



Wycliffe Today

JULY 2017 / VOL.5 / NO.3 / ISSN 2202-9818

Impact Report 2016

**WINTER
2017**

In this edition:

- » Celebrating the Bantoanon/Asi Scripture dedication
- » Prayer and patience: member stories
- » Just a drop in the ocean? Partner update
- » Key statistics: Scriptures, members, finances

To receive *Wycliffe Today* electronically, email info@wycliffe.org.au

WYCLIFFE TODAY

July 2017, Vol. 5 / No. 3

Published by:

Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia

70 Graham Road

Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097

ABN 22 004 705 953



www.wycliffe.org.au

www.facebook.com/wycliffeaustralia

Enquiries: Editor, *Wycliffe Today*

Ph: (03) 9712 2777

E: communications@wycliffe.org.au

Contributors: Anne & Mark, Louise Bettison, Barry Borneman, Heather Crossley, Kathy, Toby & MG, Greg Fraser, Sue Healey, Julie Mackay, Hester Pike, Hanna Schulz, Sharna Steinert, Deb Tan, Leng Te.

Design: Peter Bergmeier

Print: Classic Press

Cover Photo: Khieven Abellon.
All unattributed stock images courtesy of pixabay.com. Articles may be freely reproduced, but please acknowledge *Wycliffe Today* or its sources as indicated in this publication.



Missions Interlink

Member of Bible Agencies Australia

Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia

National Office

70 Graham Road,

Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097

ABN 22 004 705 953

Ph: (03) 9712 2777

Fax: (03) 9712 2799

Email: info@wycliffe.org.au

www.wycliffe.org.au

Editorial from the CEO

The place of prayer and patience in relating to partner organisations in the Wycliffe Global Alliance.



Patience warns me against moving far too quickly to meet a need, as if 'meeting needs' is the primary reason for our relationship. Patience allows me to go deeper and hear first-hand from leaders what their personal and organisational challenges are.

Prayer moves us to see partners as colleagues, friends and even family. It acknowledges that we together belong to an eternal Kingdom. Praying for leaders of Wycliffe Global Alliance organisations changes how I personally, and Wycliffe Australia, respond.

For the last nine months I have been praying each morning for national leaders and their organisations, from the Prayer Chapel at the Wycliffe National Centre. Prayer has always been central in the life of Wycliffe Australia so this is not new. The change has been to not pray for myself, our members, or Wycliffe Australia's programs but to pray for national leaders and their vision. This experience is changing me and my relationships.

I sense that relationships are deepening across South Asia and the Pacific and clear actions are resulting. We have recently concluded a wonderful time of fellowship in Melbourne with leaders from South Asia and PNG and heard of renewed vision and passion.

Prayer and patience are important in all levels of our work. They are not just relevant for the CEO, or organisational relationships, but are equally relevant at the 'village' level, in individual translation projects and in the office. As you read what has been achieved through Wycliffe Australia in the last year please know that raw statistics do not define our success, though we report on those outcomes. What matters more is how we relate and work together for God's Kingdom.

Barry Borneman

New website features: wycliffe.org.au

Have you checked out our recently launched website? New features include the ability to create your own subscriber login and change your personal details, subscriptions and giving online. Visit our website to get started!

MORE

Go online to: www.wycliffe.org.au

Wycliffe
Bible Translators

NSW/ACT

Ph: (02) 8014 6487

E: nswro@wycliffe.org.au

QLD

Ph: (07) 3256 1803

E: qldro@wycliffe.org.au

TAS

Ph: 0455 476 292

E: tasro@wycliffe.org.au

VIC

Ph: (03) 9712 2720

E: vicro@wycliffe.org.au

WA

Ph: (08) 9243 0486

E: waro@wycliffe.org.au

SA

Ph: 0418 675 422

E: saro@wycliffe.org.au

Celebrating a 35-year translation project: the Bantoanon/Asi New Testament

Witnessing the dedication of the Bantoanon/Asi New Testament with Genesis and Exodus on 6 April 2017, was the best farewell present Heather Kilgour Crossley could have received, as her 35 years in the field came to a close.

