

**AUTUMN 2015**

## **Portrait of Bible Translation**

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**COVER PICTURE**

Painting by Ben Rupp from Wycliffe  
USA. To watch the video based around  
this painting, visit [www.wycliffe.org.au/advocatesvideo](http://www.wycliffe.org.au/advocatesvideo)



# EDITORIAL

## You Fit in God's Picture

*God has given each of you a gift... Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)*

The body of Christ, just like a human body, is made up of many parts which enable it to function as it should (1 Cor 12:17-20). When we use the gifts God has given us to serve Him and each other, we bring Him glory (1 Pet 4:10-11). Could God do the work Himself? Of course! But He chooses to work through His people (Eph 2:10). Living lives committed to making disciples (Matt 28:16-20) means finding our unique place in the beautiful and timeless picture God is painting in His world.



It takes a wide variety of people to complete the picture. But nobody can take your place. You have unique gifts to contribute and a distinct role to play which only you can fill. There is a team that needs you to work together to reach people with the news that God loves them. All you have to do is be willing to let God use you - just the way He created you.

To reach the 180 million people across the world waiting for God's Word, Wycliffe needs people willing to give of their time and gifts to be used by God. He often calls us in unexpected ways, to tasks we never could have seen ourselves doing.

On the following three pages we share stories of five ordinary people who found their unique place in Wycliffe. We also introduce you to Cameron Townsend, the man who started it all.

To explore the world of Bible Translation further, take a walk through the forest on pages 6 and 7 to find out where you fit in the world of mission.

God bless!

Deb.  
*Deborah Tan, Youth and Young Adults Ministry*

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### Want to participate in the Bible translation movement?

Help us spread the word in your cell group, church, prayer group, and with your friends.

Resources can be downloaded at [wycliffe.org.au/advocatespack](http://wycliffe.org.au/advocatespack) or email Deb for a USB at [missional-engagement@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:missional-engagement@wycliffe.org.au).



# I Finally Met Cameron!

By Kobus Conradie

**Recently I had the privilege of meeting the most remarkable young man! Cameron, or Cam as his friends called him, was only 21 when he went to Guatemala on a 'gap year' to sell Spanish Bibles and tracts, and tell the Guatemalan Indians about Jesus and salvation.**

Young Cam was so deeply touched by the needs of the people he met that he decided to stay longer. One year became two, then three, then four... Eventually Cam devoted his entire life to serving the spiritual and physical needs of minority language groups.

Yes, the young man whom God had led to Guatemala in 1917 was the visionary who would one day establish Wycliffe Bible Translators.

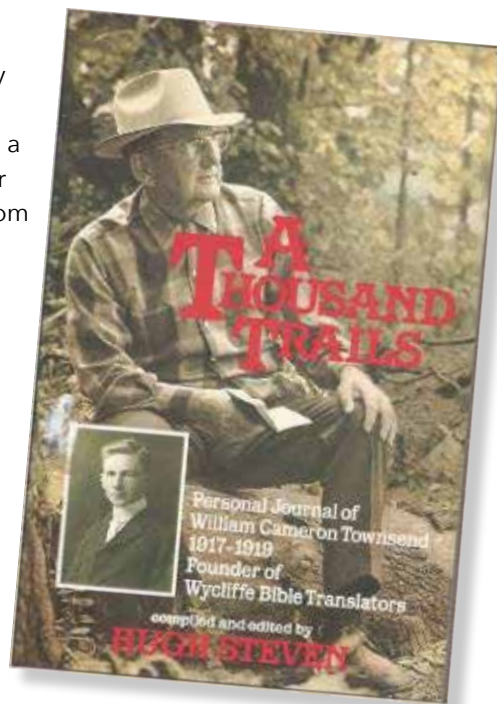
I met Cameron Townsend when I chanced upon a copy of *A Thousand Trails*, a book about his travels in 1917-1919. Captivated by Cam's story, I found five more books about his life and work.

*Uncle Cam* by James and Marti Hefley and *Cameron Townsend* by Janet and Geoff Bengé both tell the story of Cameron Townsend in a single volume, while the other four cover distinct periods in his life, from 1917 until his death in 1984.

