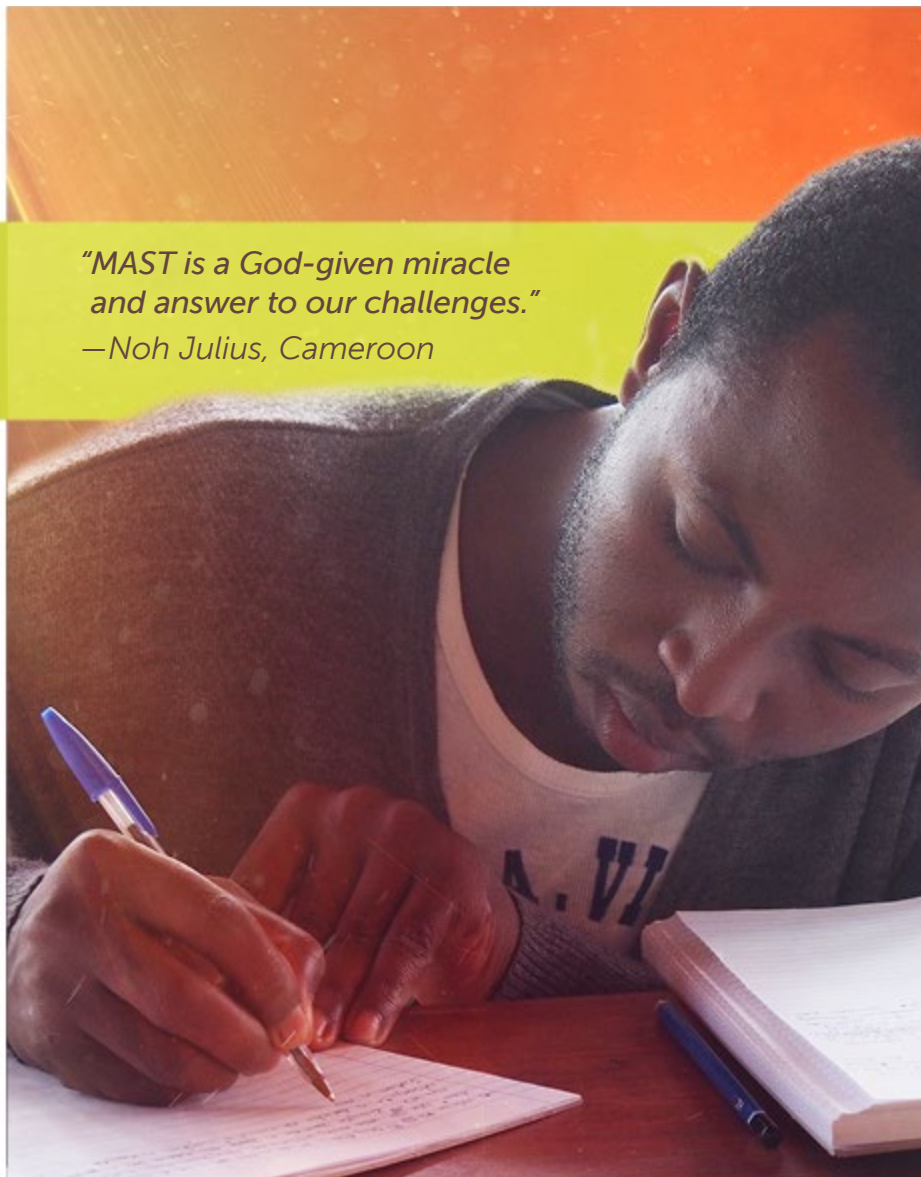
Sometimes, an innovation comes along that changes everything. Wycliffe Associates' MAST (Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation) program is one of those.

It's a new way of approaching Bible translation that mobilizes the local church. This new Bible translation methodology relies on the active participation of the local church in the process. Groups work in parallel, translating multiple passages of Scripture simultaneously and checking each other's work as they go. MAST equips national translators to take Bible translation into their own hands and bring God's Word to their own people—quickly and accurately. Thousands of national Christians have already participated in MAST workshops around the world. And each workshop usually involves several related languages, so its impact is multiplied.

Seeing the amazing results, more and more people groups are asking for their own MAST workshops. And because of your prayers and support, we have been able to respond to them.

*"MAST is a God-given miracle
and answer to our challenges."*

—Noh Julius, Cameroon





- In 2016, our teams conducted 135 MAST workshops
- 315 new Bible translations were started
- 58 New Testaments were completed
- There are now no less than 2,771 New Testament translations in progress!



2017 GOAL: 400 NEW BIBLE TRANSLATION STARTS

"MAST has helped me learn to truly meditate on God's Word. I know my translation will help the Palanan Christians to grow in their walk with the Lord. I am blessed because I know my work will have eternal dividends."
— Maricel Chavez, Philippines

TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING WHAT'S POSSIBLE

Your partnership is accomplishing more than ever! Today's technology allows the Bible to be translated, printed, and put in people's hands faster than anyone could have imagined.

