

2017

Annual Report



A Word from Bruce

Bruce A. Smith, *President/CEO of Wycliffe Associates*

I stand amazed! I am in awe of the power of our great God working through His people to accomplish the mission of His Church globally.

God is doing ***“immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine,”*** (Ephesians 3:20 NIV) and by His grace, you and I are invited to participate in His work.

Every day we receive passionate requests from national Bible translators longing to see God’s Word in their heart language—more requests than we have ever seen before! These pleas come from isolated jungles, terrorist strongholds, remote language groups, all crying out for the Word of God . . . the word of hope and salvation in the midst of crushing darkness and evil. News travels fast in these parts of the world. Local believers find out when neighboring language groups are translating God’s Word through MAST (Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation) workshops, and then they want the Scriptures in their heart language, too.

Because of your passion and love for the Word of God—and through your faithful giving—you answered these pleas over and over again with a resounding “YES!” With your time and talents, you stood shoulder to shoulder with national translators to provide the technology and resources needed to accelerate Bible translation and



Bruce and wife Jan

bring God’s Word to 346 language groups in 2017! To God be the glory!

You put valuable resources like Print On Demand (POD), Tablets for National Translators (TNTs), and Bible Translation Recording Kits (BTRKs) into the hands of national Bible translators to deliver the Word of God in the heart language of entire communities and ethnic groups.

Thanks to you, the momentum for translating Scripture is building as more and more people hunger for God’s Word. The stories in this report show how God is working through your prayers and faithful financial support. Thank you, and let’s rejoice together at all God is doing.



Speaking
God's
Word

INTO EVERY HEART

In 2017 you helped advance Bible translation in 72 countries around the world! Here are just some of the projects your generosity made possible:

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

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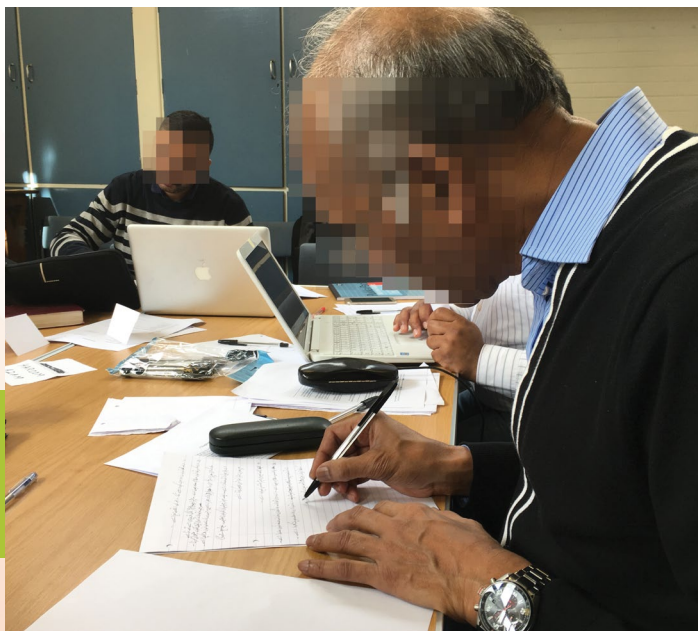
Top-Quality Bible Translations—*FAST!*

When you put Bible translation into the hands of the local church, their commitment, drive, and passion to bring the Word of God to their people accelerates. Because of your support for Wycliffe Associates' MAST (Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation) program, the process of Bible translation is being revolutionized, and the Word of God put into the hands of entire communities and language groups quickly and accurately.

With participation from local churches and in-country national Bible translators, MAST workshops bring groups of translators together to work on multiple passages of Scripture simultaneously. While working collaboratively, they diligently check each other's work, test their translation in the community, and accomplish their translation goals in a *fraction* of the time. And MAST produces accurate, clear, top-quality Bible translations.

It is a moving experience to see national Bible translators in complete surrender and reliance on the Holy Spirit—chosen vessels of God to bring the Word to their communities, in their heart language.





Through your prayer and support:

- 346 new Bible translation projects were started
- 104 New Testaments were completed
- There are now more than 3,703 Bible translations in progress!

2018 goal: *600 new Bible translation starts*



“Before, we pretended to read the Bible [because it was not in our language], but today I have many verses. On leaving the workshop, I will be able to preach the Good News.”

