

# Wycliffe *today*



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I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
for to you I entrust my life.

(Psalm 143:8)

## WINTER 2016

- › Discerning God's call
- › Getting equipped for ministry
- › Stories from the field
- › Upcoming events
- › Courses, trips and internships



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**Member of Bible Agencies Australia**

**COVER PICTURE**

Design: 'Return Home' by Peter Brook.  
When Peter Brook started with Wycliffe, he could not have imagined how God would use his background in fine arts. After 10 years as a literacy consultant in PNG, however, Peter moved into a new ministry called 'ethnoarts' and began encouraging artists to use their local art forms to express theological concepts in culturally relevant ways. To see more of Peter's work, go to [peterbrookarts.com](http://peterbrookarts.com)



## EDITORIAL

### Hearing from Jesus

Our journey through life with Jesus is often a series of actions and reflections. As we take certain actions which give flesh and bone to our thoughts, we learn more about who God is, who we are, and what He might want of us. Reflecting on this naturally leads to further action.

This edition of *Wycliffe Today* details some of those actions and reflections which have led a new generation of Australian Christians to make their contribution to the Bible translation movement. As you read their stories, reflect on your own gifts and life experience. Then ask the question, *What is it that you want of me, Jesus?*

Often the answer comes through a series of small steps, rather than one big step. As we open our ears to what Jesus is saying at each step, unexpected possibilities often evolve down the track. This is your journey of faith. Enjoy it. Be surprised by it. And live it out hand in hand with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Barry Borneman, Wycliffe Australia CEO*



Barry & Marg Borneman

### Hot off the press!

The Gela and Bunong New Testaments were both dedicated in May. Watch the dedication videos now at:

[wycliffe.org.au/the-gela-story/dedication](http://wycliffe.org.au/the-gela-story/dedication)  
[wycliffe.org.au/the-bunong-story/dedication](http://wycliffe.org.au/the-bunong-story/dedication)



## 'CAN YOU BE MY AUSSIE FRIEND?' SEMINAR

You are invited to a half-day seminar where experienced practitioners will share principles to help you and your church go further and deeper in building cross-cultural friendships.

If you are involved in English conversation classes, are a part of a multicultural church, or have a heart for strangers and refugees, this seminar is for you.

**Date:** Saturday 3 September

**Time:** 9.30am registration and coffee for a 10am start. Will finish at 1pm with a light lunch (optional)

**Venue:** Wycliffe National Centre

**Cost:** \$10.00

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

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## OPEN HEART - Open doors



By Louise Bettison



Kathy

**A**s a committed Christian with a degree in linguistics, but no idea what she wanted to do with her life, Kathy's Dad decided to head to Bolivia.

She enjoyed her six months there but was reluctant about being based so far from Australia. Confronting stories about persecuted Christians which she heard through her work with Christian organisation Open Doors, however, challenged her perspective and drove her to consider full-time ministry.

Acting on her interest in Bible translation, Kathy enrolled in the year-long Wycliffe translation course and was accepted as a Wycliffe member late in 2015. She is now continuing to equip herself for service by studying at Sydney Missionary and Bible College.

The 28-year-old anticipates serving in northern Australia, following a passion for seeing Aboriginal people access the Bible in their heart languages.

*Pray for Kathy: That God uses her time at Bible college to develop her skills, knowledge and spiritual maturity, and opens doors for her future assignment.*

This is an abridged version of Kathy's story. To read the rest, or to connect with Kathy, go to [wycliffe.org.au/open-heart-open-doors](http://wycliffe.org.au/open-heart-open-doors)

## Have a coffee with a State Rep

Interested in mission? Start the ball rolling by having a coffee and chat with a Wycliffe representative in your state. Email [info@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:info@wycliffe.org.au) or call (03) 9712 2777.

Tasmania has a new State Representative - Noel Carpenter. Noel and his wife Catharine have worked with Wycliffe since 2004 in northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. To connect with Noel, call him on 0455 476 292 or email [tasro@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:tasro@wycliffe.org.au)



BEGIN A CONVERSATION

## Come explore the world of Wycliffe

Ever wondered what Bible translation really looks like in the 21st century and how your gifts and skills might be used in Wycliffe? Find out at our *Explore Wycliffe Day* on Saturday 8 October from 10am-4pm.

