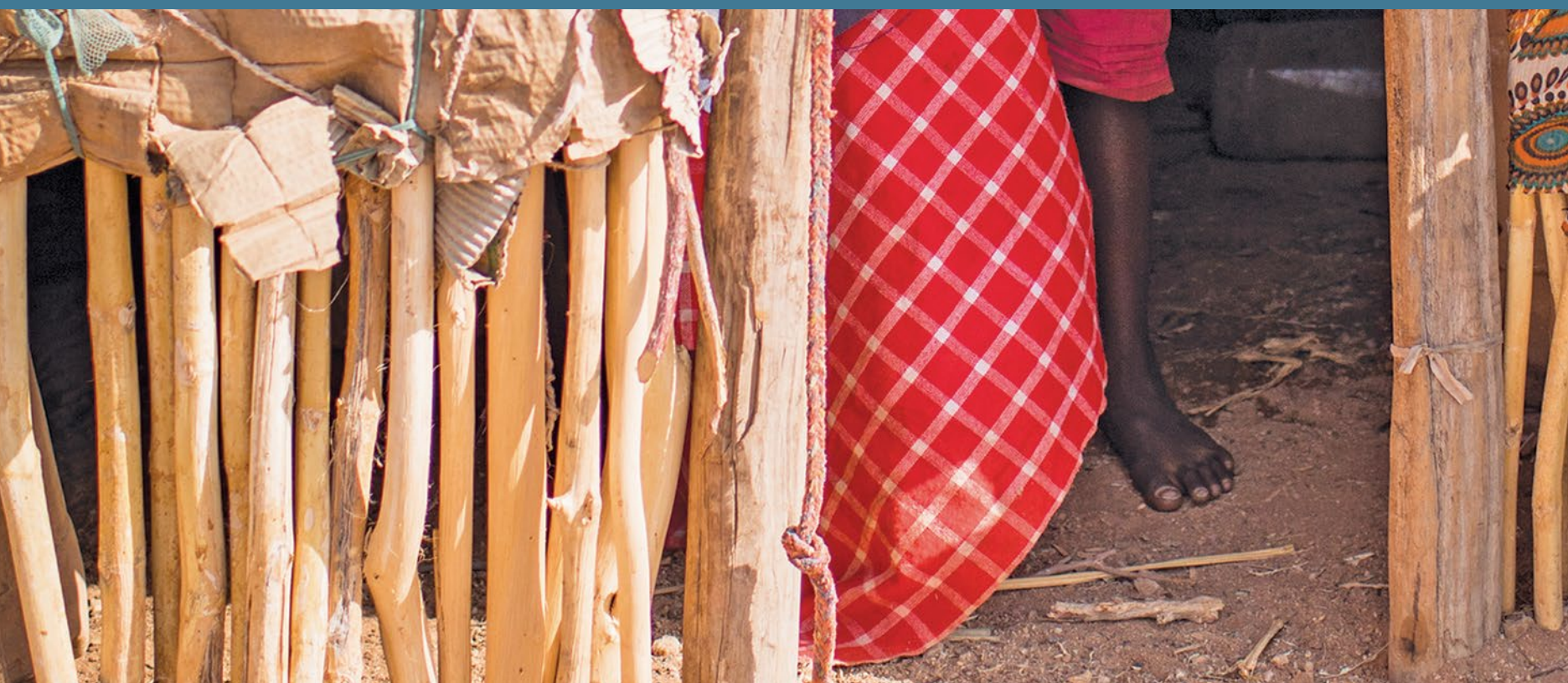




# YOUR IMPACT IS ETERNAL



God often reveals only the next few steps on his path for us. Moving forward thus requires *faith*, but it's a faith built on our awareness of his gracious and generous provision in the past. May the "look back" in this Annual Impact Report remind you of his goodness as we continue to pursue his Word, for every language group, in this generation.





