



ACCELERATING
BIBLE
TRANSLATION

Annual Report 2018

CELEBRATING ALL THAT
GOD IS DOING



A Word from Bruce

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

I am stunned as I look back over 2018 and see all that God has accomplished . . . **through YOU!**

Overflowing joy. Complete amazement. Overwhelming thanks . . . I struggle to find the words to describe my response to what God is doing through Bible translation all over the world!

Right now, God is raising up national pastors, church leaders, and local believers who have a burden for God's Word in their own language, and you are responding to their passionate requests for translation resources! And as God uses His people both near and far to accomplish His purposes, extraordinary things happen—"immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20 NIV).

In the past 12 months there has been a surge of interest in Bible translation globally, from local churches! And over the last year, we have been trying to keep up with the requests coming our way.

With your help, 325 Bible translation projects were launched!

You helped provide resources like Print On Demand (POD) units, Tablets for National Translators (TNTs), and Bible Translation Recording Kits (BTRKs) *that equip national Bible translators to translate Scripture*. You are an answered prayer for brothers and sisters in Christ waiting desperately for God's Word in their heart language!



Your gifts reach into remote island locations that have long been held captive in spiritual darkness. Your gifts cross dangerous borders to support persecuted

Christians who are called to translate God's Word, even in the face of danger. Your gifts send a message of God's love to people groups that often feel forgotten! **Every time you obey God's leading to pray or give, you are directly involved in bringing spiritually dead hearts back to life in Christ!**

But we can't stop now! The requests have been pouring in for Bible translation workshops at a rate faster than we have ever seen before! There are so many requests that I believe we will see every language with a translation of God's Word in just a few years. It's not "someday, out there" anymore. It's **soon. It's happening now!**

We are setting our goal for 2019 with expectant faith—**we have the opportunity to start 650 new language translations, and with your help, we will say YES!**

As you read the stories within these pages, you'll see more and more how God is working through you. Let's keep the momentum going. Let's celebrate all that God is doing now. And may these stories draw us into a deeper commitment to Bible translation in 2019!

SPIRITUALLY DEAD HEARTS . . .

Coming
Alive



In 2018 you helped advance Bible translation in 92 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)*
- *Emergency 911 Fund*
- *Scriptures for New Frontiers*
- *Democratic Republic of the Congo Advance*
- *Under Attack Project*
- *MAST River of God*
- *Southeast Asia Translation Projects*
- *Operation Clean Water*
- *Papua New Guinea Advance*
- *Bible Translation Safe Haven Center*



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The Translated Word

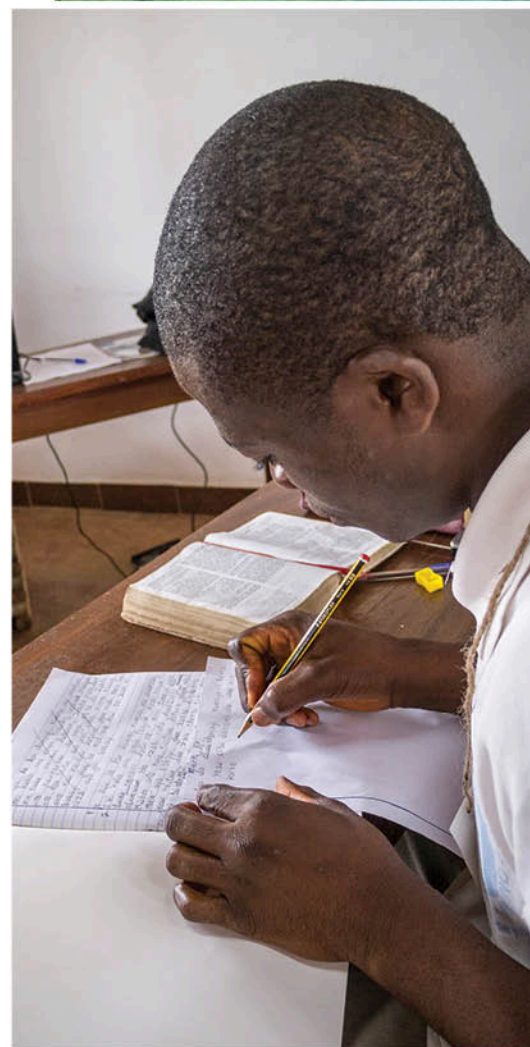
*REACHING MORE PEOPLE
THAN EVER BEFORE!*

Collaboration . . . that is the key to the success of this breakthrough translation method. Through local church connections and networks, national Bible translators create teams of passionate men and women who are determined to see God's Word in their heart language. Driven by a deep sense of calling, national Bible translators use the MAST (Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation) strategy to translate everything from small portions of the Scriptures to the entire Bible quickly and accurately.