Print On Demand—a godsend for Christians in danger

Translating is just the first step in bringing God's Word to people who need it. The Bibles must also be printed and bound. Print On Demand (POD) technology allows translators to print their work and distribute it—*immediately*. They can print entire Bibles, or individual books as soon as they are translated. And the low cost per page makes it wonderfully practical.

Print On Demand is especially helpful in places where the Bible is forbidden. The printing equipment is portable—and thus easy to hide or move. Mini POD equipment can be tucked into a carry-on suitcase and easily transported to remote locations.

With these cutting-edge tools, God's Word is flourishing in places that were unreachable before.

Print On Demand is making an impact:

"We the 'Y' people will never forget this day on which the New Testament was printed in the 'Y' language for the first time in our history. Thank you all for taking part in this historic moment. May God bless you all."

—Pastor T, Myanmar*

**Name changed for security purposes*



PRINT ON DEMAND IN 2016:

Full-size POD systems distributed: 6

Mini POD systems distributed: 25

TOOLS TO ACCELERATE BIBLE TRANSLATION

Bible Translation Acceleration Kits (BTAKs) are an enormous help for translators working in remote locations—especially places without electricity. Using satellite connections, team members can communicate and collaborate with partners thousands of miles away. Each kit can include a small laptop computer, a satellite communication terminal, and solar power supply.



"Ever since I was old enough to think for myself, I started to really love the things of this world. But today, I understand that the good and true life revolves around the Word of God."—Gilbert, national translator and BTAK recipient in Cameroon

TRANSLATION TOOLS IN 2016:

BTAKs now in operation: 544

BTRKs distributed this past year: 59

TNTs distributed this past year: 1,519

TOOLS TO ACCELERATE BIBLE TRANSLATION

Bible Translation Recording Kits (BTRKs) help translate the Bible for languages that are unwritten, so people who can't read God's Word can still *hear* it. In 2016 Wycliffe Associates distributed 59 BTRKs and started translation of 24 unwritten languages.



"The people in my village are so happy to be receiving the words from this work because they have been confused in their understanding and now it is becoming much more clear and they are so happy to receive it."—Wesley Kurang

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TECHNOLOGY AND GOD'S PEOPLE ADVANCING BIBLE TRANSLATION

Tablets for National Translators (TNTs) are a vital part of the translation toolkit, providing enormous value for a small investment. These little devices are equipped with the latest translation software. Translators can work virtually anywhere without attracting attention. Then they can store their work and hide it when necessary. That makes the tablets invaluable in places where Christianity is forbidden.



TRANSLATION TOOLS IN 2016:

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SCRIPTURES FOR NEW FRONTIERS

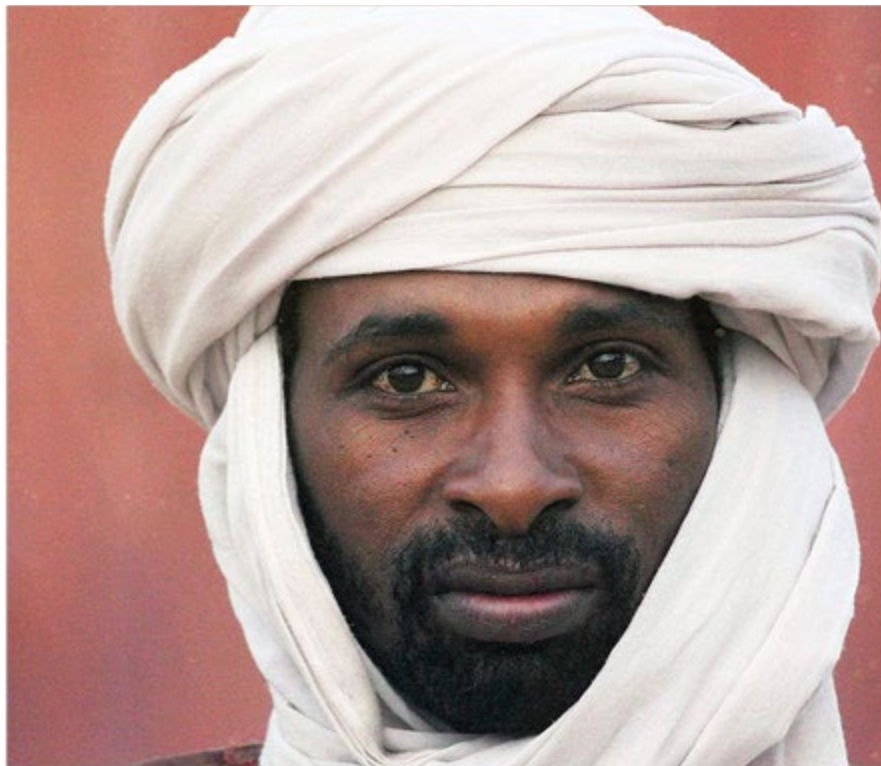
When opponents try to stamp out God's kingdom, it only grows. Because of your partnership, God's Word is reaching into areas where opposition is fiercest.