The Bantoanon/Asi language is spoken by about 80,000 people, spread across four small islands in the Central Philippines.



'After all these years of hard work, it was wonderful to see the joy and enthusiasm of pastors, priests and people of all ages finally holding in their hands the Bantoanon/Asi New Testament with Genesis and Exodus in written, audio and digital form', Heather said. 'They are amazed at how beautiful and clear it is to understand.'

Certificates of appreciation were presented at the dedication to more than 80 people who helped make the translation possible, from officials to translation assistants, voice actors, singers and dictionary workers.

For the past few years, Heather has had the joy of being partnered in the work by her husband, Stan Crossley. During the last two, they revised all the translated books, then added introductions, maps, pictures and a glossary, and worked with a consultant on a final check.

Last year, the pair also managed a recording of the Scriptures, so people can access them on mobiles and audio Bibles.

Now aged 71 and 78, the couple managed the intense ten-week recording while also making arrangements for their retirement and packing up their life in the Philippines for a new one in Canada.

'We were taken by surprise by the tears and sadness we felt as it came time to say goodbye to close friends and employees whom we'd known and loved for so many years.'

MORE

This is an abridged version. For the longer version go to wycliffe.org.au/bantoanon

Tanang asa Sagradong Kasuyatan ay ingbuot it Dios nak masuyat. Ag kali ay inggwa't rakong kapuslanan sa pagpanudlo, pagbisaya sa buko matuor, pagtama it sala, ag paglaygay kung pauno magpangabuhi it tama, agor kag nagsusunor sa Dios ay waya't kakuyangan ag hanra para sa tanang maadong buluhaton.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

God willed that everything in the Sacred Writings would be written. And these have great usefulness for teaching, saying what is not true, correcting sin, and advising how to live correctly, in order that those who follow God would lack nothing and would be ready for all good works.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Scripture statistics 2016

While completing projects is not our main measure of success or progress, we do want to celebrate the achievements of our members and what each completed project represents for the language community. In all these projects, Wycliffe Australia members have been a part of a larger team involving other individuals, churches and organisations.

We have chosen to highlight only part of what our Australian members have been involved with.

Full Bible*	1
New Testaments*	30
Mini Bibles*	8
Portions*	35
Jesus films, or Luke videos	11
Oral Bible stories	10
Literacy materials	9
Dictionaries	6

(and more!)

For the full report, please go online to:
wycliffe.org.au/impact-report-2017

*WYCLIFFE AUSTRALIA MEMBERS' INVOLVEMENT HERE INCLUDES THREE BROAD CATEGORIES: TRANSLATION PROJECT MANAGEMENT, EXEGETICAL AND LINGUISTIC INPUT, AND PUBLISHING HELP.

PRAYER & PATIENCE

We invited our members to reflect on the past two years, with specific focus on the place of prayer and patience in their lives. Be encouraged as you read about their challenges and faithfulness to a faithful God.

Out of brokenness, God is doing something new...

By Mark & Anne, Translation Advisors (Asia)

In 2015 one of our two mother-tongue translators had to step down from the team due to a moral issue.

This sent shock waves through our team and significantly slowed down our progress in translation as we supported this family. Many hours were spent listening to outpourings of pain, seeking good counsel and praying with and for our friends. We also enlisted the prayers of close friends and supporters. How could our Father work through this seeming disaster? Slowly he brought healing and restoration to this broken marriage through a deep work in our friends' hearts and lives.

Each morning in our team devotions, we saw God speak into their lives through his Word, transforming bitterness to forgiveness, and pain to slowly growing trust. At the same time we began to recruit a replacement translator.



Eighteen months later we can look back and recognise the hand of God at work, growing and enriching our friends and their marriage, and also providing a new translator.