Your faithful support makes these MAST workshops possible, bringing national Bible translators together to work on multiple passages of

Scripture simultaneously. As they complete portions of the Bible, the translation is put through a thorough checking process and tested within the community. The results are accurate, clear, top-quality translations that are put directly in the hands of the people immediately.

And it's not just the local community that benefits from translating God's Word. . . . MAST workshops build an incredibly strong spiritual bond among the national translators involved in the project. Having a community of believers is an encouragement for these men and women who live and work in some of the most spiritually dark and oppressive regions of the world.



MIDDLE EAST

“As I began the work of translating word by word, something happened. The deeper I got into the work, the more God touched my heart.” —Hiran*

**Name changed for security purposes*

In 2018 through your prayers and support:

- **325** new Bible translation projects were started
- There are now more than **816 MAST Bible translations** in progress!



2019 goal → **650** new Bible translation starts

Technology Changes Everything!

Technology is connected to almost everything we do today, and this is no different for Bible translation. Through the development of robust Bible translation technology, and the key role technology plays in translation workshops, millions of people now have God's Word at their fingertips!

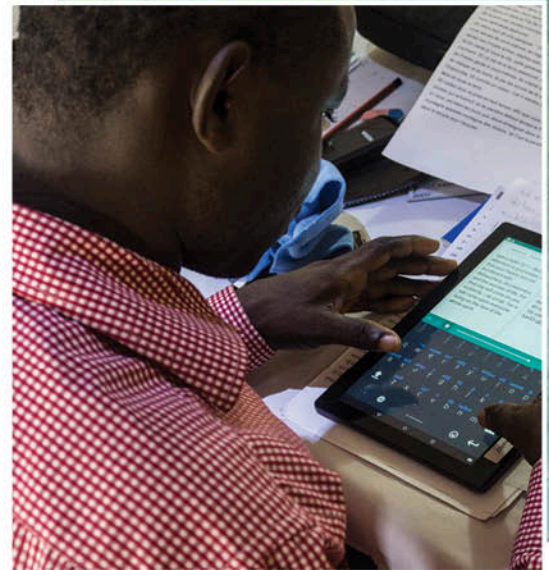
TABLETS FOR NATIONAL TRANSLATORS (TNTs)

Computer tablet technology has revolutionized Bible translation in parts of the world where Christians are targeted and persecuted. These mobile devices are small and discreet—just like other mobile devices on the market—but packed with

essential Bible translation resources. Providing national Bible translators with tablets allows projects to be more collaborative and the work to be saved securely. God's Word moves forward despite repeated threats and danger!

Through your prayers and support:

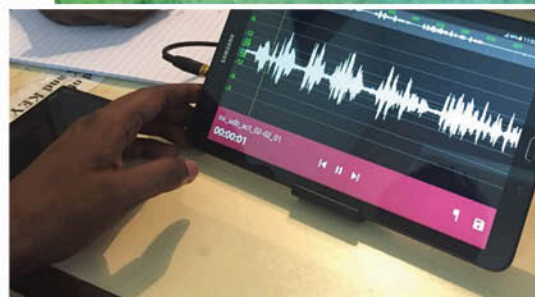
- **2,144** TNTs were distributed in 2018



BIBLE TRANSLATION RECORDING KITS (BTRKS)

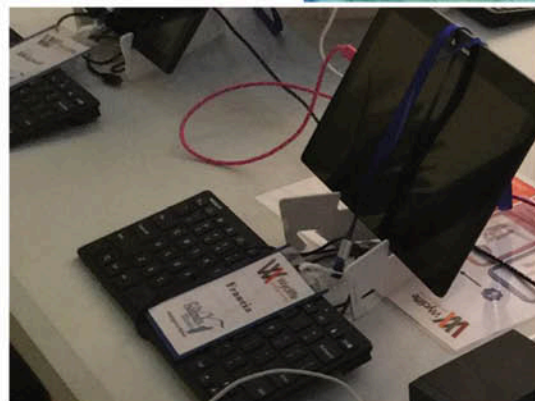
Millions of people live in communities where the language is unwritten. And even more people cannot read a single sentence! Often these groups experience extreme isolation and marginalization simply because of illiteracy and their oral language traditions. Still, they are in desperate need of God's Word.