## Our VISION: What We Long to See

God's Word transforming lives in every  
language in this generation

## Our MISSION: What We Aim to Do

To accelerate Scripture translation and  
impact for people without God's Word through  
Great Commission partnerships

## Our CORE VALUES: What It Takes to Get There

- Honoring God in all we do
- Valuing individuals and relationships
- Partnering effectively
- Encouraging creativity and innovation
- Managing for quality results

---

illumi*Nations* is a collective impact alliance of Bible translation partners and resource partners working together to eradicate Bible poverty in this generation. Believing that illumi*Nations* is a significant part of God's plan to reach the nations, Seed Company is honored to be one of eleven Bible translation partners. Together, we envision bringing understandable Scripture to one billion people around the world who still wonder if God speaks their language.







**TAYTA DIOSPA  
WILAKUYNIN**

Las Sagradas Escrituras  
en el quechua de  
Huamán-Dos de Mayo  
Huánuco



[Click to download  
your digital copy  
of this report.](#)



Looking back on the  
challenges in our world  
over the last year,  
I find myself even  
more thankful for the  
opportunity to bring  
hope to the Bibleless  
through his Word.  
The pandemic has not  
stopped God's work.  
He is moving, and we  
are following his lead.





Our steps forward are marked by our unwavering commitment to see all people groups gain access to Scripture. We are praying for—and aspiring to see—the vast majority of Bibleless people groups engaged in Scripture translation in the next four years.

While we all agree that people ultimately need access to the whole Bible, we at Seed Company know we can't do it all, and we can't do it alone. So we embrace two aspects of this work: a commitment to effectively partnering with others while also trusting God for the specific part he wants us to play. Rather than prioritizing *all* of Scripture for just *some* people groups, we believe it's our calling to bring *some* Scripture to *all* people

groups as soon as possible. We long for everyone to receive the gospel message in the language that best speaks to their hearts.

This goal is lofty but achievable, and although we recognize it will take more than our efforts alone, Seed Company is prayerfully taking on a big faith goal of starting translation work in 1,100 of the majority of language communities still waiting for Scripture. But to do this, we must prayerfully and strategically dig deeper into our roots. We've always been passionate about partnering effectively, but we are now exploring new ways to equip our national partners, empowering them to take on even greater ownership of the work of Bible translation within

their communities. This strategy is beginning to bear fruit, and I am thankful for Larry's leadership in this effort. What a blessing it is to invest in national leadership for the multiplication of new starts! Thank you for dreaming big and praying big with us as we, together with our partners, pursue the all.

Gratefully,

Matt Mancinelli  
**Board Chair**



I am so grateful  
for your earnest  
prayers and generous  
gifts in support of  
Seed Company's Bible  
translation ministry.  
Even in the midst of a  
turbulent and uncertain  
pandemic season,  
I have seen so many  
indications of God's  
gracious favor upon us,





and your partnership has been an important dimension of that favor.

While we invested much of 2021 in setting a new strategic direction for our ministry, we continue to be arrested by the vision that every people group needing a translation of Scripture in their language (about 1,900) can be engaged in that task by the end of 2025. The task is too large for us to single-handedly accomplish in a timely way, but we are determined to shoulder a strategically significant maximum share of the load ourselves.

In addition, we are committed to pioneering creative and relevant Bible translation methodologies while also sharing them with our ministry partners. This commitment enables them to expand *their* impact as well. God has already raised up a mighty army of his servants in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands. These people require only a clear understanding of the Bible translation need, a Spirit-driven passion to participate, and efficient, focused training to help them get going. In this annual impact report, you will see how we have been equipping God's global workforce of saints

for Bible translation service. You will also see how we measure our effectiveness by tracking their ministry growth through our Multiplication Engagements.

This past year, we have also retooled our internal operations to enhance your journey in this kingdom cause. We pray that your partnership with us enriches you spiritually, draws you closer to the Lord's heart, and helps you pray more effectively for his work of Bible translation around the world. In this regard, I invite you to celebrate with us as you read about the remarkable growth of our Seed Company prayer ministries. On June 5, we launched our strategic down payment in the construction of a global movement of faithful prayer warriors. This global, 24-hour day of prayer was a beautiful precursor to an exciting new initiative—Unceasing Prayer for Bible Translation (UP).

