



## Partners

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September 2019

*For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord. — Habakkuk 2:14, (NLT)*

Did you know that September 30 is International Bible Translation Day? Back in 1966, Wycliffe founder Cameron Townsend first proposed this idea to his friend, Oklahoma Senator Fred Harris.

"September 30 is St. Jerome's Day," Cam said. "He's the first translator of the whole Bible. I thought maybe we could get the House and Senate to pass a resolution calling for the president to proclaim September 30 as Bible Translation Day." The resolution passed and history was made.

This year, 53 years later, we're celebrating Bible Translation Day by encouraging missionaries who work in Bible translation. Would you think about the missionaries in your life and consider ways that you can build them up as they continue to make God's name known among the nations?

### Stone Mountain Georgia Meetings

As we enter what appears to be the last leg of completing Vision 2025, Wycliffe is looking beyond *beginning* the last needed translation to *completing* it! In our rapidly changing world and cultures, We're very thankful that Wycliffe keeps us current, relevant and on the cutting edge.

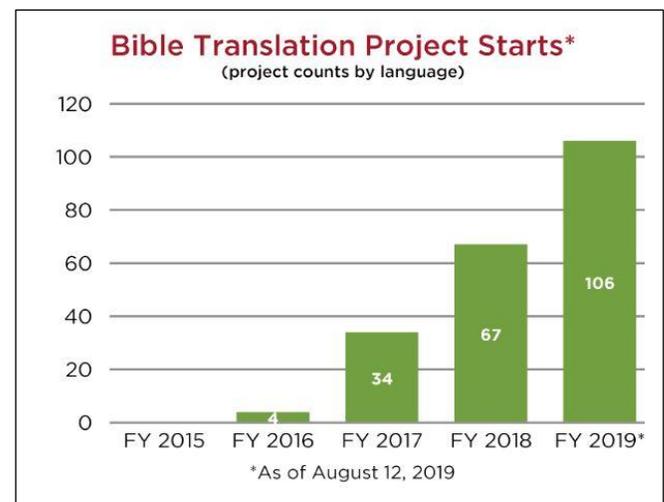
I wish you could meet some of the stellar young Wycliffe leaders stepping into positions now vacated by retirees - it fills us with confidence and hope!

What a privilege it was to join our new President, Jon Chesnut, and others in Stone Mountain, Georgia! Our Senior Philanthropy Advisor team met with other teams to learn how we can work more effectively together.

After daily meetings full of exciting and helpful information, we also enjoyed visiting the historic Stone Mountain national park and getting to know one another. Most of us work remotely, so we regularly see faces on a computer screen, but spending time together really helps disbursed teams work well.

### New Translation "project starts" Skyrocket

One mind-blowing report from our meetings thrills my heart. The chart below shows the number of new translation projects that started over the past four years since Wycliffe implemented our current strategy.



The whole process relies on local leaders to decide on priorities and staffing. If Jim and I were working in a field project today, we would serve as consultants, advisors, and helpers to local translators. We would not be doing the translation ourselves.

Instead, the Bible translation organization representative asks a gathering of community leaders to identify their most pressing social issues -- what plagues their everyday lives? It could be anything from dishonesty to retribution to unstable marriages. Then they discuss a few books of the Bible that speak to those specific issues. The community leaders decide which books to translate. Then a three-year timeline with a reporting framework is laid out and together they choose staff members. After local translators are trained, the project begins. Near the end of the project, another meeting takes place to evaluate whether or not the community wants additional books translated into their language.

As you might imagine, because God's Word brings positive transformation in areas of real need right from the very beginning, community leaders and translation teams usually eagerly continue -- they want more Scripture! This begins a second round of meetings to decide what books to translate next.

### **This couldn't happen with you, Partners!**

If you have a few minutes, please enjoy the short video at <https://www.wycliffe.org/featured/empowering-families-for-lasting-change>. I LOVE the message and think you'll be encouraged to see the way that Scripture and literacy are empowering entire families, giving them a future and a hope. Through your prayer and financial partnership, you are doing significant Kingdom work!



Senior Philanthropy Team in Part, after Meetings

### **Praise and Prayer Requests**

- Praise God for the great acceleration of Bible translation starts!
- Praise the Lord for such quality young Christians stepping into leadership roles in Wycliffe!
- Our daughter, Liz, is seeing incremental improvements to her long-term illness. Praise the Lord that she can return to Stanford University's Autonomic Disorders Clinic at the end of the year. Please continue praying for further healing.
- My (Dorothea) eyes are still painful and blurry. Please ask God to give the corneal specialist wisdom in figuring out what is wrong and finding a remedy so that I can continue this ministry -- it requires a lot of computer screen time. We have been asking God for His healing touch.

From the desert in Northern Kenya to the Pacific NW, Jim and Dorothea have served in Bible Translation for over 35 years. To partner with them through giving, you may send funds to Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628299, Orlando, FL 32862-8200, with a *separate note saying that you prefer it be applied to the Wycliffe ministry of Jim and Dorothea Lander (221845)*. You can also give online at <https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/CACE59> or call toll free (800) 992-5433 and ask to speak with staff in Donor Relations. They can help you set up recurring gifts, an electronic funds transfer or another option. (Jim & Dorothea 16573 SE Widgeon Ln, Damascus Oregon 97089)