Bible Translation Recording Kits, audio technology developed for Bible translation, make it possible to produce audio recordings of the Scriptures so these people can hear and come to know the truth of God's transforming Word.



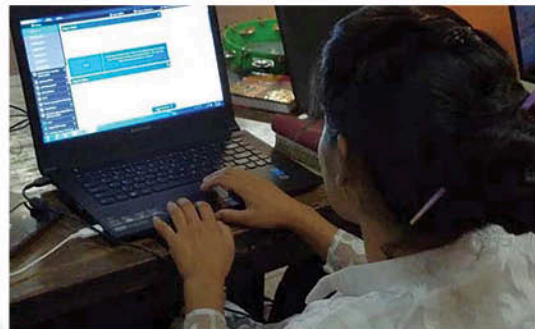
SOUTH ASIA

"Many of the Bible translators cried out loud when they finished the very first Bible translation in their mother tongues. They never thought they would get the Bible translated into their language!" —Peter



Through your prayers and support:

- **415** BTRKs were distributed in 2018



PRINT ON DEMAND (POD)

After finishing a translation of the Scriptures in a local language, national Bible translators are eager to get the Word of God into the hands of their people. Because of Print On Demand technology, printed copies of translations can be available for distribution immediately after the translation is complete!

POD systems provide a compact and economic method to print small and large quantities of God's Word, bind the copies, and

then share them quickly. These high-speed POD systems can be concealed in a small room which is essential to the safety of national Bible translators living in high-persecution areas.

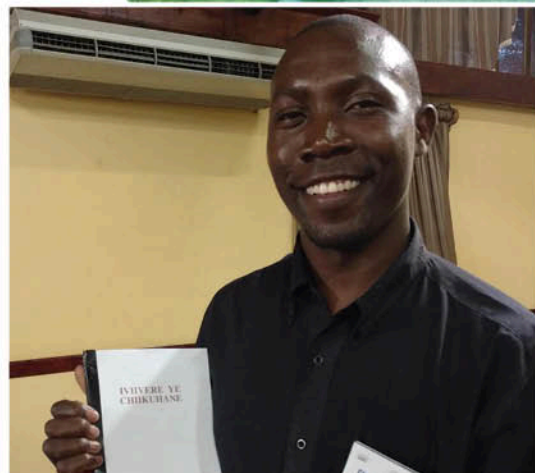
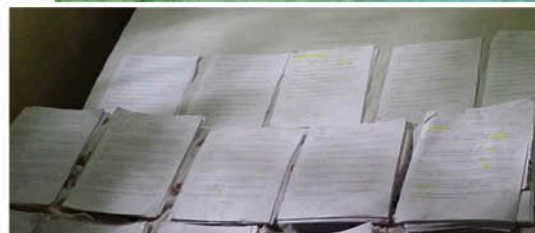
Local believers are always overcome with joy when they hold the precious Word of God in their hands. Their hearts are **coming alive** in celebration and thanksgiving after waiting for so long for this day to arrive!

SOUTH SUDAN

"We just dedicated three books: Philippians, Philemon, and Ruth! That was the first time for us to have Scripture printed in our language. We really thank God for that!" —Mouner

Through your prayers and support:

- **19** POD systems were deployed in 2018
- **83** total POD systems have been deployed in **26** countries to date



Powerful Undercurrents of God's Word

SCRIPTURES FOR NEW FRONTIERS

Their stories are unbelievable and frightening—secret police bursting into houses, ransacking every room and dragging men and women off to prison. Death threats, persecution, and living under constant scrutiny are common everyday events in the lives of Christians living in hostile regions around the world. But none of this

can stop the work of these brave men and women. These national Bible translators testify that daily trials only strengthen their faith and determination to continue translating God's Word!

National Bible translators see first hand a powerful undercurrent of God's translated Word growing

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MIDDLE EAST

"If I say Jesus is the ultimate example and He died for me, then I am willing to put my life on the line—like my ultimate example, Christ. The eternal salvation of others is worth the risk!" —**Pastor J***

**Name changed for security purposes*



stronger and stronger, drawing more brothers and sisters in their communities out of spiritual death and darkness and into truth.

Former terrorists have given up fighting against Christians and are now working shoulder to shoulder with other believers on translation teams! The hatred that extremists once felt has been replaced with love and a passion to share God's Word with more and more people in their communities. This is the miracle of God's Word bringing dead hearts into life with

Christ. . . . What once was dead is now **coming alive!**

National Bible translators know that you play an important role in this process. "Despite insecurity in my country, it is possible to hold MAST workshops because many around the world have been praying for us," said Marco.* In 2018 your prayers and faithful support were a lifeline in these hard-to-reach, hostile places, giving national translators the encouragement and strength to carry on another day!