I believe prayer is not an optional “extra” in ministry. Rather, our aspirations for maximum impact for God's glory will only be realized as we—and a massive cadre of earnest prayer warriors—ask him to do his mighty work through us. I treasure your involvement in this strategic

effort for the coming year. Your prayers and generous gifts are fueling our efforts to turn the corner, forging ahead toward a maximally fruitful ministry impact.

In Psalm 21:5, David wrote about the king of Israel, “Through the victories you gave, his glory is great” (NIV). In God's providence, when he does amazing things for his people, he gets the glory, but he also shares that glory with his faithful servants in this world. As you read about what God has done through Seed Company in 2021, I hope you catch a glimpse of the glory he has received through your partnership, and a sense of him letting some of that glory shine back on you.

Many blessings,

Larry B. Jones, PhD

**President and Chief Executive Officer**



[Click to participate in a 2-minute guided prayer through Psalm 119.](#)





POINT  
Call 98765 43210  
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Surya Vikas  
SBI Here

శ్రీ లక్ష్మీ గ్రూప్ వారి  
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సా.కె. ఆశామంజులక



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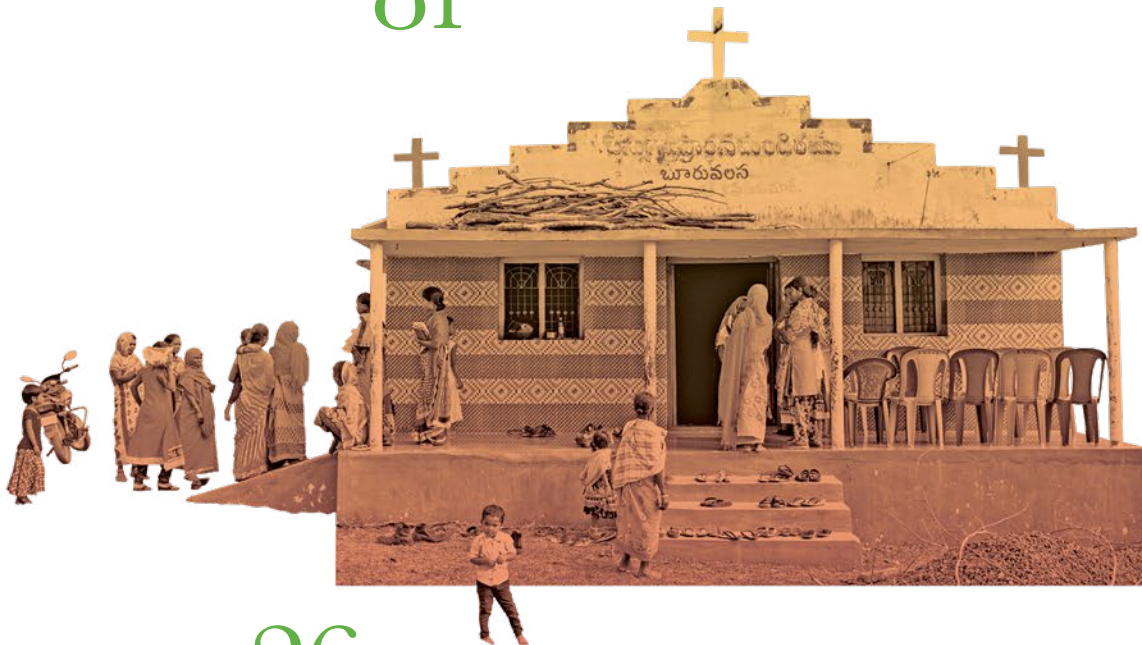


Since 1993, through your generous support,  
 we've helped local translators bring God's Word to life in  
**1,867** language communities around the globe.

Languages that Started Bible Translation in 2021

<u>Region</u>	<u>Total New Engagements</u>	<u>Total First Scripture Engagements</u>
<u>Africa</u>	83	66
<u>Americas</u>	6	5
<u>Asia</u>	8	3
<u>Europe/ Middle East</u>	8	7
<u>Pacific</u>	7	0

Of the **112** new language engagements in 2021,  
**81** were First Scripture.