For more details, go to [wycliffe.org.au/event/explore-wycliffe-day](http://wycliffe.org.au/event/explore-wycliffe-day), email [vicro@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:vicro@wycliffe.org.au) or call (03) 9712 2720.



DO SOME RESEARCH



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Have I missed out?

By Belinda Fox

**C**hildhood memories of life in the Philippines are still fresh in the mind of Wycliffe Australia board member David Grayden. His was an upbringing most of us can only imagine.

It was in the Philippines, where his parents were Bible translators, that David developed a strong belief in the spiritual world and taught himself computer programming. He would devour the Dick Smith catalogues his grandmother sent.

During his university years, David felt increasingly convinced about doing mission work in China. God

had other plans, however, which developed into an illustrious career.

What became of his dream of serving in China? 'Even though I think most of the steps I've taken in terms of my career have been the right ones', David explains, 'I have always felt this doubt in the back of my mind - have I missed out on the mission work?'

Not at all. God has given David the unique privilege of serving on the Wycliffe Australia board for the past eight years. 'I'm really happy to be on the board', David says. 'I feel like I'm part of the organisation.'



David

To read the full version of this story, go to [wycliffe.org.au/have-i-missed-out](http://wycliffe.org.au/have-i-missed-out)

## WALK WITH A WYCLIFFE MENTOR – MTS APPRENTICESHIPS

*If a person wants to be a farmer... They need to head off first to a farm and work alongside an experienced farmer for a couple of years (Ben Pfahlert, MTS Director).*

We are excited to announce a new joint venture between Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) and Wycliffe Australia, designed to allow people interested in exploring full-time ministry to get a feel for mission work in both church and cross-cultural ministry contexts. Find out more at [wycliffe.org.au/join-us/internships/mts](http://wycliffe.org.au/join-us/internships/mts)

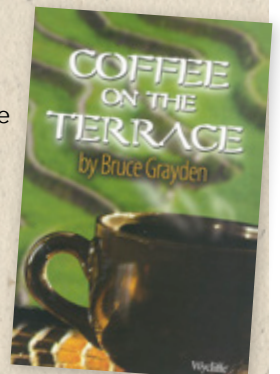


MTS

TEST THE WATERS

## Stories to inspire you on your journey

David Grayden's father, Bruce, wrote a book about the joys and dangers of living amongst the Kalinga people of the northern Philippines as they worked to translate the New Testament. 'Coffee on the Terrace' is available from our Bookroom, along with other great titles. See the order form enclosed with this publication, or go to our website: [wycliffe.org.au/resources/#Online-Shop](http://wycliffe.org.au/resources/#Online-Shop)



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2016 Launch students



## A TALE of two students

By Sharna Steinert

**L**aunch (previously *SILA Summer School*) draws people together from all over the world who are heading into different roles. Amongst this diversity, however, as I reflect on my experiences as both a student and teacher at *Launch*, I recognise two types of students.

The first is enthusiastic from the outset. Aware of what a difference their learning will make, they are fascinated by the things they learn. They often have high expectations of themselves, but they realise that their mistakes actually help them become better at communicating and building relationships cross-culturally.

The second type is more apprehensive. Perhaps they are only doing the course to fulfil a requirement. Maybe they

doubt their language ability. However, as they find their rhythm and things start to click, they actually have fun and surprise themselves. Having patient and encouraging teachers who have themselves served overseas in different roles also makes a huge difference. I love seeing how these people grow over the course of the six weeks.

Both types of people face challenges. Yet both arrive at the end of the course equipped with a new skillset and lasting friendships. If you are heading into cross-cultural ministry, whichever of these two types describe you (and anything in between!) I can't recommend *Launch* highly enough.

To enrol for 2017, or for more details, go to [silaustralia.org.au](http://silaustralia.org.au) or call (03) 9712 2601. *Launch* is also having an



Sharna

open day as part of *Explore Wycliffe Day* (see p3) so come along and find out more there.