WEST AFRICA

"Bullets were flying out of the car that was coming toward me. By the power of God I was able to escape and none of the bullets hit me. I ran and hid far away in the bushes." —**Batu***

**Name changed for security purposes*

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." —1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV



Africa

“WHY WOULD YOU GIVE THEM SCRIPTURE?”

Society had literally banished this people group into the dense forest regions of Rwanda and Uganda, targeting them with insults and persecution. *“They don’t need the Scriptures in their language. They need to learn to read other languages.”* And when other local groups

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found out this language group was going to receive God's Word in their language, their response was callous:

"Why would you give them Scripture? They do not deserve to have the Scriptures."

But the Batwa people were overjoyed to have a translation workshop in their language. "I am filled with a lot of joy to be here, translating the Scriptures," said Mama Jovanis. "God is amazing. . . . God has remembered us!"

Right now, the Word of God is meeting entire communities and people groups, right where they are, because of your faithful support and prayers.

God's Word is changing hearts as hundreds of language groups work to complete their Bible translations. In areas of intense war, tribal violence, and political instability, God's Word is bringing peace and transforming lives. Men and women are finding the truth they have been desperately seeking within God's Word, in a language they understand best.

In 2018 your prayers and faithful support launched translation workshops among some of the most marginalized people on the planet, opening up their hearts to the gospel and bringing their spiritually dead hearts back to life!



SOUTH SUDAN

"Sometimes we would even refuse meals to continue our work, because the translation was so sweet in our mother tongue." —Ateef*

**Name changed for security purposes*

GUINEA

"I left the room many times to cry because I understood that Jesus suffered rejection because of me. I now have a respectful attitude toward Jesus, and this has deeply changed my life now and forever." —Paul



South Asia

A RIVER FLOWING IN A SPIRITUAL DESERT

When a river flows through a dry and desolate land, it brings life and abundance. And in the spiritual darkness of the most populated region of the world, there is a “river of God” flowing with the good news of Jesus Christ.

National translators face extreme opposition every day—the Enemy is

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at work, trying to block this river from flowing into areas that have long been a stronghold of spiritual bondage and oppression. Constant threats, mob justice, extremism, and even laws try to stop men and women from translating God's Word, but nothing can stand in the way of the Word of God!

These brave brothers and sisters testify openly, speaking life into communities that are desperate for a new life in

Christ, even when their religious freedoms are challenged.

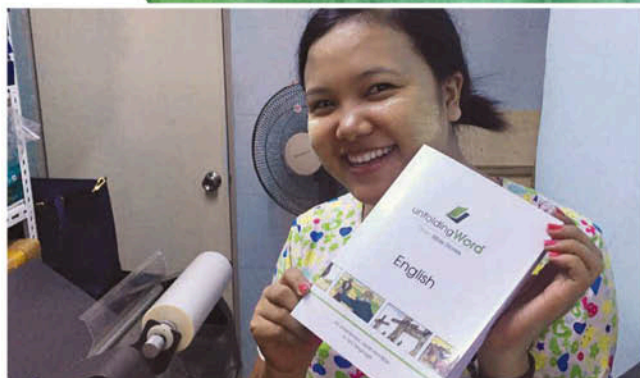
Many ministry leaders step out with bold faith to lead Bible translation teams into the hardest-to-reach regions with hundreds of remote language groups isolated in mountainous terrain.

In 2018 your prayers and faithful support enabled more translation workshops to begin, bringing more hearts back to life in Christ!

New Testament complete!

The Bi New Testament was released last fall and is now available through the church to the 80,000 speakers of this language in South Asia.

In 2018, 50 New Testament translations were completed!





Pacific

ONCE A WITCH DOCTOR, NOW A PASTOR!

Mutengke,* a witch doctor in an isolated island chain in the Pacific, thought he was the most powerful person in his village—a self proclaimed man-killer. He walked around carrying the flesh of dead men in a string bag, relying on companion spirits and witchcraft, and casting a shadow of fear over the entire village. But today, inside that bag is

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**Name and photos changed for security purposes*



something far more powerful: a New Testament translated into his heart language.

The power of God's Word transformed this man's spiritually dead heart and brought him into new life with Jesus Christ! "I now have an alliance with God that lasts forever," he said. "I believe in Jesus and will keep these words of His with me!"