I've met many Wycliffe members serving in all sorts of roles both in Australia and abroad. I love listening to their stories and hearing how they became missionaries. As I journeyed with Cameron through his life story I realised that his vision and values are alive in the Wycliffe members around me.

And the heart of a young Cameron Townsend who went out in 1917 is alive in the young people who are still joining every year - almost a century after Cam's 'gap year' - to serve where the Word of God is needed.

Why don't you meet him for yourself? We have two of the six books on Cameron Townsend's life



available for sale (see p12).

\*Four books covering stages in the life of Cameron Townsend are unfortunately all out of print. They are *A Thousand Trails* (1984); *Wycliffe in the Making* (1995); *A Doorway to the World* (1999) and *Yours to Finish the Task* (2004).

Anyone with copies of these works who would like to donate them for resale can mail them to the Wycliffe Bookroom, 70 Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground, VIC 3097.

## Our Best Excuses Backfired

David & Rebecca\* - *Serving in South Asia*

\*pseudonyms

**David:** I always thought that I could never learn a foreign language. In fact, I even signed up for a week-long language and culture learning course ('Probe') to prove that I was no good at languages. That way I'd have an excuse to not go to a non-English speaking part of the world!

Well, it turns out I was wrong. I realised that not only could I learn a foreign language, but I actually enjoyed it. At the end of the week when assessments were handed out, mine said, 'You could do something like Bible translation. You have all the right skills'.

**Rebecca:** I had no interest in Bible translation. As an extrovert, I love sharing my life with people. The thought of sitting and analysing the technicalities of Greek and Hebrew texts was not appealing! But then I met people just like me who were involved in Bible translation.

They showed me that producing a clear and accurate translation of the Bible is really all about getting alongside people and being a part of seeing God change lives. That's when I realised that Bible translation is something that needs all sorts of people, including me, and that I had a really vital part to play.

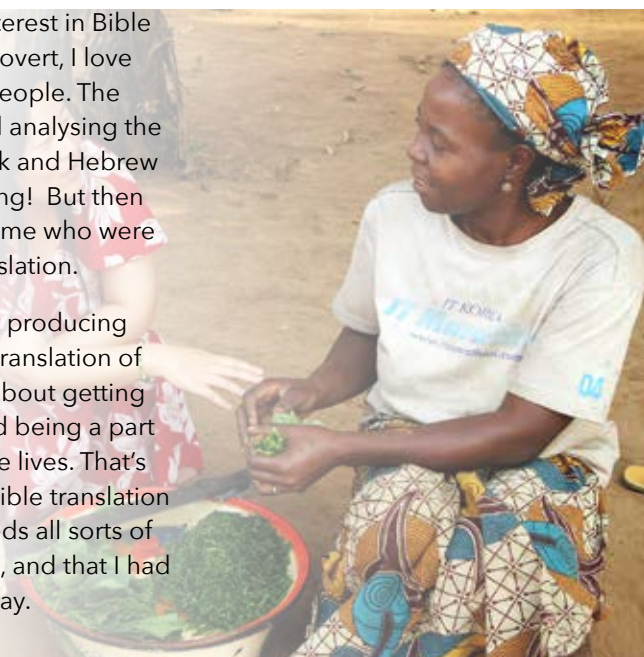


Photo by Heather Pubols

# God Spared My Life for a Reason

*Kanytjupayi Armstrong  
Mother-tongue translator for  
the Pitjantjatjara language (Australia)*

I often wondered why God spared my life. After my parents both died in a measles epidemic in the 1950s, it was up to my mother's sister to feed me. However, due to an accident in a fire, she had only one breast from which to feed her own baby. So missionaries kept me alive by providing lots of goat's milk for our family.

I grew up well, got married and had six children. But in my 30s I had an encounter with Jesus that changed my life.

Later on, when Wycliffe Translator Ann Eckert asked church leaders who they thought would make a suitable co-translator, they enthusiastically recommended me. They knew me to be a true disciple. Ann and I did not know each other at the time, so our beginning was somewhat tentative, but it grew into strong teamwork.