Of the **26** Multiplication Engagements\* in 2021,  
**13** were First Scripture.

\*With Multiplication Engagements, our international partners take more ownership in the management and resourcing of their Bible translation projects.

In fiscal year 2021—together  
with **166** field partners in **81** countries—we saw God advance  
the work of Bible translation in **900** languages.

But the work is far  
from complete, and  
we continue to press  
into the remaining need  
for Bible translation  
in approximately  
**1,900** language  
communities still waiting  
for God's Word.



*\*Field partners include Bible translation and mission organizations as well as the local church.*

*Data on these pages reflect totals as of 9/30/21.*



[Click to learn more about our impact.](#)





*Dottie's Legacy:*

*Planting*

*Bible*

*Translation*

*Seeds*

for a

Lifetime

When Bernie May was transitioning away from his post as president of Wycliffe Bible Translators, he called his friend Dottie Brown.

“Dottie, I’m starting something called Seed Company,” he announced, excited about his next assignment as the new organization’s founder.

“The Seed Company? What kind of seed is it?” Dottie asked.

“Oh, it’ll grow anywhere,” Bernie teased, ignoring her question.

“Bernie, the same seed won’t grow in the tropics and also in Mongolia!” Dottie declared.

“Oh yes it will,” Bernie insisted.

“That must be some special seed, Bernie. What’s it called?” Dottie asked again.

Bernie replied simply, “The Word of God.”







## Early Investors in Bible Translation

Dottie chuckles as she remembers that early introduction to Seed Company, but she and her husband Bill, who passed away in 2012, were planting Bible translation seeds long before Bernie's idea came to fruition. Dottie recalls that shortly after she and Bill married in Southern California in 1946, they enjoyed a visit with friends that included meeting a man they called "Uncle Cam." Wearing overalls and a straw hat, he had just returned from Guatemala. Years later, the Browns were surprised to learn that Uncle Cam was Cameron Townsend, founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators. Their interest in Bible translation was piqued further when several Wycliffe missionaries joined their church, including Ben Elson, who later became Wycliffe's first executive director.

Many years later, Dottie and Bill joined Ben and his wife in Mexico to attend a Scripture dedication ceremony for the Popoluca people. Dottie recalls that people walked for days to get there. A cow was slaughtered, and a huge celebration ensued. That trip to Mexico helped the Browns witness firsthand the impact of Bible translation—and it cemented their life-long commitment to helping the Bibleless.

"When you see the faces of these people when they receive their very own Bible, it makes you want to be sure everyone who really wants one gets one," says Dottie.

## More Than Investors

Acknowledging that their skills did not include linguistics, the Browns dedicated themselves to serving Bible translation in whatever role was most helpful, be it finances, prayer, construction (Bill's vocation) or real estate (Dottie's vocation).

"I became Wycliffe's realtor pretty much," Dottie says, remembering how her profession helped her find Wycliffe a home for their headquarters, formerly in Huntington Beach, California. She also assisted numerous missionary families—including Uncle Cam's daughter, Grace—in buying and selling their homes. In some cases, when a Wycliffe family couldn't sell their home, Dottie simply bought it.

Through the years, that generosity continued, always in a way that prioritized getting heart language Scripture in the hands of those who were waiting for it. Recently, that meant supporting translation efforts for the Tharaka and Samburu people in Kenya. So in 2019—at the age of 97 and despite multiple lengthy flights—Dottie joined Seed Company team members on a journey to the Samburu Scripture dedication. Even with a lifetime of Bible translation experiences to look back on, Dottie considers her time in Kenya among her fondest memories.

*"When you see the faces  
of these people when they  
receive their very own Bible,  
it makes you want to be sure  
everyone who really wants  
one gets one."*









*“I think when you get to Heaven, you want to know that the people around you got there maybe because you said something to them ... or were able to send some dollars so that somebody was able to reach them.”*

She vividly recalls watching God’s Word arrive on the backs of donkeys, followed by a celebration for the ages! People quickly lined up as soon as the Bibles were unloaded. They could hardly wait to receive a copy. Neither could she.