The national translators in these dangerous regions accept the risks they face. In fact, their biggest concern is not their own welfare—but that their supporters in the West might become discouraged and abandon the work. This is why we must stand with them and do all that we can to equip them and accelerate the translation of God's Word for their people.

God's grace has allowed us to advance into these unreached areas, looking forward to the day when every people group will have access to the Scriptures in their heart language.

God's Word is touching hearts around the world:

"In the wreckage of lives caught up in these evil events, people are discovering the power and relevance of the Word of God. The community here used to be comparatively closed to the gospel, but now Scriptures are being eagerly received and heard."—Christian in central Asia



"For me, Islam wasn't the answer . . . Buddhism wasn't the answer. There was this gap in my heart. When I came to John 3:16, it said, 'God so loved the world.' I thought, I am part of this world so God loves me! I cried out to God, crying with joy. It was like something very deep coming out of my heart—this root of selfishness, pride, and hatred." —Christian convert in the Middle East

**Photo changed for security purposes*

Africa



Amazing things happen when people receive God's Word in their own language

The pastor of a church in Cameroon was preparing for his Sunday service when a man approached him. This man was part of a Wycliffe Associates team that was translating the Scriptures into the local dialect. “Would you be interested in reading a portion of this translation we just finished for today’s Scripture reading?” he asked.



The pastor was intrigued. This would be his congregation's first opportunity to hear the Bible in their native tongue—their *heart language*. He opened the service by reading aloud the newly translated passage from the Gospel of Mark. And suddenly, overcome with emotion, he began to weep.

That changed the course of the entire service. The pastor abandoned his planned message and was inspired instead to preach on the Scripture passage they had all just heard. He said this piece of translated Scripture was the clearest presentation of the gospel his congregation had ever heard.

This is the power that's released when people hear the Bible in their own language. And scenes like this are happening throughout the continent as more of God's Word is translated and made available to those who are still without it.

The translated Scriptures are changing lives in Africa:

"God's Word has touched my heart. I have seen myself in the life of the prodigal son. God touched me. I feel very much at peace. I have made up my mind to follow Jesus Christ."—Ayo,* Kenya

"The translation work has helped us understand the Word of God more than we did before. This will help us be good agents of change."
—National translator, Tanzania

**Name changed for security purposes*



South Asia

Seeing the finish line

Bible translators face extreme challenges in South Asia. Treacherous mountains and deep gorges divide much of the country into small enclaves. The people of one area may have little contact with those just a few miles away—and often speak an entirely different language.



Meanwhile, nationalists of another religion are asserting ever more influence in the country, creating a distinctly anti-Christian atmosphere. In fact, persecution of Christians is pervasive in much of South Asia, as competing ideologies and national resentments tighten their grip on the people.

In spite of these challenges, God's Word is advancing with amazing speed in this troubled continent. Even in one of the countires, the finish line is in sight! Several MAST workshops have been held here, and work will begin soon on all 34 remaining languages. Meanwhile, the Ng* language group—the first to hold a MAST workshop—dedicated their completed New Testament in September 2016. Praise God!

Similar breakthroughs are happening in India, Myanmar, and throughout South Asia.

God's Word breaks through in Myanmar:

"Thank God that Wycliffe Associates chose to translate the Bible into our language using the MAST process. Now we are so happy to be able to read the Bible in our own language. We are going to hear it in our own language. May God abundantly bless you all."—Reverend K*, Tankuu village, Matupi Township

"There was a lot of misunderstanding of the Bible because it was not written in our first language. That was when we started to pray for the translation of the Bible into our own language. God heard our prayer!"—J*, Amlai Village, Matupi Township

**Names changed for security purposes*

Pacific

A photograph of two children standing on a beach, looking out at the ocean. The child on the left is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and green shorts with a colorful pattern. The child on the right is shirtless and wearing patterned shorts, holding a large, woven basket on their head. They are holding hands and standing on a rocky shore with waves in the background.

Reaching each island, language, and person with God's Word

Imagine waiting 182 years for a Bible. That's what one people group in Indonesia did. Their people had heard the gospel from missionaries in 1834. But they had no Scriptures in their own language.