This young man is a respected peer among the younger church leaders who are the ones needing to take ownership of the translation and begin using it in their churches. His influence is already being felt among them; there is a growing interest and commitment to learning to read their own language well enough to read in public, and to using a new (for them) approach of studying the Scriptures in small groups.

We praise God for his faithfulness in answering many prayers to bring healing, restoration and transformation in our friends' lives, and to bring a new impetus to the ongoing work of seeing his Word available to this language group.

Trusting God with your children

By Hester Pike, Merei Bible translation project (Vanuatu)

Our family has been living in a village in Vanuatu since 2003, supporting local translators to translate the Scriptures into one of the many local languages. Prayer and patience have gone hand-in-hand both with our family and the project.

Our four children have all grown up here, but as they get older they need to return to their passport country for schooling. As our first, second and now third child has left home, prayer has become my best friend. Whether it's entrusting them to God to care for them when we can't be



there, or patiently waiting on God to lead them in their new pursuits of living in a 'new country', we have certainly been tested and stretched in our faith.

As the children have left the family, my role in the project has had a chance to morph and change. I am involved in digital Scripture recording, where I've witnessed the joy of seeing young ladies who have never touched a computer and who have minimal reading skills, sit there doggedly recording the translated Bible stories, determined to do it well.

We have prayed for the Merei-speaking people for so many years before seeing the work of translation go ahead and be owned by the speakers of that language. Prayer and patience are constant companions throughout our lives both at home and work.

dpatience

God honoured a promise

By Kathy, Literacy Worker (Cameroon)

God was at work in the remote Akwaya area of Cameroon long before we arrived in 2008.

Soon after we arrived, we were asked to find someone from the area who we could send to a four-year Bible translation degree course at a regional seminary. We asked a local, Pastor Napoleon, whether he was interested in accepting this place. We discovered then how perfect God's timing is.

Pastor Napoleon had earlier been to seminary for his diploma course and had then promised God he would work back in his home area for five years before returning to further theological study. Short of funds, however, he had given up on the idea.

We approached Pastor Napoleon in the fifth year since he had made the promise. God honoured Napoleon's promise and provided a path back to study.

Pastor Napoleon persevered through a four-year course (including linguistic study), graduated, and has now worked alongside us in the language work for almost two years, including one year when we were back in Australia and Napoleon was left 'alone' with the work. Pastor Napoleon is immensely better than us at the task in many ways. We take heart and we give thanks. God knows what he is doing, for us and for the people he loves in Akwaya.



When waiting is the thing

By Toby & MG, Language Development Workers (South Asia)

God has been teaching us that our work is less about the programs and achievements that we accomplish, and more about waiting on him to work.

We can't make literacy happen and we can't force people to do anything, but God is definitely at work in the hearts of the Kungka people. And it's often in the people we didn't expect.

There was Sahil, who started literacy programs without us even knowing, and Rahu, who said we inspired the

translation team to work harder. We didn't do anything in these situations but prayed that God would work his will in this village and then he showed us what was already happening. And in that time he taught us to value our own spiritual growth and deepening empathy and love for the community. God also gave us sickness and hardship to enable us to identify more deeply with the people here.

We are waiting, and continue to expect to see how God is working in the people we love.



Location, location: where our 264 Australian members are serving



MORE [More info: wycliffe.org.au/impact-report-2017](http://wycliffe.org.au/impact-report-2017)

Walking home ... to heaven

by Greg Fraser

Stanthorpe has lost one of its finest sons. On Sunday 9 October 2016, Andrew Sav, aged 54, completed his journey home.



Andrew was born in Stanthorpe in 1962. He joined a Christian mission organisation called Operation Mobilisation, an interdenominational organisation that brings aid and Christian ministry to developing world countries via ocean-going ships.

It was on the MV DOULOS ship in Asia that Andrew met and fell in love with H el ene. Love motivated Andrew to learn and master H el ene's language, French. From this, another love affair with the world of languages opened up. Andrew and H el ene went to Bible school, studied linguistics with SIL, and felt called to be involved in a pioneer project among a minority people group. This became the great work of Andrew's life and will stand as a legacy of his care for oppressed people for many generations to come.

