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Wycliffe®  
BibleTranslators

# FRONTLINES

FALL  
2019

HOW GOD IS USING YOUR GIFTS TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL THROUGH BIBLE TRANSLATION

## HOPE THROUGH THE WORD IN ETHIOPIA

I will ... transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope. — Hosea 2:15 (NLT)

**B**elievers who speak the Eastern Oromo language in Ethiopia suffer persecution from those who adhere to the majority religion of the area. Churches struggle to find a place to meet, and Christians struggle to find good jobs. “So many churches were burned down,” said a project coordinator. “But Christians remained steadfast and overcame the challenge through trust in God’s providence.”

Anti-Christian sentiment has run high this year, but the recent translation of the book of Nehemiah

gave them hope and courage. “It has created great joy in the communities because the book contains messages that transform their lives,” said the project coordinator.

In addition to persecution, many struggle with *khat*, a plant whose leaves are used as a potent drug. Seventy percent of the young people use *khat*. High rates of HIV and AIDS also plague the Eastern Oromo community. The people need to experience the transforming power of God’s Word in their lives and communities.

Wycliffe Bible Translators is working in partnership with a local team to complete the Eastern Oromo Old Testament and prepare it for publication. The team has already completed translation of the New Testament and the book of Nehemiah. Now, as they complete the Old Testament, the team will also publish the book of Hosea in audio and print formats, as well as Genesis in audio form.

“We are currently challenged by political unrest,” said a local pastor.

Above: God’s Word now provides comfort and hope to struggling people in Ethiopia.

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"We urgently need the book of Hosea that speaks to the people in difficult moments."

Church leaders plan to use these books in services and small groups to encourage Christians to stand firm in their faith. They also want to use Scripture to confront the *khat* drug epidemic among the youth.

In addition, Old Testament books will be used in outreach efforts since those who follow the majority religion are somewhat familiar with them.

With your help through the 2019 Wycliffe Gift Catalog, the Eastern Oromo translators will continue their work, driven by their faith in God and eagerness for more of his Word.

## IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR CHRISTMAS

### WATCH FOR THE WYCLIFFE GIFT CATALOG COMING SOON!

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- Gifts starting from \$12.00
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*Give the gift of God's Word this Christmas!*

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## DEDICATION OF THE GIRYAMA B



Church leaders thank God for Scripture and commit themselves to obeying it.

**W**hen the complete Giriyama Bible finally landed in Kenya at the port of Mombasa and eventually made its way to Kilifi town, news spread very fast to the entire Kilifi County.

Bishop Mmika Kenga of the Light of God church, who is more than 100 years old, thought that waiting until April for the dedication would be too long. Many others who had translated or participated in the translation work of the Giriyama Bible were now very old and, like the biblical Simon, just wanted to hold the Giriyama Bible before they could rest.

No other event in the history of the Giriyama Church had ever brought together as many bishops as the preparation of the dedication of the Giriyama Bible. The dedication brought together not only the clergy but also politicians and administrators.

A procession led by bishops and translators, both young and old, men and women adorned in Giriyama traditional costumes carrying the Bibles in a Giriyama traditional basket, commenced the day. Songs of praise and worship to God led by the Salvation Army band were sung through the procession. More than two thousand people gathered for the celebration.

Reverend Peter Munguti, National Director for Bible Translation and Literacy of Kenya (BTL), led the dedication ceremony assisted by the BTL Patron, Rev. Prof. Watson Omulokoli, and Bishop Lawrence Dena, a prominent church leader from the region.

Instead of giving a speech, the chief guest, His Excellency the Deputy President, preached, quoting many verses from the Bible. In Kenya, this is not the norm with politicians giving a



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"God is on our side.  
Let's trust in God."

— Kenya's Deputy President

speech. He then asked all the bishops present to stand and reminded them of their role to the Giriama nation. He said, "I have traveled into most of this Giriama land, I have seen the people and I know the kind of spirits affecting them. Bishops you have some work to do. Some trust in chariots and some in weapons of war, but we trust in the name of the Lord. God is on our side. Let's trust in God."

By the end of the day, more than 900 copies were purchased. The Deputy President promised to pay for 1,000 copies to be distributed to the churches in the interior and another politician promised to pay for 500 copies.