In the depths of my heart, I knew that this was why my life had been spared. Being a Bible translator was my purpose in God's Kingdom. I was eager to learn.

Translation was my mission and

continues to be to this day, despite being on kidney dialysis and having declining eyesight. I not only translate Scripture by writing it down, but I also want to translate it by living happily and obediently to God.

## Our Churches Kept Us Going

*Warren and Jessie Glover - Translators, South Asia*

Without the backing of our supporters, we couldn't have done the work God called us to do over the past 50 years in South Asia with Wycliffe.

Two wonderful Anglican churches (St Michael's, Wollongong, and St Mark's, West Wollongong) have faithfully lived out Paul's exhortation to pray for missionaries so that God's Word is made effective and glorified in the lives of believers (2 Thess 3:1).

We truly depended on their prayers and encouragement, as well as their

financial support, so that we could give ourselves fully to the work that we, and they, were called to.

For five decades, these churches have continued to remember us and support us, even offering very practical provision when God knew we needed it most. They have felt involved in our ministry and appreciated knowing how to pray for us by receiving our newsletters.

It is very apparent that mission lies at the heart of these congregations. They have always valued the

teaching of Scripture and have been passionate about making God's Word accessible to those without it. Realising that they are part of God's Kingdom work has stimulated and sustained their interest in mission, which in turn has blessed us immeasurably.

People there in Wollongong often tell us, 'You've done such wonderful work. What good people you are'. But we keep trying to tell them, 'What wonderful people you are!'

# God Could Never Use a Dog Trainer in Missions

Mark Van Rossen - Served with SIL PNG 2004 - 2014



I never wanted to be a missionary. My life was on track. I had a job I loved: training dogs for deaf people. But for some reason I signed up for a Wycliffe mission simulation event. The leader told us, 'It doesn't matter what you do; we can use you in missions.'

A smile crossed my face. 'I'm a dog trainer', I said. 'Can you use me?' He thought for a second and replied, 'We can't use a dog trainer, but we could use you in some other way.' I was right - there was no place for me in missions.

However, after being challenged by a sermon on the rich young man who refused Jesus' call, I studied at



Bible College and had the privilege of attending a Bible dedication in Papua New Guinea where I sensed God's call to join the work.

I heard about a need for managers at the SIL regional centre in Lae (PNG) and realised I could fill that need, freeing translators to focus on their calling. Part of my role was to establish good relationships with the local police.

One day I saw some new faces and discovered they were a brand new

unit - a police dog unit. They had only received nine weeks of training and felt unequipped to manage or care for the dogs. What a joy it was to invite them to my house and share what I had learned years before as a specialist police dog trainer.

Our friendship grew and, over time, with the help of those men and their dogs, security issues at our small centre decreased. Years later, I am still amazed at how God could use even a dog trainer in missions!

# God Unearthed My Hidden Talents

Deb Tan - Serving at Wycliffe Australia National Centre



I'm a city girl. Jungles, insects and anything involving physical activity are not my thing. So, early on, I decided I was just not cut out for cross-cultural mission work.

Ironically, I ended up chairing a

committee for a conference on cross-cultural mission! Twelve years on, I often chuckle when I think about how God has guided me. It was my love for organising camps that had me involved in that first conference, which in turn opened my heart to mission.

I wondered how I, a pharmacist, could actually play a part in mission work. After overcoming those initial struggles, however, I discovered that I could use my God-given gifts of administration and event management right here in Australia to contribute towards Bible translation.

In the past four years that I've been with Wycliffe, further skills that I never knew I had have been unearthed and developed in ways I never could have dreamed. I even overcame my aversion to the outdoors by joining a Wycliffe short-term trip; sleeping in a tent in the Australian outback!

Looking back, I did not always understand why God was leading me in certain directions. But I'm thankful to have been proven wrong about my (un)suitability for God's mission in this world!

**THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU  
IN BIBLE TRANSLATION.  
LET'S FIND IT TOGETHER**



There are so many great ways you can contribute to the world of mission. Everyone's journey is unique, so we've listed a few steps you might find helpful.