**Launch**  
your cross-cultural career  
with our language and  
culture course

## Our year IN PNG

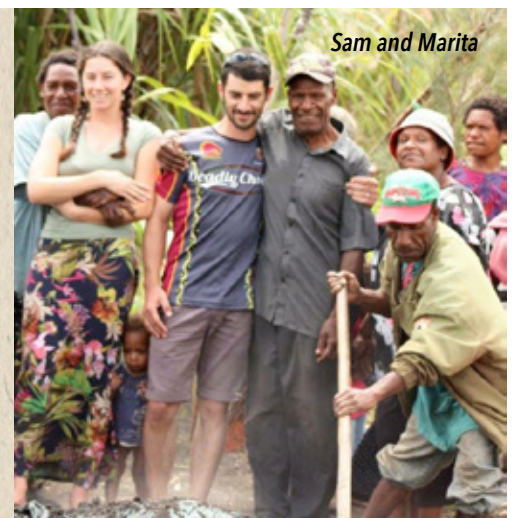
By Belinda Fox

**A**t a time in their lives when God was challenging them about mission, Sam and Marita Verlaan were moved to action by a sermon on Hebrews 11 and a Facebook advertisement.

After completing *Launch* in 2015, Sam and Marita headed to Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea, for a year. Sam's skills as a diesel mechanic and Marita's organisational and teaching skills were put to good use in their respective roles.

Through their short-term experience, Sam and Marita learned that being effective in cross-cultural ministry depends on building relationships. They are grateful for the friends they made and for the way God opened their eyes to what He is doing in the world.

See our website for the full interview with Sam and Marita:  
[wycliffe.org.au/our-year-in-PNG](http://wycliffe.org.au/our-year-in-PNG)



Sam and Marita



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## Getting Aussies to read their BIBLES

By Louise Bettison

**I**f not for some startling statistics, Josh Bartlett might still be working as a software developer. For many years he balanced his job in IT with volunteer work for Scripture Union (SU) Queensland.

'Then at a training session, I learnt that few young Australians regularly read their Bible,' Josh said. 'The statistics were dismal, even amongst Christians, and I wondered what I could do about it.'

'I was frustrated spending the best hours of my day in IT, then squishing the things of most significance into

the time left over,' Josh says.

After much prayer, Josh became a Wycliffe member in late 2015. The 30-year-old has recently quit his 'day job' to work on developing the partnership support team he needs to officially start his new Scripture Engagement role in Queensland.

*Pray for Josh: For wisdom as he connects with the people God has prepared to partner with him financially, and that, through his ministry, many more young people in the future will not only read, but understand and apply, God's Word.*



Josh

This is an abridged version of Josh's story. To read the rest, or to connect with Josh, go to [wycliffe.org.au/getting-aussies-reading](http://wycliffe.org.au/getting-aussies-reading)

## Time for a retreat?

**T**here are countless reminders in God's Word about the importance of finding rest in Him, but sometimes I feel that I haven't made this a priority in my life. If you're like me, perhaps it's time for a retreat!

We have opened up the doors of the Wycliffe National Centre for individuals or groups to get away and reconnect with God.

A broad range of accommodation and conference spaces is available, along

with a prayer chapel for focused times of silence, study or contemplation.

The bonus is, by staying at this beautiful property, you are also contributing to Wycliffe's work.

To book, or for more details, go to [wycliffe.org.au/retreats](http://wycliffe.org.au/retreats) or email me, Emily Willetts, at [retreats@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:retreats@wycliffe.org.au)



Emily

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A reflective space





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## Holding on for THE DEAF

By Craig Schneider

**N**ot one single complete Bible exists for the world's 200 million Deaf people in their mother tongue - sign language. And Saul and Rebecca Thurrowgood are committed to doing something about it.

Since 2015, Saul has been pioneering a revolutionary computer software program that is set to transform sign language Bible translation as we know it.

In spite of obstacles they faced in mid-2015, Saul shares that a partnership with the Deaf Bible Society is 'opening up doors that otherwise we didn't really see happening.'