—Serge, Democratic Republic of the Congo

“MAST is not a wave . . . it’s a tsunami!”

—Pastor Hans, Southeast Asia

The Power of Print

When local believers hold God's Word for the first time printed in their language, uncontainable joy spills out of their hearts. Holding a physical copy of God's Word in their hands, they feel as if the words of God are *finally speaking directly to them!*

Print On Demand (POD) technology makes printed copies of translations available for distribution immediately after the Bible translation process has finished.

Not only do POD systems offer an economical printing solution for small language groups, POD systems are portable and can be easily hidden when teams under persecution face life-threatening situations.

God's people no longer have to wait to see God's Word printed in their own language. With the POD systems you provide, God's Word is delivered into the hands of desperate believers immediately.



"Print On Demand is really a game-changer for us, really, really big time. . . . I've seen a lot of joy in many communities where they have had their books [printed] almost immediately."

—Efi Tembon, Cameroon

Through your prayer and support:

- 9 POD systems were deployed in 2017
- 64 total POD systems have been deployed in 20 countries to date

Technology Breaks Through Isolation and Persecution

Bible Translation Recording Kits (BTRKs)

Many of the most marginalized and isolated people groups in the world are oral language communities—they don't have a written language. Yet because of audio technology, the truth of God's Word can be made available for the millions of people whose languages are not written—only spoken.

"During [an oral translation event] four people who attended the workshop accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior—an elderly relative of one of the translators and a young Tibetan woman turned from Buddhism to faith in Christ!"

—Susan,* Asia

Through your prayer and support:

- 207 BTRKs were distributed in 2017



*Name changed for privacy

Technology Breaks Through Isolation and Persecution

Tablets for National Translators (TNTs)

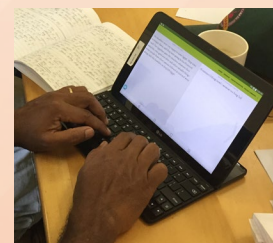
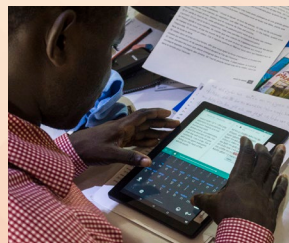
A handheld computer tablet filled with translation tools and resources is the only way national Bible translators can work in many countries fraught with violence and persecution aimed at Christians. Tablets draw little scrutiny in this age of mobile devices, so the power of the translated Word of God is hiding in plain sight. With these tablets, national translators continue collaborating and completing Bible translation even in the face of extreme danger.

"I am a simple peasant and before this workshop I had not seen a computer tablet, or touched one, and now I have learned to use it to translate God's Word for my people."

—Ephrata,* Ethiopia

Through your prayer and support:

- 1,630 TNTs were distributed in 2017



**Name changed for privacy*

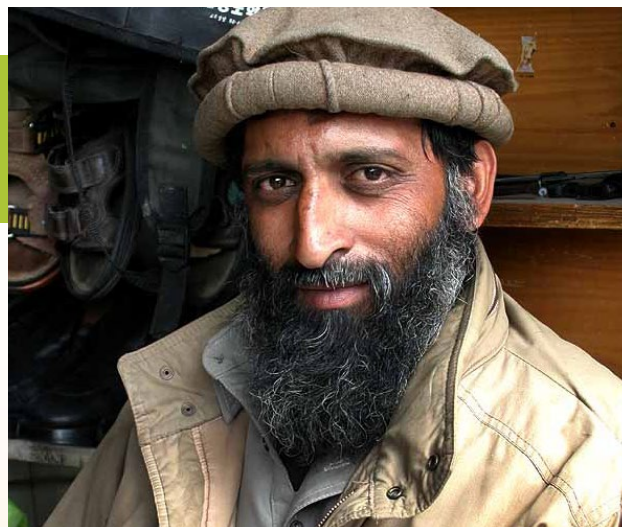
“They will kill me. . . . They have told me so”

Risk is commonplace in countries of persecution and intense hatred towards Christianity. National Bible translators know the dangers. They could be abducted at any time and thrown in prison for months or even years—beaten, tortured to the brink of death . . . yet they still refuse to renounce their faith.