**Wycliffe**  
Bible Translators



BEGIN

I'm interested in mission but not quite sure about anything else.

If this is you, that's great! Many people begin their journey this way. Begin a conversation  & do some research. 

I don't feel like I have the right type of personality for translation work.

We're close to retirement and feel it is time for a career change.

Wycliffe welcomes your wealth of experience! Let's talk about short or long term options both here in Australia and overseas.



I am committed to being in Australia due to circumstances.

Everyone participates in God's mission in a different way. Wycliffe takes your circumstances into account including health restrictions, needs to look after ageing parents etc. Needing to stay in Australia doesn't preclude you from participating in Bible translation or mission work so don't rule yourself out!  

## BEGIN A CONVERSATION

It helps to talk to someone, whether it is a family member, friend, mentor, or pastor. It's a good idea to include someone who has some experience in the area that you are hoping to explore, like another missionary. One of our Wycliffe representatives would love to catch up for a coffee, get to know your story and prayerfully journey with you.

## DO SOME RESEARCH

Want to find out more about Wycliffe?


- Check out our website [wycliffe.org.au](http://wycliffe.org.au) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/wycliffeaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/wycliffeaustralia)
- Have a look at the books at our Bookroom [wycliffe.org.au/resources/](http://wycliffe.org.au/resources/)
- Contact our Wycliffe reps so they can put you in contact with people already involved in mission and translation.



## TEST THE WATERS

Get to know Wycliffe through a range of short experiences such as:

- Short-term trips (1-3 weeks) such as MAD Safari which takes you around Australia
- Work teams (1-4 weeks), where we send a team to help with a particular project
- Probe, a 3 to 5 day language and culture experience to find out if translation and language-related work is a potential path for you




I like the idea of Bible translation but I've never learnt another language and my previous study is in a totally different field.

Guess what? There is a wide range of meaningful roles in the world of Bible translation. But don't be too quick to rule out language related work, some of our most successful language workers have been plumbers, professional drummers, engineers etc. To find out more, why not participate in some obligation free, ☺ test-the-waters type activities.


Want something more?

- Summer School - a 6 week intensive held in Jan-Feb each year which equips you for any kind of cross-cultural work with skills in learning language and cultural awareness
- Short-term experiences longer than a month may be available



I'm studying linguistics now and I'm sold on Bible translation. What should I do next?

We can't wait to catch up so do get in touch ☺. We strongly recommend doing Summer School and possibly some other ☺ test-the-waters experiences.



I think translation is great, but my real passion is helping people develop and grow.

That's brilliant! Translation is all about helping people to grow and you might find you thrive as a translation facilitator. You may also like to investigate other development roles such as teaching, literacy, and training. Talk to us ☺ and find out which test-the-water activities ☺ might be most suitable.

Ready to begin a conversation?

Email [info@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:info@wycliffe.org.au)

Text 'Connect' to 0432 578 184

Phone (03) 9712 2720

Or scan the QR Code



# Is This for Me?

Graham R. Scott

After eight years of trying to find a good fit, God led us into Wycliffe. We later faced a change of direction from West Africa to South-East Asia, and had to wrestle with discerning what context would suit us.

More recently, health issues have challenged us to again ask God what His good fit is for us. But through it all, we remain confident that God will guide and lead us. Not that we have always felt 100% certain about our decisions. But we have definitely felt the Lord prompting and leading us at each stage of our journey.

In Scripture, God guides His people through:

**His Word with the Spirit's help.** The principles in God's Word light our paths (Psalm 119:105).

**The gathered church.** There is a consistent pattern of faithful believers appointing others for ministry and mission (Acts 13:1-2; 14:23; 2 Cor 8:19; Tit 1:5).

**Events and circumstance.**

A shipwreck may seem like an accident for the apostle Paul, but God used it to lead him into ministry in Malta (Acts 27:27-44). In the wilderness Philip met the Ethiopian man who had been forced to leave Jerusalem due to persecution (Acts 8:26-40). Through the poverty and needs of the early church, the apostles were led by God to appoint the first deacons to serve the family of believers (Acts 6:1-6).