“I thank you for what you’ve done for the people of Kenya and the people of the Samburu language,” said the vice president of Kenya as he presented Dottie with her very own autographed copy of the Samburu Bible.

### **Her Passion in Life**

When asked about the impact that Bible translation has had on her, Dottie quickly responds, “It’s my passion for the Lord! And it’s what I’m known for. Even though I’ve taught Sunday School and done other things in church for more than 30 years,





people ask me, ‘Where have you been?’ or ‘What are you doing with translation?’”

Dottie has talked to many people about getting involved with Bible translation, reminding them of what it might look like when we get to Heaven as described in Revelation 7:9a (NLT): “After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb.”

“I think when you get to Heaven, you want to know that the people around you got there maybe because you said something to them ... or were able to send some dollars so that somebody was able to reach them.”

### Lifetime Commitment to Bible Translation

Dottie’s close friendship with Bernie May continues to this day. Dottie will be celebrating her 100th

birthday in July of 2022, and at a recent Seed Company meeting in Washington, DC, her lifetime service to Bible translation was recognized. Bernie thanked Dottie for using her talents and her business to honor God and support the work of Bible translation, and he presented her with an award.

“God calls each one of us who has decided to follow Jesus to be ‘on mission,’” Bernie said. “As long as I have known Dottie Brown, she has been on mission.”



[Click to watch a video of Dottie's visit to the Samburu Scripture dedication.](#)





# United in Faith, Covered in Prayer:

*Connecting with Bible Translators around the Globe*

Miles may separate us from the work, but prayer brings us in close.

The following stories represent just a small sampling of more than 350 prayer requests and answers in fiscal year 2021, all forwarded to prayer partners who are connected to these language communities.

Let's give thanks for faithful intercessors who asked, and for a loving God who listens—and answers—in his perfect wisdom and timing.



*The Iyeki team at the first OBS workshop (April 2021)*

## AFRICA

### **Tshuapa Cluster Project, Democratic Republic of Congo**

**Request: April 6, 2021** | The first workshop begins April 12. Pray that it will go well and that the Bible stories will have great impact on the communities.

**Answer: September 2, 2021** | Bible stories learned at the April and August workshops moved the Iyeki storytellers to forgive the Bantu, their long-standing enemies. In early 2021, a clash between the two groups had left several Iyeki dead and their villages burned. But as the team members told the Bible stories in their communities, forgiveness and reconciliation spread. Two new Iyeki churches have started meeting.

## AMERICAS

### **Amuzgo Project, Mexico**

**Request: October 23, 2020** | Translator Barcimeo, who has diabetes and kidney failure, developed sepsis in his right leg. It was amputated in September, and he remains in the hospital with complications. Barcimeo's deep desire is to see the entire Bible in his language. The New Testament is completed, and the team has checked about 85 percent of the Old Testament with the consultant.

**Answer: November 7, 2020** | Our good brother Barcimeo struggled for two months in the hospital. God finally called him into his presence this morning. We're thankful that he is resting in and enjoying God's presence and that he has left us a beautiful legacy of service. Barcimeo didn't live to see the entire Bible published in his language, but a small team, including his daughter Silvia, continues the task.



*Amuzgo translator Barcimeo*





*Translators in the Pacific Isles sometimes have to travel over open ocean to get to translation workshops.*

## PACIFIC

### Seqa Project, Solomon Islands

**Request: August 9, 2021** | The Seqa translation team just met in Honiara, the capital of Solomon Islands, for a consultant checking session on the book of Genesis. Please pray for the Seqa team as they travel back to their home island in small boats over open ocean. They will have to travel for multiple days, so please pray for safety and rest for each of them.

**Answer: September 28, 2021** | No word has come about the Seqa translators' voyage home; phone and internet service is often difficult from their home island. But no news from them usually means good news, and we're assuming that they made it safely across the ocean.

