



TRANSLATION *Matters*



Oral Bible Storytelling among the San, from wycliffe.org.za/what-we-do/bible-storytelling

KEEP THE FLAME BURNING

“And pray for us, too, that God will open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.” Colossians 4:3.

What would Wycliffe’s ministry of Bible translation look like were it not for those who have faithfully laid down their tools to pray – not just once, but every year, since 11 November 1933?

Wycliffe’s World Day of Prayer started 87 years ago, before Wycliffe was founded! Our founding fathers, Cameron Townsend and L. L. Legters, knew that God wanted them to start Bible translation in Mexico for those whom Spanish wasn’t their heart language. They knew that God was calling them to serve at least 50 indigenous groups who had no Bible in their language. But the door to Mexico remained firmly shut...

Turning to God in fervent prayer on 11 November 1933, they saw Him work a miracle by opening the door to enter Mexico! Since then, every year, that remarkable opening has been commemorated in a worldwide Day of Prayer. On this day, we lay down our tools and turn to God. On this day, we acknowledge

that unless God continues to open doors before us, the work of Bible translation cannot go on. This day marks our utter dependence on God throughout the challenges and complexities of Bible translation.

Will we keep the flame burning by laying down our tools this year? Indeed, we will.

This year we join hands with SIL southern Africa and turn to God – to thank Him for the doors He has opened, and to present our requests to open doors that remain firmly shut. We can help, but only if God opens the doors.

Join me in prayer this day, and this month, as Wycliffe staff, friends and partners turn our eyes to Him who alone can unlock the message of His life-giving Word in EVERY language.

Let’s keep the flame burning!

Karen Floor

THOUSANDS LAY DOWN THEIR TASKS AND TOOLS

On Wednesday 11th November, around the world, thousands of people put down their tasks and tools in order to turn to God in prayer together!



“God is sovereign and almighty, yet He has invited us to participate with Him in his mission. Prayer is an essential facet of that participation and keeps us rooted in our relationship with Him.

One day a year, November 11, we make a special effort to come together in prayer, united in hearts and minds in all our diverse contexts and locations.”

A Global Celebration of:



Thanksgiving — as we remember who God is and how He has done the seemingly impossible... again and again.



Joy — as we recognize how God continues to open doors and hearts to accomplish His mission.



Dependence — as we acknowledge that all that we have and are is because of God.

Answer to Global Prayer:

“We remember a special prayer request coming from colleagues, Vladimir and Tatiana Burnashev, living and working in the far north-east of Siberia. The Yakut people number 500,000 – they have no Bible in their language, and there are few believers. The Burnashevs prepared a calendar with pictures of the Yakutia area and verses from the Bible, as well as poems from local believers. **They asked for prayer for the necessary finance to have 10,000 calendars printed at a cost of \$6,000.** Within two months, sufficient funding was received for them to have 7,000 calendars printed and distributed at the New Year celebration, so that all year the calendar would be a reminder of God who loves them!”

- Harry and Elsbeth Brasem

One woman who received a calendar responded:
“I want to know more about this God!”

Vladimir and Tatiana reported:
“Friends from different countries helped in this. It was not our plan, but God still continues to bless Yakutia through the wider Body of Christ!”



WHY NOVEMBER 11?



The greatest missionary is the Bible
in the mother tongue. It needs no
furlough and is never considered a
foreigner.

-William Cameron Townsend-

On November 11, 1933, Wycliffe founders, Cameron Townsend and L. L. Legters, crossed the border from the U.S. into Mexico because God answered prayer. It was a major step forward for Bible translation and also the beginning of what eventually became Wycliffe (now more than 100 Wycliffe Global Alliance organisations) and close partner organisation, SIL.

THE JOURNEY:

- Townsend's vision for Bible translation had continued to grow as he lived with and learned from the Kaqchikel people of Guatemala. They completed a translation of the New Testament in 1931.
- While working on a Kaqchikel literacy plan, Townsend met Dr. Moisés Sáenz, an educator from Mexico. Townsend shared his philosophy of education with Dr. Sáenz. He shared his vision of language communities transformed by God through His Word in their language. He shared his desire to see people learning to read in their own language, teaching each other and valuing their language and heritage, confident to "stand on their own feet". Sáenz was impressed by Townsend's vision and wrote a letter inviting him to start work in Mexico.



- In 1933, while recuperating from tuberculosis, Townsend received a visit from his enthusiastic colleague, L. L. Legters. Legters had recently travelled to Mexico and noted, "There are at least fifty Indian languages without the Bible, and some are large."
- The participants of the August 1933 Keswick Bible Conference in New Jersey prayed for the Indians in Mexico because new foreign missionaries were not allowed in and those working there were severely restricted. After praying, the group thought Legters and Townsend should go to Mexico to get permission for Bible translation work among the Indians.
- So, Townsend and Legters went to Mexico. At the border, the guards refused them entrance. Townsend and Legters prayed. Then Townsend remembered the letter from Sáenz and gave it to the guards. Recognizing the author of the letter, a renowned and respected educator in Mexico, they called Mexico City for orders.
- Legters and Townsend prayed, sang and prayed again while waiting for an answer. Finally, it came. Yes, they could enter Mexico.