**Wisdom.** God's people need wisdom to live godly lives in a challenging world. Old Testament books like Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, and the faithful lives of Esther and Daniel, demonstrate how God gives practical wisdom for daily life to people who desire to know Him.

**A whole variety of other ways.**

We see this through Scripture - God even used a speaking donkey (Num 22:28-30)! He is a great God who is interested in each person and patiently prompts and nudges us as we need.

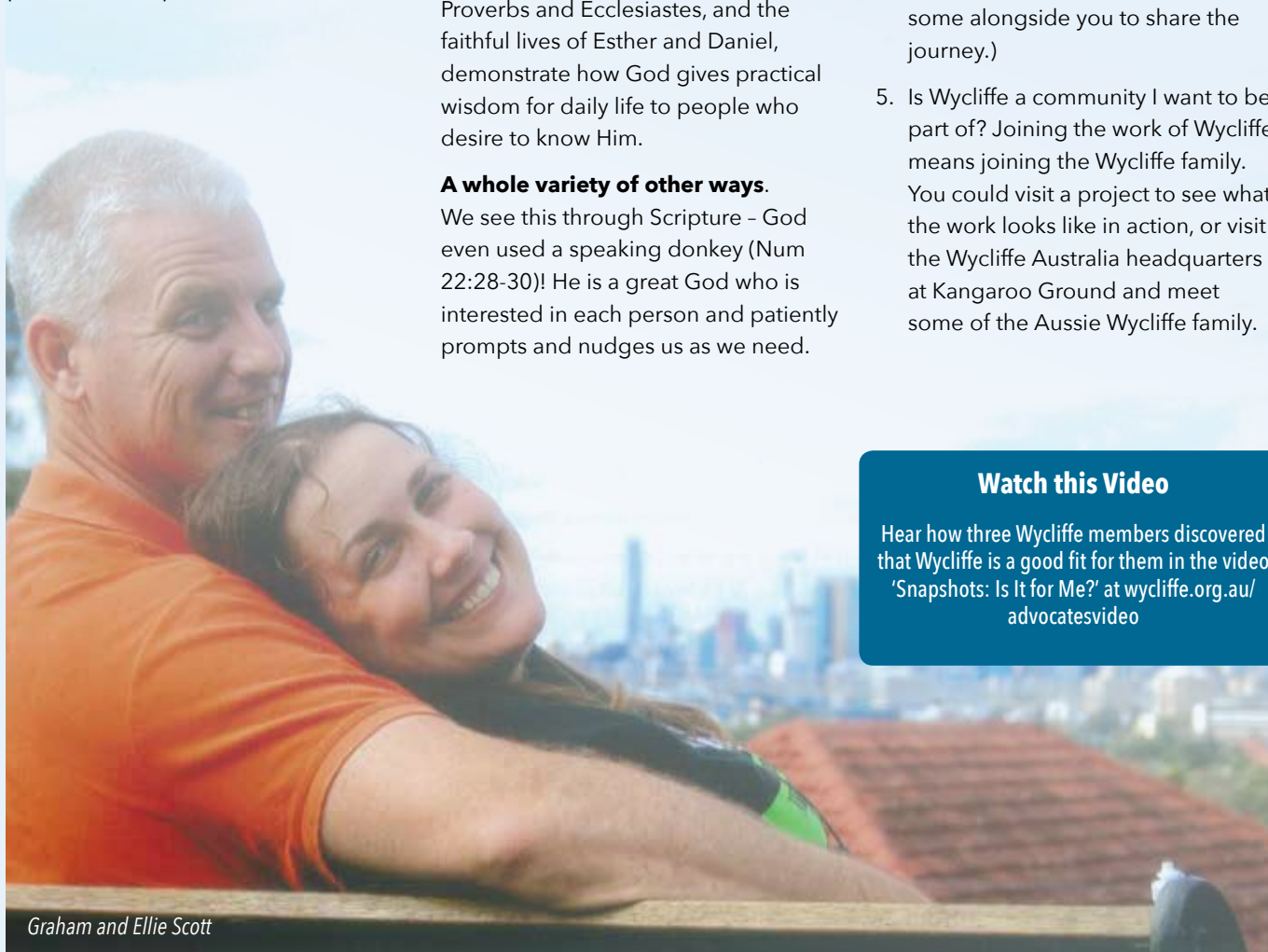
**So how can you discern if Wycliffe will be a good fit for you?**

