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COVER PICTURE

Himba mother and child.
Photo: Pieter Engelbrecht



EDITORIAL

Sacrifice and Servanthood for the Kingdom

In God's upside-down kingdom, Jesus is not the conquering hero everyone was expecting, but a suffering servant (Mark 10:45). His is a kingdom where one who wants to be great must be a servant and one who wants to be first must be a slave to all (Mark 10:43-44).



In this edition we share with you stories from our partner organisations of faithful people who have understood that true leadership is about servanthood and sacrifice. These people have adopted the 'same mindset as Christ Jesus who... made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant' (Philippians 2:5-7).

Jesus gave us an extraordinary example of true humility and servanthood when He washed His disciples' feet (John 13:15). How fitting that outgoing director of the Bible Translation Association of Papua New Guinea, David Gela, performed this very act on newly elected director Tony Kotauga (p3). Likewise, Aloysius Jack's countercultural values and actions made his life stand out as he strived to advance the cause of the gospel in the Solomon Islands (p4-5).

Valuing others above oneself and looking to their interests (Philippians 2:3-4) often involves making sacrifices. Christian leaders in the Himba community of southern Africa are prepared to challenge deeply entrenched animistic beliefs in order to bring God's Word to their people (p6). Cambodian national John's desire to see believers understand Scripture and grow in faith motivated him to become involved in Scripture Engagement even though it meant taking a salary cut (p8).

May these stories inspire us, too, to respond to the countercultural call of Jesus and set our lives apart in service for Him and those around us. That His kingdom would be established on earth as it is in heaven!

Belinda Fox, Program Development Consultant, South-East Asia.

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From Business to Bibles

By Belinda Fox

Many in today's world would question how a successful businessman could turn his back on a thriving career for the sake of putting Bibles into people's hands. But for Tony Kotauga, the decision was an easy one once God turned his priorities and ambitions towards Him.

From humble beginnings as a woodworker, Tony's career went

from strength to strength. He quickly became a trainer in the timber production industry, obtained a Diploma in Technical Education, and then acquired invaluable commercial management and leadership skills during his two years at Coca Cola PNG. All of these jobs prepared him for his future role with the Bible Translation Association of Papua New Guinea (BTA).

Tony's leadership capacity was again proven when he became a regional sales manager at telecommunications company Bemobile. But in 2013, he came to a crossroads and had to decide between three potential job opportunities. After much prayer, it soon became clear that God was leading Tony to 'take BTA seriously' and apply for the position of Director.

Tony's decision to work with BTA was cemented during a workshop last year when he was challenged into action by translators with very little education. Tony now has a vision to see the local people take greater ownership of the Bible translation work. 'My hope is that my leadership of BTA will help to fast-track language development', Tony says, 'and put Bibles into the hands of Papua New Guineans'.

In a symbolic gesture of humility and servanthood, at the BTA National Conference in July, former BTA Director of 35 years David Gela knelt down and washed the feet of newly elected Director, Tony. A true celebration of BTA's past and future - from one servant-hearted leader to the next.

Sources:
Sarah Halferty and Kate King



New BTA Director Tony Kotauga prays for outgoing Director of 35 years, David Gela

PNG still has one of the highest translation needs in the world. As a near neighbour with a strong historic link to Australia, PNG remains a significant strategic partner to Wycliffe Australia. We currently have 22 members assigned to SIL PNG. Our partnership with BTA is primarily focused on supporting organisational development under its new leadership.

If you would like to support Bible translation in PNG, please see the Bwanabwana Hymn Book Project on page 11.



Tribute to a Culture Transformer

The Solomon Islands lost an incredible servant of Christ on 4 May 2015. Affectionately known as Jack, Aloysius Jack lived a life of service to his family, church and nation. His tremendous commitment to serve his people in Bible translation through thick and thin is testament to God's amazing grace.

Jack's radical countercultural approach to life inspired many. He

often challenged tribal taboos. Much to the disdain of his mother (a tribal midwife), he delivered one of his own children on the side of the road. With amazing perseverance, he single-handedly raised his family after his first wife passed away. He set aside a section of tribal land for a conservation reserve. And he welcomed Lengo translators from the Guadalcanal plains in a time of severe conflict.