And in spite of this reality, nothing will deter these courageous men and women committed to seeing God’s Word in the language of their family members and friends. *“They will kill me just like they killed my mentor—and his mentor before him. They have told me so,”* said Mohammed,* a national translator in the Middle East. *“But if I run away, who will tell the people about Jesus?”*

The Word of God can soften hearts once as hard as stone—former al-Qaeda fighters, outspoken terrorists, religious extremist leaders—transforming even the staunchest of critics in the most impossible places and cultures around the world.

While these national Bible translators lay everything they have on the line to advance Bible translation—finding their strength in Christ alone—**your prayers and support in 2017 showed these brothers and sisters that you are committed to providing the resources they need to continue in the face of grave danger.**



“I used to be an al-Qaeda fighter. I had an AK-47 and I used to go fight with them and then nurse the injured as well. [And then] I heard the gospel and came to know Christ!” —Sara, Central Asia*

“All we had was inside our church—they took everything out and burned it. Because we are committed in this work, we will go ahead in spite of the persecution.” —Pastor A., West Africa

“That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” —2 Corinthians 12:10 NIV

**Names and photos changed for security purposes*



AFRICA

From Turf War to Translation Team

and clashes led to multiple conflicts between two neighboring language groups in Nigeria. This struggle affected everyone—one national translator even attended a translation workshop with a bullet still lodged in his body—and when both groups showed up to a Bible translation workshop, tensions soared.

But the Spirit of God was at work in the midst of this animosity and division between the national translators. One pastor and his wife, praying for a breakthrough, intentionally took their meals to the table of the rival ethnic group.

By the end of the translation workshop, walls had miraculously crumbled, and the foundation for reconciliation was formed. *“Praise God those barriers came down,”* Afeh, one of the national translators at the workshop, said.

“I am recharged and I found the joy of living. I recognize that there is power in the words of God!”

—Alimatou, Benin



The power of God's Word brought unity to these two groups and created a ripple effect in their community as a whole. "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12 NIV).

On a continent that has been ripped apart by tribal warfare, **your prayers and support in 2017 helped bring together brothers and sisters as the body of Christ . . . national Bible translators intent on seeing God's Word shatter the strongholds of ethnic division.**

"God's Word is the only tool to transform society. There is hope when people read God's Word in their language."

—Sagal,* South Sudan



**Name changed for security purposes*



SOUTH ASIA

COMING SOON: A Bible in Every Language!



The gospel is reaching deep into many of the countries throughout South Asia—one country is even close to having the Bible translated for every language group! This is cause for great celebration and rejoicing, but the work across this vast continent is far from complete.

The sacrifice of national Bible translators and local churches in South Asia is great—extremism is on the rise, mobs frequently destroy churches and homes of believers, and religious freedom is threatened more and more every day.

Even with anti-evangelism laws and constant threats, Bible translation workshops continue. National translators refuse to quit translating God's Word—even inviting native speakers who have never heard of Jesus into the process to listen to Scripture drafts!



With deep roots in Hinduism, Sunny* began to hear the truth of God's Word for the first time at a MAST workshop.

"It changed his life, and the Holy Spirit blossomed his faith," a translation workshop facilitator said. "Sunny decided to undergo further Bible training and eventually trained to become a translator himself!"

Nothing can stop the Word of God from transforming hearts and lives. MAST workshops are not only bringing God's Word to life for remote language groups and communities isolated by rugged terrain and harsh environments, these workshops also are birthing new believers and igniting a flame in the hearts of more men and women longing to see God's Word speak into every heart and every language.

Your prayers and support in 2017 have launched God's Word into more languages, and more countries in South Asia than ever before. With your help we are drawing ever closer to the finish line to see the Bible translated for every language group represented within their borders.



**Name changed for security purposes*



PACIFIC

Scriptures They Finally Understand

Plagued by the challenges of geographic isolation and intense spiritual darkness, islands in the Pacific region are often cut off from outside influence. Sorcerers and medicine men operate as spiritual authorities over entire villages, trapping communities in darkness, fear, and bondage. But as the truth of God's Word pierces the darkness, chains are broken and spiritual prisoners are set free.

When five pastors from a remote area observed a MAST Bible translation workshop, they were determined to have God's Word translated for their village, which was a two-day drive into the mountains.