In 2010, with two Stanthorpe friends, Andrew decided to walk 2000 kilometres from Cairns to Stanthorpe to bring attention to the 2000 languages that still did not have any of the Bible in their language.

Soon after the walk Andrew decided to write a book about the journey. Six years later, it was finally complete, with the

title 'Walking Home'. While he had literally walked home to Stanthorpe, this title became a metaphor for the journey of this life and walking home to heaven.

In August 2016 'Walking Home' was finally printed and released. Andrew presented the first copy at his daughter's wedding. During his speech, Andrew said 'Home on this earth is a very short time indeed.' He said that we longed for our Home of homes, Home with a capital H. We had no inkling of how prophetic these words were, for in a few short weeks Andrew would complete his own journey Home.

On 9 October, after complications from elective surgery Andrew, a son of Stanthorpe and a deeply grateful Christian man, completed his own walk Home, to heaven.

Andrew often commented that he may never see much progress and spiritual fruit in his lifetime but that didn't deter him from 'picking up the stones' for the reaping to happen later, in God's good time. The translation project that Andrew and H el ene started is ongoing, in the capable hands of a younger couple they had been training.

PRAY

Pray - for the ongoing translation work that Andrew and H el ene began.

READ

Read - this is an abridged version. For the full article see www.wycliffe.org.au/walking_home

BUY

Buy - Purchase Andrew's book 'Walking Home' through our Bookroom (Response Form).

Through grief, a life spurs us on

By Sue Healey, Translation Advisor (Vanuatu)

When our colleague Andrew Sav died, we could hardly believe it.

After all his work in such a difficult, hostile area of the world, we just couldn't take it in. What was God thinking? Why now? A simple elective surgery had resulted in death. We were overwhelmed with grief.

At his funeral, it was clear that Andrew had made so many people feel special. It was one of his gifts: the ability to truly love others. God used his one short life to affect so many others.

When I was out in the small remote island we live and work in, I questioned some women about the use of the New Testament in Sunday school. It was so disappointing to hear it was not being used.



With Andrew's death fresh in my mind I thought, 'How desperately we need the Sunday school teachers to catch the vision for using the recently dedicated New Testament with the children.' We have been praying constantly, 'Lord, how do we inspire people to use the New Testament in their own language instead of the English one that they can hardly understand?' It is the continual prayer of our hearts.

It is such a challenge. Whenever I think of Andrew I am reminded again that each of us has a role to play but we don't know how long it will be. So I keep praying for these Sunday school teachers, that they would pick up their New Testaments and read them with their children. The Word of God could make a difference to a whole generation.

I keep praying. Andrew's impact spurs me on.

PRAYER & PATIENCE

When prayer and patience bear fruit

By Hanna Schulz, Translation Advisor (PNG)

In my first three years in PNG, I was an unassigned linguist, helping out with various projects all over the country.

This was great exposure to the different aspects of translation work, but I desired to settle in with one language community long-term. The slow and challenging process of deciding where this would be was soaked in prayer and required much patience. Eventually I felt God leading me to work with the Kope people of Gulf Province.

They had also been praying and waiting. In the 1980s they worked with an expatriate translator, and although the work continued for a while after the expats left, it eventually came to a halt. For twenty years they waited and prayed. Eventually they joined the regional translation and literacy



workshops, where they demonstrated their enthusiasm and commitment to the work, and their need for ongoing mentoring.

The Kope community waited for decades, and I waited for years to be led to them. Now that we have started our work together, the fruit is amazing.

In under two years we have built and trained an enthusiastic translation team who are drafting independently. We are working together on a songbook and a dictionary, and continue to build the literacy program by increasing the library of Kope books. We're even working with the neighbouring Anigibi language community to adapt the drafts into their language.

God has been generous in how he has answered our prayers, even if it was a long wait!