Denied a career as a Catholic priest and opportunities for further study, Jack worked as a diesel engineer on a ship. But he later gave up his tools to embrace the far more rigorous work of Bible translation. In 1980, Jack became involved in the Lau New Testament translation after attending a one-week Bible translation course. There he met and worked alongside Wycliffe



translators and literacy advisors Dr Gary and Linda Simons.

Gary recalls how Jack stood out from the rest of his class, scoring 100% on every quiz. 'Besides being brilliant as a linguist, Jack was very teachable and hardworking as we checked and rechecked everything'. Within three years, they had translated and distributed the entire lectionary cycle. Gary fondly remembers Jack sharing how a woman once stopped him in the street and said, 'You and the Doctor are really top. Because now when they read the Bible in church, we can understand it!'

Returning to translation work as senior Pijin translator in the mid-1990s, Jack worked with Wycliffe advisors Dr Gerry Beimers and Bob Carter. They produced an Old Testament translation, New Testament revision, spelling guide, Jesus Film script, Bible story books and comics, as well as various materials covering environmental, social and ethnic issues. Gerry remarked that Jack was an amazingly gifted linguist who undoubtedly would have been a leading academic in the Solomon Islands had he been given tertiary opportunities.

In the late 1990s, Jack was instrumental in establishing the Solomon Islands Bible Translation and Literacy Partnership. His service to the nation in the area of Bible



Jack recording the Baelalea New Testament



Bob Carter, Aloysius Jack, Gerry Beimers, Miriam Steele, Conrad Manfort, Independence Day, 2008

translation was recognised by the justly deserved Solomon Islands Silver Medal on Independence Day in 2008. Most recently, Jack completed his work with a team

of people on the Baelalea New Testament, dedicated in January this year.

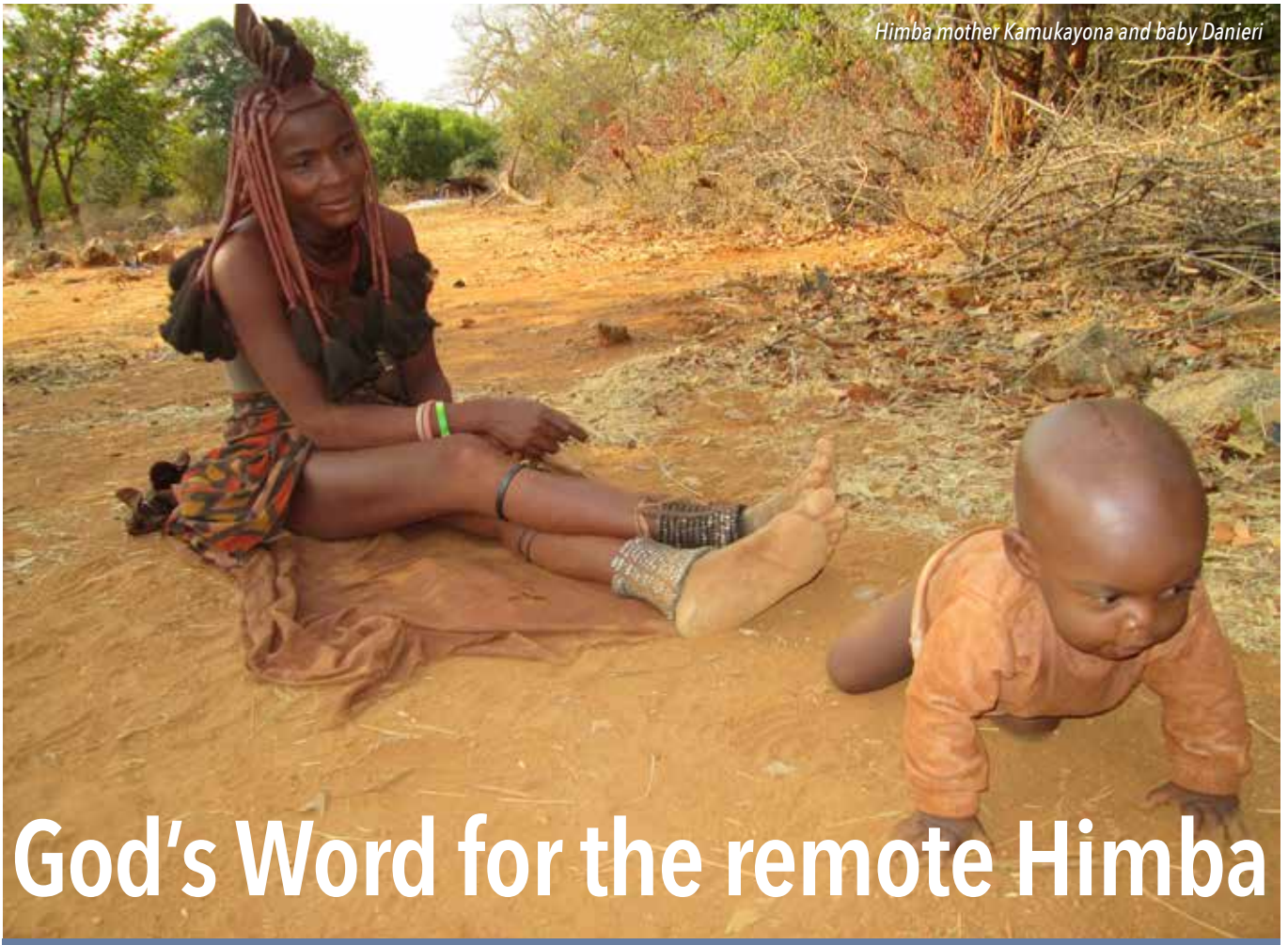
Aloysius Jack's life was not perfect by any means. But it was a life redeemed by God - both for eternity and many times over in his ordinary life. Mike Workman (Anglican Minister in the UK) said about Jack, 'Only eternity will tell how much God's kingdom was blessed by this man.'