Begin by asking yourself these questions:

1. What gifts, abilities and skills has God given me that I can contribute?
2. Do I long to see disciples of Jesus from minority language groups of the world grow through the Scriptures in their heart language?
3. Do I desire to serve the Wycliffe community and local communities around the world by walking alongside, training, supporting, and encouraging in practical ways?
4. Are there believers in my life who are supportive of cross-cultural mission and willing to pray for and advise me? (If not, ask God to bring some alongside you to share the journey.)
5. Is Wycliffe a community I want to be part of? Joining the work of Wycliffe means joining the Wycliffe family. You could visit a project to see what the work looks like in action, or visit the Wycliffe Australia headquarters at Kangaroo Ground and meet some of the Aussie Wycliffe family.

**Watch this Video**

Hear how three Wycliffe members discovered that Wycliffe is a good fit for them in the video 'Snapshots: Is It for Me?' at [wycliffe.org.au/advocatesvideo](http://wycliffe.org.au/advocatesvideo)



Graham and Ellie Scott





# Reflecting on Summer School

Sam and Marita Verlaan, from Mount Isa, Queensland, are hoping to head to Papua New Guinea (PNG) with Wycliffe this year to help at the SIL centre in Ukarumpa. Sam will be working as a diesel mechanic and Marita will be clinic business manager and dietician. We asked Sam and Marita to reflect on their experience at SIL Australia's 2015 six-week Summer School, recently completed at the Wycliffe National Centre.

## 1. Why did you decide to attend Summer School?

**Sam:** Originally we didn't think it'd be worthwhile. But Barry Borneman (Wycliffe Australia CEO) encouraged us to trust in God to provide, and we decided to give it a go.

**Marita:** My personal decision was made gradually, through some challenging sermons on walking in faith and realising that the course would equip us for years to come.

## 2. Did you have any fears or reservations about doing the course?

**Sam:** I'm not very academic. I'm used to working in my trade - not sitting in lectures and doing assignments. It was intense, but those around me were always happy to help.

**Marita:** Apart from some 'schoolgirl French', I'd never learned another language. But the course helped me understand how I learn and to apply what I learned - all in an encouraging environment.

## 3. What is your best memory from Summer School?

**Sam:** The community between students and lecturers. The skit night at the end was a great memory to go away with!

**Marita:** Forming relationships with those on a similar path to us.

## 4. Was it worth spending six weeks at Summer School for a one-year stint in PNG?

**Sam:** We gained a wealth of information and experience that has set us up for a long future in cross-cultural mission.

**Marita:** I wish I'd had training like this in my previous ministry. I have no doubt it's an investment for the rest of our lives.

## Summer School - What's that?

For eighty years, prospective missionaries have been attending Summer School as they set out on their journey. Wycliffe's founder, Cameron Townsend, held the first Summer School with two students in 1934. The training equipped them with skills necessary for learning unwritten, complex languages.

However, this sort of vital linguistic training was not available anywhere in Australia. In order to fill the desperate need, the first Summer School in Australia was held in 1950. To this day, the SIL Australia Summer School continues to be of great value to people from a range of mission organisations seeking a firm foundation for understanding cross-cultural mission work. At Summer School students acquire the skills and confidence to embrace the language and culture of the people with whom they will be working.



## Next Summer School - Jan 2016!

For more information go to [silaustralia.org.au/training/course/summer\\_school](http://silaustralia.org.au/training/course/summer_school)

# One Step in the Bigger Picture of Bible Translation – Project Funding

Many steps are involved in translating Scripture into an unwritten language. It takes various activities and ministries all working together to make Bible translation happen throughout the world. Projects are one part of the bigger picture. Many of Wycliffe Australia's projects are ongoing multi-year projects, and each contributes to the task. Together they form a ministry with vast, immeasurable potential, which grows as people learn of God's love through His transforming message in their own language.