Financial support summary

We are grateful for the generosity of Australian Christians and the Australian Church who enable Wycliffe Australia to make our contribution to the worldwide Bible translation movement.

It is a wonderful expression of the body of Christ in action.

These figures indicate donations only and do not represent Wycliffe Australia's operating income. The majority of each donation (90%) goes directly to the member or project to which it is designated.

Normally 5% goes to Wycliffe Australia for administration, 4% to where the member works and 1% to Wycliffe Global Alliance and SIL International.

Undesignated gifts go towards members or projects.

2016 2015

	2016	2015
Donations to Members*	6,332,350	5,733,220
Donations to Ministry Resourcing (Projects and Next Step Dev.)	401,100	201,990
Legacies	423,737	122,625
Donations from Bethel Funerals <i>bethelfunerals.com.au</i>	142,925	32,000
Donations from STEER <i>steer.org.au</i>	121,480	91,346



For full financial statements please visit wycliffe.org.au/impact-report-2017

* ALL MEMBERS OF WYCLIFFE, WHETHER SERVING OVERSEAS OR IN AUSTRALIA, RELY ON GOD TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR FINANCIAL NEEDS AS THEY DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO COMMIT TO PRAYING FOR THEM AND SUPPORTING THEM FINANCIALLY.

Rhetorical questions

Julie Mackay, Translation Facilitator (PNG)

The Bible is full of rhetorical questions, but rhetorical questions simply don't exist in some languages. This can present some unique challenges for Bible translation.

Fortunately we discovered that the Teop language can handle rhetorical questions, and actually has a few words that indicate rhetorical questions. However not all biblical rhetorical questions can be retained. Our solution? Translate them as a statement.

Here are some special Teop words that we can use when translating rhetorical questions, with examples from our recent advisor check on John:

'bene' - This word is used to ask a rhetorical question where the speaker strongly believes that the answer is 'no.' There's no English word that exactly fits it, but I tend to use 'really' when translating it back into English.

Example - John 1:46

NIV: 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?'



Teop: 'Nasaret? Ta taba ta mataa bene na ante nana tea tavusu teebona?'

English translation of Teop: 'Nazareth? Can anything good really come from there?'

'taagin' - This is one of my favourite Teop words! It basically means 'How is it possible?' and expresses incredulity about something. There is a different word used for asking regular 'how' questions.

Example - John 6:52

NIV: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'

Teop: 'E Jisu pasi taagin hee koa nom araara bona suini nae, eara re anie?'

English translation of Teop: 'How is it possible that Jesus will give us his body so that we will eat it?'

Just a drop in the ocean?

During a mission trip 27 years ago, Matthew* was first introduced to the need of Bible translation in his own country. At that time, there were an estimated 250 languages needing translation in this strategic South Asian country.



Confronted with this enormous need, Matthew wondered, 'If I committed my life to Bible translation, what difference would this make? It's like a drop in the ocean.'

God was gracious. Today, he testifies to the goodness of God in his life and his family. Both he and his wife were personally involved in the translation of the New Testament for the J people dedicated in 2016.

As the Director of a leading Bible translation organisation in South Asia, Matthew now meets and encourages many

others who are starting off in their journey as translators, just as he did all those years ago. There is much to celebrate but also much to be done in this diverse and incredible country, with over 470 unique language communities.

Through friendship, Wycliffe Australia is privileged to be a small part of encouraging these young translators. It might seem like just a drop in the ocean in the face of the immense need, but every drop creates a ripple.

**Real name withheld for security reasons*

MORE

Read about the NT dedication here: wycliffe.org.au/God-speaks-J-today

GIVE

To support these new South Asian translation teams through prayer and support, go to wycliffe.org.au/donate or fill out the Response Form.

STATISTICS FOR THIS SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRY:

COMPLETE BIBLES

75
LANGUAGES

NEW TESTAMENTS

84
LANGUAGES

BIBLE TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS

150
LANGUAGES

AWAITING NEW STARTS

90
LANGUAGES