Jack lived, served and sacrificed in the light of the gospel and is now at rest with his beloved 'Masta Jisas'. We pray that the churches and nation raise up new young and gifted Bible translators who are willing to sacrifice their lives to take over the baton from Jack.

Adapted from an article in the Solomon Star - 'Life of an Incredible Man'.



Himba mother Kamukayona and baby Danieri



God's Word for the remote Himba

By Belinda Fox and Pieter Engelbrecht Photos: Ansie van der Merwe, Durk Meijer

The Himba are a unique and fascinating people group. Considered the last semi-nomadic people of Namibia, their estimated 50,000-strong population spreads into southern Angola. Predominantly livestock farmers, their wealth is measured not by their bank balance

but in the number of cattle, sheep and goats they possess.

Despite a history fraught with severe droughts and guerilla warfare, the harsh desert environment in which the Himba live, in conjunction with their seclusion from outside influences, has enabled them to

preserve much of their traditional lifestyle. And their tribal structure has enabled them to survive in one of the most extreme environments on earth.

While their ancient lifestyle is eye-catching, the elaborate hairstyles of the Himba really set them apart. Different styles reveal vital information



Pieter Engelbrecht and Uakatara Ngiombe with Himba ladies at Ovinjange, Northern Namibia



about someone's place within the group and phase of life, such as age and marital status. Married men, for example, cover their heads with turbans which are never removed.

In addition to their intriguing hairstyles, Himba women spend several hours each morning applying a paste made of goat fat, herbs and red ochre (called *otjize*) to their skin, braided hair, traditional clothing and jewellery. The *otjize* acts as a sunscreen and insect repellent, and is considered a sign of beauty.

The Himba practise ancestor worship and believe in one god - Mukuru - the creator of everything, but he is a remote god. The people communicate with Mukuru through the spirits of their ancestors. For this reason, each family has its own sacred ancestral fire which is kept burning by an appointed fire-keeper 24 hours a day. The Himba have long believed in black magic and some continue to consult traditional healers.

Africa Alive Bible Translation (an initiative of Wycliffe South Africa) aims to provide the Himba people with oral Scriptures in their language. A local Himba Christian, Uakatara, realises how crucial this is for his community. 'This would be a great thing for our people', he insists.

'Especially the way you are thinking of doing it by involving the community.' Uakatara believes that having access to oral Scriptures will help the Himba people understand the many biblical concepts and words that are unique to the Himba language. 'We need this, and soon.'