Thank you for considering taking a step with us today by supporting one of the projects below.

## PROJECT NO. 8315

### LAMA WHOLE BIBLE COMPLETION

**Togo, Benin, \$14,800**

The goal of this project is to complete the translation of the Old Testament, revise the New Testament translation, and publish the whole Bible for the Lama people. The Lama churches believe that having the entire Bible in the language the Lama people properly understand will lead to spiritual nourishment.

The team's aim for 2015 is to produce more Scripture portions and promote the use of Scripture. They plan to create a Lama website to allow the wider Lama community and Lama diaspora to know about the translation work, have access to the translation and support their own language projects.

## PROJECT NO. 8321

### KON\* BIBLE TRANSLATION

**East Asia, \$29,600**

This project, given the pseudonym 'Kon' for security reasons, focuses on a large language group in East Asia made up of half a million speakers. Wycliffe Australia is a long term partner.

In a cooperative venture with local Christians, the project aims to complete the translation of the New Testament and parts of the Old Testament. Rural churches, many quite isolated, will not only have God's Word in their own language, but will be provided with tools which encourage their understanding and use of Scripture.

*\* pseudonym*

## PROJECT NO. 8344

### VANUATU BIBLE TRANSLATION

**Vanuatu, \$8,900**

Approximately 80 languages in Vanuatu still do not have translated Scriptures. This project seeks to develop key leaders of the national organisation, Vanuatu Bible Translation (VBT).

The goal of VBT is to support existing Bible translation projects, initiate new ones, and interact with local churches in order to gain their support and real engagement in the task.

**PROJECT NO. 8371**

**KARTIDAYA PARTNERSHIP**

**Indonesia, \$29,600**

Our Indonesian partner Bible translation organisation, Kartidaya, is expanding. Through this partnership it has been mobilising churches and Bible colleges in Indonesia towards greater involvement in the ministry of Bible translation through prayer, funding and personnel.

As a neighbouring partner, Wycliffe Australia is committed to helping Kartidaya achieve its visionary goals. Kartidaya is seeking to attain a larger base of contacts, donors and workers who share its vision as it engages the local church in starting translation in an additional 58 languages over the next number of years.

**PROJECT NO. 8328**

**CAMBODIA - TRAINING CONSULTANTS**

**Cambodia, \$5,850**

Six Bible translation projects are currently underway in the predominantly Buddhist nation of Cambodia. The Cambodian church is only young and needs support.

One thing holding back translation progress is the lack of translation consultants. This project will enable a husband and wife translation consultant team to travel to Cambodia in order

to support the six projects. They will facilitate peer checking of translations across languages, assist three trainee consultants, and continue to mentor another translator who has recently become a consultant. One specific translation project which is nearing completion will also be directly helped.

**PROJECT NO. 8329**

**BUNONG NEW TESTAMENT TRANSLATION PROGRAM**

**South-East Asia, \$5,750**

The Bunong people are a minority ethnic group who live in isolated areas of Cambodia. God willing, the Bunong New Testament will be typeset in September 2015 and dedicated in February 2016.

The focus of the Bunong translation team this year is to have a church review committee finalise the checking of the translated Scriptures. They will be promoting the reading of Scripture and the training of Bible study leaders. Two full-time staff members, who are potential church leaders in the next five years, are encouraging the use of the translated Scriptures in various church ministries.

**PROJECT NO. 8937**

**CURRICULUM PUBLICATION FOR REMOTE MINORITY CHILDREN**

**Asia, \$13,000 (Tax deductible as part of the SILA Overseas Aid and Development Fund)**

In the country where this project is based, large numbers of minority people live in remote mountainous regions. They face many difficulties including poverty and separation from national life due to language and culture.