That all changed in a matter of weeks. A MAST team got to work, and within two weeks had produced draft translations of *18 New Testament books, with the completion of their entire New Testament on the horizon.*



This is just one of the hundreds of language groups in the region that need to know God's Word in their heart language. Most people here have never heard about Jesus or even seen a Bible. God loves them and has made a way to bring them the tools they need to translate His Word. Having the Bible in their mother tongue can transform families, communities, and even the entire nation. What a privilege it is to come alongside and participate in God's great work.

The spiritual warfare here is intense. But God's light is shining in the darkness. We're seeing hearts changed. Lives renewed. Families restored. That's what happens when God's Word is translated in the language people understand.

The light is shining in Papua New Guinea:

"I realized that I had been living in darkness. I was trapped by my ancestors' sin—by my sin. When I understood the message of Jesus and how He died, it was like Jesus came and cut the rope that was tying me."—Christ follower in Hewa village, Papua New Guinea

MOBILIZING GOD'S PEOPLE

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” —1 Corinthians 12:4-6 NIV

Working together to reach those without God's Word

Everyone has a role to play in bringing God's Word to the world. Some are called to travel and work in faraway lands. Others work from their homes, studying or developing translation apps and other tools.

And some advance the gospel by sharing financial support.

God has equipped each person with an essential role in the body of Christ. We can't do our part without *you*.

Here are some ways for you to take part in this great work of translating the Scriptures for every people group that doesn't yet have His Word:

- Share the mission of Wycliffe Associates with your local church
- Volunteer for one of the many positions that support Bible translation
- Share any specialized skills you have with the Wycliffe Associates team
- Continue to support the translation teams with your prayers and gifts



Where Our Support Comes From:

	Fiscal Year 2016
Contributions	\$ 22,845,146
Contributed services and facilities usage	\$ 5,729,502
Interest and other revenue	\$ 2,387,031
Total contributions and other revenue and net assets released from restrictions	\$ 30,961,679

Where Your Support Goes:

Bible translation ministry programs	\$ 32,603,818
Supporting services	
Fundraising	\$ 6,967,697
Management and general	\$ 2,797,648
Total expenses	\$ 42,369,163
Change in net assets	\$ - 11,407,484

Note: Wycliffe Associate's volunteers provide labor and other services for various ministry activities. Contributed services meeting the criteria for revenue recognition in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States amounted to approximately \$5,078,000 and are included in the Statement of Activities as "contributed services and facilities usage" revenue. Volunteer services during the year ended September 30, 2016, not meeting the criteria for recognition in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, have been estimated by management to be approximately \$6,395,000 (unaudited). Although these services have a significant impact on making the ministry effective, the estimated value of such services is not reflected in the financial statements.

Assets:

	Fiscal Year 2016
Current assets	\$ 834,358
Long-term assets	\$ 24,794,838
Property and equipment, net	\$ 1,962,263
Other assets	\$ 913,924
Total assets	\$ 28,505,383

Liabilities and Non-Current Liabilities:

Current liabilities	\$ 943,555
Other liabilities	\$ 0
Total liabilities	\$ 943,555

Net Assets:

Unrestricted net assets	\$ 23,391,044
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 4,170,784
Total net assets	\$ 27,561,828
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 28,505,383

Complete audited statements as audited by Batts, Morrison, Wales & Lee, P.A. are available upon request.

Translating Truth

for the entire world

Just before He went to the cross, Jesus prayed to His Father, “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (John 17:17). The world is awash in false belief systems that can never satisfy or save. People desperately need truth.

Our mission is to bring the truth of God’s Word to every people group in the world. Thanks to you, tremendous gains have been made in 2016. In this record-breaking year, 315 new translation starts have been launched in places that have never known the Scriptures in their own heart language. More language groups than ever now have the tools to translate God’s Word.

2017 is our fiftieth anniversary! Because of God’s provision, and the prayers and support of our partners, we’ve been able to accelerate Bible translation now for half a century and impact lives for all eternity. But God’s work isn’t just continuing—it’s gaining momentum. By His grace, we’re hoping to start 400 new translations in 2017.

Right now, brave translators across the globe are working tirelessly and sacrificially to bring the Scriptures to their people. Some are risking their very lives. All are facing spiritual opposition. Your support enables them to keep going. When a person in Cameroon, Nepal, Indonesia, or the Middle East responds to the message of Jesus, you are



AFRICA AMERICAS EURASIA PACIFIC ASIA

part of that. When their lives are changed for eternity, you share in that joy.

Because of your support, national Bible translators can have the tools they need to complete their task: computer tablets, translation software, printing equipment, Internet connectivity, training, and so much more to help them focus on their important work. What a tremendous partnership!

As you continue to stand with us, we rejoice in all that God is doing. And we press forward into 2017.

To find out more about Wycliffe Associates and Bible translation efforts around the world, please visit our website at www.wycliffeassociates.org.

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A higher purpose.*