Daily life in the world of the Himba



Meet Africa Alive Bible Translation

Africa Alive Bible Translation (AABT) is a recent Wycliffe South Africa initiative to start work in 80 language projects in southern Africa over the next decade.

The first new AABT project is an oral Bible translation for the Himba of Namibia. This project will comprise 60 Bible portions

made available on audio media, as well as one written Gospel (either Mark or Luke).

Wycliffe Australia has an historical connection with southern Africa, having sent the first Wycliffe members to South Africa in the early 1970s, thereby providing the catalyst for the establishment of

Wycliffe South Africa in 1975.

To support the Himba project, please see page 11. Also, tell your expat South African friends about AABT and the Himba project.

To support online, go to <http://projects.wycliffe.org.au/category/projects/afrika/>



A typical Himba village hut

By Jennifer Stasak

John* didn't understand the point of the Bunong Bible translation. Why were people spending years of their lives translating the Scriptures into the local language when a translation was already available in Cambodian, the national language?

Having spent years in school studying the Bible in Cambodian, John felt confident he understood it clearly. But eventually curiosity got the better of him and he began to read the recently translated Bunong Scriptures. As he did, he found he was able to understand the Bible much more clearly in his own language, making it more relevant and applicable to his life. In fact, John felt so convicted by what he read that he vowed to begin teaching others in the community using only the Bunong Scriptures.

John's new passion for seeing God's Word read, spoken, understood and applied in his language was so strong that he accepted a position as a Scripture engager – one who disciples others in the Word – even though it meant taking a salary cut. With a wife to provide for, why would John agree to this?

Eight months prior, John attended two workshops – one in a secular setting and one in a church setting. Though he was pleased to see his people learning to write and discussing their culture and community in the secular setting, John's true joy came during



Things of Value for Eternity

the church workshop when they spent time praying, praising God and discussing eternal things.

'What is a dip in wages compared to things of value for eternity?' John said. 'My reward is to see believers read and listen to Scriptures they can understand the meaning of in order to grow in their faith more and more and deeper and deeper.'

As they read and study the Scriptures in their own language, young people like John are discovering a hope beyond this temporary world – one that makes them more like Jesus. As a result, they are choosing what Jesus spoke of in Matthew 6:21: 'Wherever

your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be' (NLT). That's why we couldn't agree more with John when he says that Bible translation is a 'thing of value for eternity.'

**pseudonym*



Interested in Finance and Travel?



Dave Cram and volunteer auditor George Crew with the Wycliffe Africa team in Nairobi

Do you want to see the world? Do you have a background in accounting or bookkeeping, and a spare 1-3 weeks to travel? Then doing an internal control review at one of Wycliffe's worldwide offices could be just the thing for you.

To ensure that Wycliffe properly accounts for the resources it has, Wycliffe recruits volunteers to do internal control reviews of its financial operations and those of its partner organisations. About 30-40 of these reviews are conducted each year around the world, all staffed by volunteers.

You do not need to be a CPA or chartered accountant or to have any special licence. We will train you.

Volunteers are asked to contribute their time plus a return airfare to the location. Accommodation (usually in a Wycliffe guest house or a missionary's home) and local travel costs are covered by the local office.

Register your interest to receive a list each year outlining the locations requiring volunteers and best times to visit. If a particular trip attracts your interest, contact the Audit Coordinator. Otherwise, there is no obligation to participate.

Wycliffe's International Audit Coordinator Dave Cram will be visiting Australia in early December 2015. If you are interested, we would love you to meet with him. Remember there is no obligation,

just some new possibilities. And, it may be just the opportunity you are looking for to make a significant contribution to God's kingdom using your gifts.

Please contact Wycliffe Australia at (03) 9712 2777 or email associatemembers@wycliffe.org.au



Wycliffe International Audit Coordinator Dave Cram

Used Laptops Wanted to Serve Translation in Remote Areas

A two to four year old laptop PC or Mac may not bring great joy to you, but it can be a great encouragement and an essential tool for national translators working in Papua New Guinea.

We are looking for 30 used laptop

computers in good condition to have a 'second life' for Kingdom purposes.

Laptops are reformatted and any computer software removed before we send them to PNG, where the Linux operating system is installed, as well as a translation program called Paratext, an essential program used by Bible translators around the world.