A pilot bilingual education preschool has been started in one of these remote villages, using modern teaching techniques adapted to the local culture. Lessons are initially delivered in the local minority language, with the national language later introduced to prepare students for standard primary school.

The program has been so successful that local attitudes towards education have dramatically changed. The local government wants to see the pilot program expand much more widely. However, the curriculum first needs to be published as a key part of the national registration process, and this project will make it possible.

**To support a project, please complete the enclosed coupon and return in the addressed envelope.**

**Alternatively please go to [wycliffe.org.au/donate](http://wycliffe.org.au/donate) or email [projects@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:projects@wycliffe.org.au)**



*Site of the Curriculum Publication for Minority Children project.*

# Meet Uncle Cam for Yourself!

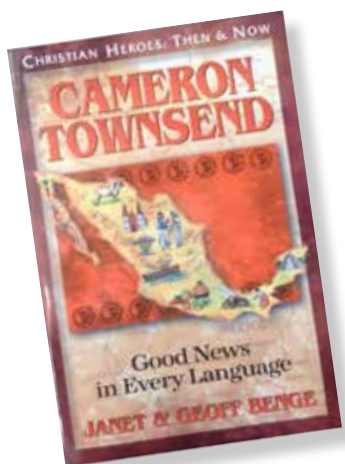
To order, please complete the enclosed form and return it in the addressed envelope.

## CAMERON TOWNSEND: GOOD NEWS IN EVERY LANGUAGE By Janet & Geoff Bengé

Part of a series ('Christian Heroes: Then & Now') of inspirational true stories about ordinary people who responded to God's extraordinary call on their lives.

*The Cakchiquel man became indignant when Cam offered him a tract in Spanish. "Do you have one in Cakchiquel?" he asked. "There are none, I'm sorry", replied Cam. "Well", retorted the man. "If your God is so great, why can't he speak my language?"*

Through a number of short, readable stories this book recounts Townsend's call to translate the Bible into the language of his Guatemalan friends. Readers will be quickly drawn in by this authentic story of perseverance and God's faithfulness in the midst of trials. Be challenged by Townsend's testimony of how God used an average man to bring into being the now international organisation of Wycliffe.



**\$11.75**

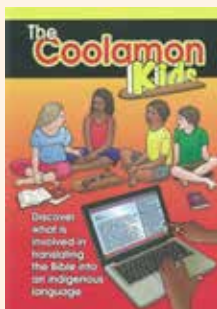
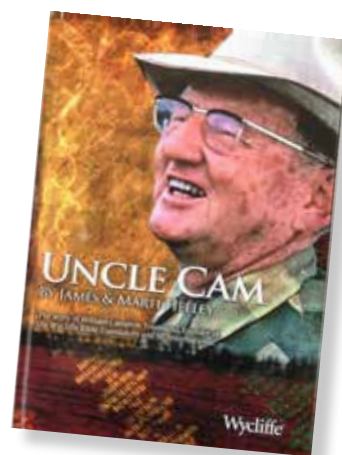
## UNCLE CAM By James & Marti Hefley

This fascinating biographical account of Wycliffe and SIL International founder William Cameron Townsend depicts a life of remarkable faith and dedication to answering God's call. Townsend's determination to stay in Guatemala, despite being dismissed by local missionaries as being destined to fail, exemplifies how God chooses the foolish and weak things of the world to shame the wise and strong (1 Cor 1:27).

From his initial experiences of learning an unwritten language to translating the Bible into the language of the Cakchiquel Indians, Uncle Cam's untiring efforts to bring the Word of God to people across the world in their own language are brought to light in this book.

Based on nine years of research and many interviews with those who knew him personally, *Uncle Cam* encapsulates the trials and triumphs of this unlikely hero's life.

**\$22.00**



### Free with every order! THE COOLAMON KIDS

Discover what is involved in translating the Bible into an indigenous language. A new children's activity book published by Bible Society Australia and Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Ngarrindjeri Scriptures and the 60th anniversary of Wycliffe in Australia. Suitable for children aged approximately 9-15 years old. Great for adults too!

**Free with every order, or \$5.00 on its own.**



Good News in Anyone's Language  
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