The process wasn't easy due to extreme isolation and the difficulty of organizing village meetings, church readings, and other accuracy checks. Yet the sacrifice of these pastors and local believers paid off in December of 2017. For the first time in their history, the Christmas story—the light of the world born to save us from our sins—was read in the heart language of this isolated people group. Imagine the





beautiful sound of “Emmanuel, God with us!” echoing through the hills and valleys of this region. In huts and churches, around cooking fires, and from makeshift pulpits, the good news of a Savior pierced the hearts of men, women, and children . . . in their own tongue. What a beautiful Christmas gift!

Your prayers and support in 2017 broke the chains of spiritual oppression and fear in remote, isolated regions of the world. Because of your faithful partnership, the light of God’s Word is shining in hard-to-reach places, dispelling darkness, and drawing people to the Savior.



“Imagine a church service purely and entirely in our heart language. No more reading Scriptures from languages we barely understand. Hymns and prayers, sermons and recital . . . all in [our language]!”

—Pastor B,* Pacific region

**Name changed for security purposes*

All in This Together

Your Time. Your Talent. Your Treasures.

Your faithful partnership is revolutionizing Bible translation. You . . . the Body of Christ . . . all over the world. Together we are advancing Bible translation in places that have never had the truth of God's Word in their heart language.

It doesn't matter if you speak a language that allows you to work with Gateway Language resources, or if you can program computers in JavaScript and are able to collaborate on technology projects and app development . . . ***you're speaking God's Word into every heart!***

As you give generously of your financial resources, or as you work from home on translation resources to support national translators . . . ***you're bringing God's Word to the lost!***

Thank you for playing your part in accelerating Bible translation. Without you, national Bible translators and local believers would still be waiting.



Get involved in 2018:

- Support Bible translation teams through prayer and giving
- Involve your local church
- Volunteer to support Bible translation
- Share your specialized skills

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." —Romans 12:4-6 NIV

Where Our Support Comes From:

Contributions
Contributed services and facilities usage
Interest and other revenue
Total contributions and other revenue and net assets released from restrictions

Fiscal Year 2017

\$22,797,019
\$12,294,813
\$1,714,333
\$36,806,165

Where Your Support Goes:

Bible translation ministry programs
Supporting services
Fundraising
Management and general
Total expenses
Change in net assets

\$33,272,401
\$7,738,356
\$3,958,737
\$44,969,494
\$(8,163,329)

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 \$11,643,000 and are included in the Statement of Activities as "contributed services and facilities usage" revenue. Volunteer services during the year ended September 30, 2017, 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 \$4,351,000 (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:

Current assets
Long-term assets
Property and equipment, net
Other assets
Total assets

Fiscal Year 2017

\$2,692,815
\$14,655,599
\$2,080,545
\$958,212
\$20,387,171

Liabilities and Non-Current Liabilities:

Current liabilities
Other liabilities
Total liabilities

\$988,672
\$0
\$988,672

Net Assets:

Unrestricted net assets
Temporarily restricted net assets
Total net assets

\$16,280,444
\$3,118,055
\$19,398,499

Total liabilities and net assets

\$20,387,171

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

More. More. *More!*

More translations completed.
More languages than ever before.
More eyes opened to the truth of God's Word.
More hearts transformed by the power of the Word of God.

2017 was a year of God doing “**immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**” . . . and following His lead, we're not stopping now.

Every day **more** requests for translation resources pour in from national Bible translators hungry to have Scripture in their heart language—national translators longing for God's Word to speak into the hearts of their family members and friends . . . their entire communities.

And your financial partnership and unwavering commitment to prayer prove that you, too, are eager to put God's Word into the hands of **more** local believers. You want **more** of your brothers and sisters to experience the transforming power of the Word of God in their heart language. With every request, you give **more** of yourself . . . **more** of your time . . . **more** of your treasure . . . to empower Bible translators and shine the light of God's Word in even the darkest, most spiritually desperate places around the world.

You are fanning the flames of a Bible translation revolution.



The numbers may be overwhelming, but **through your commitment, this great task will be accomplished.** Right now is the time to be all-in to advance the kingdom of God, giving all for our heavenly Father.

In 2018, please pray and give so that 600 new Bible translations will launch. We will not be deterred from the task God has set before us . . . we will give what God has entrusted to us and stand arm in arm with the global Church to see God's Word speaking into the hearts and lives of every person.

Hold on . . . God has **more** in store in 2018. And because of His grace, we get to be a part of this unfolding story.

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

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations.” —Ephesians 3:20–21 NIV

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A higher purpose.*