Rebecca has discovered that the key to getting through times of uncertainty is to 'hold on to knowing that God's doing something.'

With the support of friends and church members, Saul and Rebecca will keep striving to empower sign language Bible translators to put Scripture into the hands and hearts of the Deaf.

*Pray for Saul and Rebecca: That God provides another programmer, for the motion capture system they are about to test, and for good relationships with team members despite barriers of distance, time zones, cultures and languages.*

Thurrowgood family



This is an abridged version of the Thurrowgoods' story. To read the rest, or to connect with Saul and Rebecca, go to [wycliffe.org.au/holding-on-for-the-Deaf](http://wycliffe.org.au/holding-on-for-the-Deaf)

## TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED WITH A PROJECT VIDEO INTERNSHIP

Did you know that 70% of the world's unreached people are in Asia? *Project Video* equips and trains local evangelists to make and distribute Christian videos in their own languages.

*Project Video* is looking for interns with a passion for media, administration or hospitality. This is a great short-term opportunity to be immersed in a foreign culture, gain real missions experience, and share your skills.

Find out more at [wycliffe.org.au/join-us/internships/project-video](http://wycliffe.org.au/join-us/internships/project-video) or [www.project-video.org](http://www.project-video.org)



TEST THE WATERS

## Share life with others on the journey

Chat with others interested in cross-cultural ministry at our next *Coffee Conversations* in Melbourne on Saturday 27 August from 3-5pm. Our guest speaker will be Jasmine Ng from *Project Video*.

For more details, go to [wycliffe.org.au/event/coffee-conversations-melbourne](http://wycliffe.org.au/event/coffee-conversations-melbourne), email [vicro@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:vicro@wycliffe.org.au), or call (03) 9712 2720. Read tips for 'what to do when God says wait' from our last *Coffee Conversations* at [wycliffe.org.au/when-God-says-wait](http://wycliffe.org.au/when-God-says-wait)



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The Kungkas' holy mountain  
rises through the mist

I didn't think I could do it

By Louise Bettison

**S**ydney couple Toby and MG will soon pack up their home, farewell family and friends, and take their children back to South Asia. They are starting their second term as translation facilitators among the Kungka\* people of South Asia.

Before they took part in a *Probe* (also known as *Wheel*) course, 'Toby didn't think he could do it,' MG shares.

At the end of the week, however, she was the one questioning whether Bible

translation was for her, while Toby was 'seriously considering' it!

God soon assured MG, too, that 'Bible translation isn't just an academic exercise. It's also helping people grow in Christ.'

Adjusting to life in the Kungka community has not been easy for the family, but their faith has been strengthened. 'It's all about relationships,' MG says. 'We don't want to drive our own agenda, but see what God is doing and be led by Him.'

*Pray for Toby & MG: For God's enabling as their family (including newest member, Trinity) prepares to return to South Asia, that existing relationships on the field will be renewed and strengthened, and for the Kungka translation team.*

This is an abridged version of Toby and MG's story. To read the rest, or to connect with Toby and MG, go to [wycliffe.org.au/didnt-think-i-could](http://wycliffe.org.au/didnt-think-i-could)

\*pseudonym

Test the waters on  
a short-term trip

Short-term trips are a great way to 'test the waters' and get to know what Wycliffe is all about. Here are some on offer:

**MAD Oz:** Northern Territory, June-July

**Proshikkhon:** South Asia, January-February

**Teach English to mother-tongue translators:** South Asia, usually March, June & September

**Work teams:** varied locations, usually in Australia and the Pacific

Find out more about these trips and other short-term opportunities at [wycliffe.org.au/trips](http://wycliffe.org.au/trips)

Wheel - a language  
learning taste test

At *Wheel* (also known as *Probe*), you will get a hands-on experience of learning a new language by reflecting on its sounds and structures, and looking at the culture of those who speak it.

The next *Wheel* course is taking place in Sydney from 28 November to 2 December. For further details go to [wycliffe.org.au/event/wheel](http://wycliffe.org.au/event/wheel) or email [robert\\_love@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:robert_love@wycliffe.org.au)



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