These island regions are filled with some of the earth's most difficult terrain to navigate. Mountains shoot up out of the ocean in breathtaking majesty and are covered with dense tropical jungles filled with every creature imaginable. And within these jungles are people living, seemingly trapped, in an unbreakable cycle of poverty and spiritual bondage.

But these harsh conditions can't stop men and women who have answered the call to share God's Word with their people, no matter the cost.

These local believers and national Bible translators are shining the light of truth and hope into the darkness on these islands. And through the all-consuming power of God's Word—translated into the heart language of men and women desperate for hope and new life—islanders are **coming alive!**

In 2018 your prayers and support brought more translation workshops to remote islands in the Pacific, setting captives free and bringing life back into spiritually dead hearts.



PACIFIC REGION

"I was ready to learn whatever Jesus was going to teach me. And after reading the verses, it seemed they really were just for me. It is through translating His Word that I realized about the new life I have in Him!" —Mutengke*

**Name and photos changed for security purposes*

WE'RE ALL ON THE BIBLE TRANSLATION TEAM

Accomplishing more Together

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." —Philippians 2:1-2 NIV

We are all on this journey of Bible translation together! Before the MAST workshops are filled with national Bible translators, volunteers have prepared translation notes in common languages for national translators to use. And before these language resources have been created and loaded onto tablets, computer programmers have created software to hold the digital resources designed for collaboration.

And before we can say yes to any of these projects, we're relying on your faithful financial support.

Thanks to your prayers, financial support, and time . . . Bible translation is advancing like never before.

You have a driving passion to see God's Word spread to the ends of the earth, and by giving of your financial resources or giving of your time to help create translation resources for national translators, YOU are speaking into dry and desolate hearts and calling them back to life!

Thank you for helping to accelerate Bible translation, because without you, national Bible translators and local believers still would be crying out for God's Word!



Get involved in 2019

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

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 2018

\$24,391,296
\$12,220,362
\$1,033,280
\$37,644,938

Where Your Support Goes

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

\$30,060,864
\$6,781,543
\$2,901,195
\$39,743,602
\$(2,098,664)

Note: Wycliffe Associates' 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 \$11,341,000 and are included in the Statement of Activities as "contributed services and facilities usage" revenue. Volunteer services during the year ending September 30, 2018 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 \$2,692,000 (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 2018

\$4,846,898
\$10,612,472
\$1,625,713
\$977,492
\$18,062,575

Liabilities and Non-Current Liabilities

Current liabilities
Other liabilities
Total liabilities

\$762,740
\$0
\$762,740

Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets
Temporarily restricted net assets
Total net assets

\$13,583,198
\$3,716,637
\$17,299,835

Total liabilities and net assets

\$18,062,575

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

IT'S NOT SOMEDAY . . .

it's NOW!



AFRICA AMERICAS EURASIA PACIFIC ASIA

Here's the reality: *Every people group on earth could have a translation of the Scriptures in their heart language in just a few years!*

You read that right—and we are believing in faith and praying that the Church will catch this vision for Bible translation.

God's Word is moving across the earth with power and authority! You might only hear the news stories from the Middle East that bring uncertainty and fear . . . but God's Word is flooding the region, and people are **coming alive** in Christ like never before!

In South Asia, extremely marginalized people are now able to receive God's Word in sign language! This is only the second sign language New Testament in the world, and the joy they have is overflowing. Over the course of the translation project, our team witnessed men and women who were dejected and completely

withdrawn come alive with the good news of a completed translation. *Now they are worshipping and dancing with joy that cannot be contained!*

But Wycliffe Associates cannot keep up with the requests for Bible translation workshops alone. The word is spreading so fast that local churches and national leaders are reaching out, requesting resources to help with translations for their language groups. They have the people, the leadership, and the passion, and they are ready to go . . . ready to see their communities—their families—**coming alive in Christ!**

So in the coming year we have a goal to start 650 new translation projects! This could be a record year, and we trust that God will provide the resources. **The time is NOW!**

Your faithful support through financial giving and prayer is a direct partnership with local believers who

are passionate about Bible translation and God's Word. When you give to advance the Word of God in the heart language of national believers, you stand alongside the local body of Christ, providing the resources they need to grow in their faith and see God's Word come alive in their language. **The impact of your partnership is immediate and eternal!**

And now we have the opportunity to step out in faith and be a part of what God will do this year. Let's not sit back and watch someone else make it happen. Through prayer and faith, relying on the leading of the Holy Spirit, let's be in the middle of this God story as His Word is taken to the ends of the earth, to every tribe and every language!

Don't sit on the sidelines. NOW is the time to pray bold prayers and to have bold faith.

This can happen in our lifetime.

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*