The working conditions are torrid for these computers, but Linux and MacOS

protect them from viruses. Every month that these computers keep going they will advance translation work significantly. Denis Vargas, linguist translator with the Bible Translation Association of PNG, writes: 'I am really excited about this project. We can allocate up to 30 computers right away, such is the need.'

If you think you can help, please contact Peter Fidock by email at network-support@wycliffe.org.au

Be a Leader in Making a Difference – Project Funding

Wycliffe Australia works in partnership with many local and international organisations and churches to carry out the work of Bible translation. By supporting one of our projects you are making a direct difference to these communities by meeting very specific needs. Each of these projects empowers national translators and leaders so that God's Word goes forth where it is needed.

Please consider taking a step with us today by supporting one of the projects below.

PROJECT NO. 8310

MOBA LITERACY PROJECT

Togo, Benin, \$34,000 (\$5,800 received)

This community project will boost literacy throughout the Moba communities, particularly villagers who have never had formal schooling. They will be empowered to make a greater contribution to their communities and be much more likely to help their own children to attend school.

A student of the 2014-2015 literacy campaign says: *'Literacy in Moba gave me much knowledge because I read and write in my language. I was living in ignorance, but now I read the New Testament and other books in Moba and I understand better. I can also write a letter to someone in my family who is also literate in our mother tongue. I do not get lost during a trip because I can read the signs along the highways. If there is a meeting, I can take notes on everything that is said. I can also write down the advice that nurses give when the children are weighed. Furthermore, I am the secretary of a small group in the church. All that is thanks to literacy in my mother tongue. May God bless all our benefactors.'*

PROJECT NO. 8315

LAMA WHOLE BIBLE COMPLETION

Togo, Benin, \$20,800 (\$2,800 received)

The Lama churches are looking forward to having the full Bible in their language. Finishing the whole Bible in the Lama language is now a high priority project, as it is nearing completion. This year the local translation team is focusing on Psalms and Isaiah. They are working hard to promote the use of the translated Scriptures and encourage the wider Lama community to support their own language projects. These funds will provide a very basic income for the translators while also helping to run a workshop for each book in order to provide further training.



PROJECT NO. 8337**SCRIPTURE USE****Solomon Islands - \$16,670**

Six Solomon Islands Scripture Use workers are encouraging their own language communities to engage with Scripture more and make the Bible a part of their lives. They have developed partnerships as a result of visiting church leaders and have started a combined monthly prayer fellowship, reading groups, and Bible study classes hosted by village churches.

The translated New Testaments are also being used to produce Bible resources for churches. The focus and hope of this project is to inspire the current generation of Solomon Islanders to feed on the Scriptures in their mother tongue and grow deeper in their faith and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PROJECT NO. 8410**COMPUTER FUND FOR FIELD WORKERS****Australia - \$9,500**

Computers are essential for most of our field workers. Portable computers have become increasingly important and are now essential tools for translators, literacy workers, consultants, language survey teams, and many of our members in teaching or administrative roles. From this fund, we offer assistance by subsidising the cost of new portable computers needed by our Australian members serving on the front line.

PROJECT NO. 8630**PRINTING BWANABWANA HYMN BOOK****Papua New Guinea - \$7,860 (\$4,390 received)**

The Bwanabwana people love to sing! Their hymn book is very precious to them. The original hymn book was printed in the 1950s, and an expanded edition with over 400 hymns was printed in 1991 to replace the well-worn books. These hymn books sold out very quickly and ended up being an excellent literacy aid. Today, the literacy rate is high in the Bwanabwana region.

This project will enable 1,000 hardcover copies of the Bwanabwana hymn book to be printed and shipped to the Milne Bay islands and sold at a subsidised price. The opportunity to print a large quantity of hymn books at a low cost means that their treasured hymn book will be available for the next generation of Bwanabwana people as a tool for worship and an ongoing stimulus for literacy.

PROJECT NO. 8640**HIMBA ORAL SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION****Southern Africa - \$12,500**

This is a pioneering initiative among the Himba, who are a nomadic, pastoral people in north-western Namibia and southern Angola in Africa (see article p6). The Himba believe in one god - Mukuru - whom they communicate with through the spirits of ancestors and the ancestral fire. Literacy is very low and their chief way of functioning is oral. The need for an oral Scripture translation has been clearly established. Himba communities and a steering committee of local churches are embarking on this work in cooperation with Wycliffe South Africa and the Namibian Bible Society.