*At press time, we learned that all translators made it safely home.*

## EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST

### Ukrainian Roma Cluster Project, Ukraine

**Request: October 21, 2020** | Stanislav (Pastor Slava), a Vlakh translator in his early 50s, has come down with a bad case of COVID-19. In addition to preaching and translating, he and his wife take care of many Roma orphans who depend on them. Please pray for God to spare his life, enable him to recover completely, and continue to be an inspiration to the Roma community.

**Answer: January 15, 2021** | We are thankful that God healed our Vlakh translator Stanislav and that his condition after having COVID-19 has improved.



*Roma team members Anatoli, Dmitro, and Stanislav (Slava)*



*Roma pastors distribute Christmas presents in the community.*



Way community members tested translated Scripture passages for comprehension.

## ASIA

### \*Endi Project

**Request: August 30, 2021** | During a small church gathering last week, police took project advisor Lena and several others into custody for questioning. Please pray that they'll be released soon; pray for God's protection over them and the translation project.

**Answer: September 9, 2021** | Thank you so much for praying for Lena. She was released after seven days of questioning. She was fed only porridge and needs time to regain her strength. It seems the main reason she was detained was for her involvement in a small church that she and a friend had started. When her apartment was searched, information was found which led the authorities to the other people on her translation team. They were questioned but released after a few hours.

### \*Way Project

**Request: December 12, 2020** | The Way team finished translating and consultant checking the Gospel of Luke, and 500 copies have been printed in the country's biggest city. This morning, five boxes of the books were taken to the shipping point in hopes that they will arrive in the Way area before Christmas. Please pray for safe transit of the books and for them to be distributed in time for the Christmas holidays. May God be glorified!

**Answer: December 16, 2020** | Praise God that the 500 copies of Luke's Gospel reached the Way people's homeland safely! Now they can be distributed in time for the Christmas holiday. Pray that they go to the people that the Lord desires, that they are read, that the Holy Spirit takes away spiritual darkness, and that men, women, boys, and girls enter God's family as a result of reading the Gospel of Luke in the Way heart language.



Sunday sunrise at a Way church

\*Located in a region hostile to Christianity





*Cynthia Klock*



*Diane Norris*

# *Bridging the Miles in Prayer:*

## *Two Sisters Connect with One Heart for the Bibleless*

*When Cynthia and her husband attended an illuminaNations gathering for the first time nearly eight years ago, their whole world changed.*

*Cynthia remembers the deep conviction they felt.  
“It was very humbling to realize that we have not finished the task. After 2,000 years, we have still not gotten the gospel to the ends of the earth.”*

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This unsettling reality compelled Cynthia to talk to her sister Diane about it. Diane recalls, “My husband and I were looking for some ministries that we thought would be worth investing in financially, and my heart has been around prayer for a long time. There was a sense that getting to zero people without God’s Word could *really happen*. God commands a blessing when his people come into unity.” So, after the conference, not only did the sisters and their husbands start investing financially, but Diane and Cynthia also started joining in on weekly Seed Company prayer calls.

### *Iron Sharpening Iron*

Every Tuesday, a group meets on Zoom to pray for the day when everyone has access to Scripture in their heart language. These prayer warriors lift up global needs—like more Deaf Bible translation and more translation consultants—as well as time-sensitive, specific requests directly from the field. Diane and Cynthia have faithfully attended these prayer calls, which have enriched their spiritual lives and cemented their bond as sisters.

Diane lives in Kansas City, while Cynthia lives in California. Diane says it’s “like icing on the cake to know Cynthia will be there most Tuesdays, and I’ll get to see her smiling face. Two are better than one! Having that common bond continues to knit your hearts at a spiritual level.”

Now when they talk on the phone, they still catch up on grandkids and recipes—but also on their walks with the Lord. “It’s iron sharpening iron,” Cynthia says. “It gives our relationship a depth that, as sisters in Christ, we really want to have.”

### *Partnering with God*

Diane has participated in multiple prayer groups over the years, and she believes that when God’s people join in prayer, they partner with him to accomplish what he’s already wanting to do on the earth. Cynthia agrees: “Being on the Seed Company prayer team has made me look at the news completely differently—much more globally and much more prayerfully—instead of just getting discouraged.”