God has been faithful to the Giriama nation. The project took many difficult years, but God has empowered the community to write their history and have his Word in the Giriama language.

## YOUR GIFTS ARE CHANGING LIVES!

Thank you for empowering Bible translation with your generous gifts to help the following projects.

### YOU'RE HELPING MISSIONARIES CHANGE LIVES!

Thank you for your commitment to our missionaries and to the work of Bible translation. Through your partnership with our missionaries and regular financial gifts you are helping to change lives through the power of God's Word.

### YOUR CATALOG GIFT POWERS BIBLE TRANSLATION AROUND THE WORLD

Your catalog gift purchase changes lives through God's Word. "I used to be a person with a lot of fear, but not anymore," says one of the Walina translators. "Finally, now I'm not a greedy, hating and angry person anymore." Thank you for helping translate Scripture that has the power to change hearts and minds around the world.

### FROM FIRST WORDS TO CHANGED LIVES

Wycliffe donors are helping provide food for people who are hungry for God's Word. Even in cultures where men and women don't worship together, audio Scriptures are bringing churches and families together. That's what's happening among the Chori people of Eurasia because of gifts to provide the first words of Scripture.

## YOUR GIFTS CHANGE LIVES

Thank you for your long-standing partnership. We're truly grateful for your gifts, which have been vital in advancing the work of Bible translation around the world.

# of Projects Supported this Year **192**

Total Funds Distributed **\$3,228,211.99**

You can help see more lives changed with your gift today. Please use the enclosed form, visit [wycliffe.org/donate](http://wycliffe.org/donate) or contact your Senior Philanthropy Advisor Tammy Lanzi at 1-407-243-5016.



## INCREASING YOUR KINGDOM IMPACT WITH A DONOR-ADVISED FUND

**E**d and Donna, long-time donors to the work and ministry of Wycliffe Bible Translators, felt led by the Holy Spirit to “do something significant” beyond their normal ministry giving. However, their cash flow was tight and they weren’t sure how to make it happen.

The couple decided to meet with a Wycliffe Foundation Gift Planning Advisor to discuss their situation. The Advisor encouraged them to look beyond their checkbook, and consider giving from their assets. He also recommended that they consider using a donor-advised fund (DAF), which would allow them to

make a single asset gift for the benefit of multiple ministries.

Ed and Donna owned several pieces of real estate, and they were considering selling one of them to make a charitable gift. But the thought of paying capital gains taxes on the sale gave them pause. Their Gift Planning Advisor explained that one benefit of a DAF was avoiding these capital gains taxes.

Ed and Donna agreed this would be an excellent asset to give through a Wycliffe Foundation donor-advised fund. Once the real estate was given to Wycliffe, it was sold, and the couple was able to make significant grants through

the DAF to Wycliffe Bible Translators, and two other ministries. The resulting grants were many times greater than their annual cash gifts.

Reflecting on their gift, Donna said, “We never thought we could make gifts of this size and magnitude. By giving an asset through our donor-advised fund we were able to dramatically increase our impact for Great Commission work!”

If you would like to learn more about donor-advised funds, gifts of assets or other kingdom-building tools, please call us toll-free at 877-493-3600, or email [info@wycliffefoundation.org](mailto:info@wycliffefoundation.org).

### LOOKING BEYOND YOUR CHECKBOOK

**Did you know:** 90% of the wealth held in America is in assets like securities, savings accounts, retirement assets, real estate, business interests, insurance and collectibles. Only 10% of our resources reside in our checking accounts.

## WORDSEARCH

*Bible translation teams use local speakers to check their work — and the errors they find can be funny in retrospect.*

During the last week of a translation workshop in Papua New Guinea, teams from the Aitape West translation project finished final checking of 1-2 Peter and 1-2 Thessalonians in nine languages. One of the difficult terms to translate was Peter’s description of false teachers in 2 Peter 2:17 as “springs without water.”

After discussion, one translator suggested they use the term *raiyn iyn tokkoynpaija takwama ropon epin kamlan*, which means “water that boils through and up from a deep hole has dried.” He explained how they have springs like this in his area that provide clean water for drinking. However, when the spring dries up it becomes a useless, stinking and overgrown hole in the ground.



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