The total project cost is Nam\$1,350,000 (=AUD \$135,000) over 3 years starting 1 October 2015 and ending 30 September 2018. Wycliffe Australia's target is to help raise \$12,500 in the first year of the project as part of our support for Wycliffe South Africa.

To support a project:

- Visit wycliffe.org.au
- Email projects@wycliffe.org.au
- Fill out and mail the enclosed form in the addressed envelope.



*View of mountains in Kaokoland, Namibia
Photo: Ansie van der Merwe*

Book Reviews

To order, please complete the enclosed form and return it in the addressed envelope.
Alternatively, go online to wycliffe.org.au/resources/

The BOOK TREE

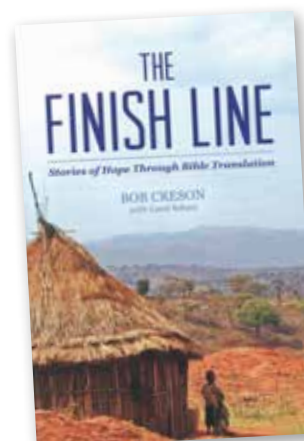
THE FINISH LINE

- STORIES OF HOPE THROUGH BIBLE TRANSLATION

By Bob Creson with Carol Schatz

\$13.00

An engaging story of a family from Southern California called by God to Cameroon. Read how they witnessed first-hand the remarkable impact the translated Scriptures had in hundreds of communities. 'When the Word of God arrives, a miracle occurs. It's not the first time God has been there, but it's the first time people hear Him speak the language they love - the language in which they think and feel. It changes everything.'



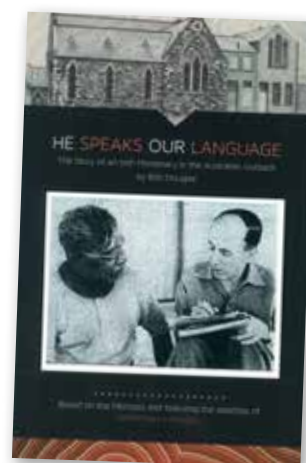
HE SPEAKS OUR LANGUAGE

- THE STORY OF AN IRISH MISSIONARY IN THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK

By Rob Douglas

\$22.00

Biography of Wilfrid Henry Douglas (father of the author), a veteran linguist and missionary to Aboriginal people in Australia for more than 60 years. Based on the memoirs Wilf wrote prior to his death in 2004, the book traces the way in which he faced the odds in learning Aboriginal languages when others didn't think it was necessary to do so. And how he listened to the stories of Aboriginal people when others wanted to evangelise without taking the time to listen. An inspiring story of courage and hope.

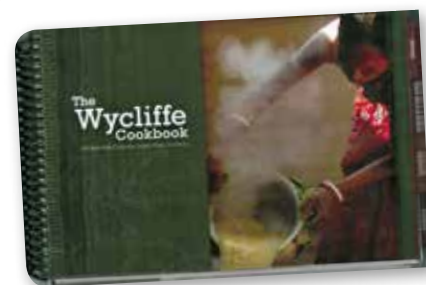


THE WYCLIFFE COOKBOOK

- OLD AND NEW FAVOURITES USING BASIC INGREDIENTS

\$22.00

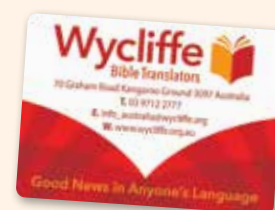
Based on the original *Jungle Camp Cookbook*, this practical and user-friendly collection of recipes and fun food-related anecdotes by Wycliffe missionaries is sure to give plenty of food for thought. Whether you're cooking over a wood stove in the African bush, or learning to whip up a meal like Grandma used to, these international recipes offer you something unique. Using only the most basic cooking utensils and ingredients available around the world, you'll always be able to prepare a tasty meal wherever you are!



Free with every order! A COPY OF THE COOLAMON KIDS AND A WYCLIFFE FRIDGE MAGNET.

Discover what is involved in translating the Bible into an indigenous language. A 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 for the book on its own.



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