JOIN US THIS MONTH IN PRAYER!



“Over this last year we have been reminded of how broken this world is on the global scale... This is a reminder of what many of our language communities experience on a daily basis... On this day we can pray for His peace to reign in this problematic world we are living in, but we can also pray for the language communities that we serve, that we are part of, that through the ministry of Bible translation they will also receive and experience peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Follow this link to watch the full message from Stephen Coertze, the Executive Director of the Wycliffe Global Alliance:
bit.ly/DOP-11-Nov-2020

bit.ly/DOP-helpful-resources

bit.ly/DOP-meditations

Pray for Shalom for the nations of the world

We pray:

- for the nations to come to the light of the world, who alone gives Shalom, as the world cannot give - a fulfilment of God's Word in Isaiah 60:3: "All nations will come to His light."
- for healing in regions, nations and individuals who are suffering economically in this season. Ask God to provide all their needs and ours as well.
- for those who mourn, that they will be comforted.
- for those who are sick, physically or with mental health issues, and ask God to bring healing and hope.
- that many will come to God, repent and find the wholeness that comes from a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pray for God's Shalom within the Bible translation movement

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Colossians 3:15 (NLT)

We pray for our work and colleagues, partners, Alliance organisations and those involved in Bible translation movements around the world. This is an opportunity to pray for Partnering with Prayer colleagues. Where we struggle to experience unity and peace with colleagues, partners or others we can start by thanking God for them. It is as we praise and thank him that he often changes our perspective. As we see things in his light, we also experience peace. Lift specific requests you have for colleagues, partners and Alliance organisations to God and ask him to bring Shalom to their lives.

Pray for communities with no access to God's Word

We pray today for the language communities where God's word is not yet available or only partially available. May God in his grace and mercy provide all the necessary resources for the translation of the entire Bible in each community.

Let this be our prayer for one another:

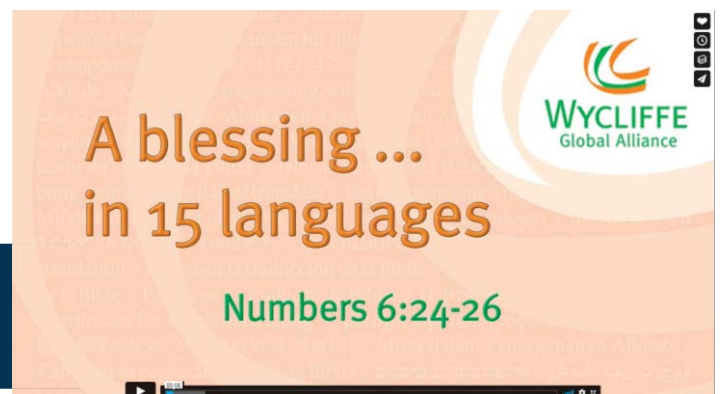
May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favour and give you his peace.

— Numbers 6:24-26 (NLT)

Hear this blessing in 15 different languages
(including Makhuwa, where Wycliffe SA is involved) -
bit.ly/blessing-15-languages



THANK YOU FOR MOVING FOR GOD'S WORD

We thank God that the Movement Campaign was such a success! Many people moved for God's Word, in many different ways and in many different places. So far we've raised R29,000 towards the SePulana translation, and the contributions are still coming in. Also, a group of intercessors for the translation work and the MaPulana language community recently got started and is growing!

To give to this translation, use the give button on our homepage:

wycliffe.org.za

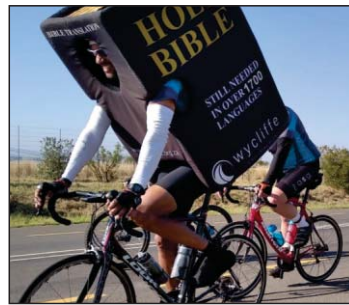
To join the prayer group for this translation, sign-up here:

wycliffe.org.za/signup-sepulana

To find out more about this translation, visit this webpage:

wycliffe.org.za/sepulana

A big thank you to everyone who took part!



The first SePulana training workshop will take place from the 17th-20th November. Around that time there will be a group moving for God's Word by doing a 12-hr cycle relay. Also, an adapted 947 Ride Joburg, of four limited races, will be going ahead (ridejoburg.co.za/events/).

Look out for news of those taking part during November, or email info@wycliffe.org.za for information about taking part or doing something new!

ONE TEAM - ONE PURPOSE - GOD'S WORD IN EVERY LANGUAGE

Here are some images of people moving for God's Word during the campaign. You can also go to the blog on our website to read stories and testimonies from the events (wycliffe.org.za/stories-news/):



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