When the United States pulled out of Afghanistan, Cynthia began praying for Christians working there. She thought, *Maybe some who have left the country will be better able to translate Scripture now. Maybe they’ll be in safer places with better internet.* She also continues to intercede for the underground churches that remain in the country, and as she does, her mourning turns into praise. She is believing that God will use what happened in Afghanistan to accomplish his will among his people.

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Diane feels the same way—so much so that when she has trouble sleeping at night, she prays. “I’ll think, *Someone on the other side of the world is awake translating the Scriptures, or setting type, or printing*, and I’ll just pray. I am involved in this ministry of Bible translation even though I’ll never translate a single verse. I have this sense of ownership to really cover our translators in prayer, especially those who are in dangerous places. My heart goes out to the people who are trying to do this highly technical work with the looming reality that, at any moment, the door might be kicked in.”

### *Leaving a Legacy*

Now that they’re retired, Cynthia and Diane are asking the Lord how they can leave a lasting impact with these precious years.

“I really feel that we’re at a pivotal time in world history,” Cynthia remarks, “and I don’t want to miss the chance to be a part of it.” Diane adds, “We may not have another hundred years to get this work done—the freedom and financial wherewithal to do it—the way we do now. We need to get after it.”

The sisters are excited about the Unceasing Prayer for Bible Translation (UP) initiative, which will enable even more people to join in through a 24/7 prayer room. “If I was the mom of teenagers still, I’d have them on these prayer calls! We’d do this together as a family,” Cynthia says, knowing that, even in the busy seasons of life, this format makes participation easy. “With unceasing prayer, you can come for five minutes or five hours.”

“The two things that remain are the Word of God and the souls of men. So, what will you put your time and treasure into?” Cynthia asks. “This is where I get choked up every week. I can’t imagine people not having a single verse of Scripture when they’re feeling anxious and suffering.” Diane agrees with her sister’s priorities. “Does the house need to be cleaned? Absolutely. But the dust will wait. The dishes will wait. The grocery shopping will wait. What could I be doing that’s more strategic and important than this?”

Oswald Chambers famously said, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” Cynthia and Diane see unceasing prayer for the Bibleless as one of the most impactful ways they can spend their retirement years. Indeed, it is one of the most impactful ministries for *any* of us who call ourselves Christ followers, regardless of the season we find ourselves in.

“We’ll never be missionaries or evangelists,” Cynthia says, “but we’ll meet people who are there at the throne of grace and say, ‘You’re the ones we were praying for!’ Won’t it be exciting to see those faces? It will be a big party!”

---

*“I really feel that we’re at a pivotal time in world history, and I don’t want to miss the chance to be a part of it.” — Cynthia*



*“I am involved in this ministry of Bible translation, even though I’ll never translate a single verse.” — Diane*

---







# 24/7 Intercession: Unceasing Prayer *for* Bible Translation

## *Pray without ceasing.*

That's what the apostle Paul wrote in his first letter to the church at present-day Thessaloniki. He made no mention of *what* they ought to pray for specifically. Only that a life of constant prayer "is the will of God in Christ Jesus."

This is the kind of prayer we want to be about. Prayers bigger than the details that can consume us. Prayers that are an ongoing conversation—constant and God-centered. And from the beginning, Seed Company has had leaders who have faithfully modeled that for us. We look back to our formative years with gratitude for the countless hours Bernie May spent on his knees inside his broom-closet office at Wycliffe headquarters. Since those early days, we have humbly acknowledged that prayer isn't just *for* the work. It *is* the work.

Now here we are, nearly three decades later, committing ourselves anew to an authentic culture of prayer, one that aligns with Paul's charge to the first-century church. An exciting new initiative, called Unceasing Prayer for Bible Translation (UP), is uniting churches, houses of prayer, and other global partners in 24/7/365 collaborative prayer intercession every hour, of every day, for every Bibleless people group on earth.

## *How UP Got Its Start*

On June 5, Seed Company launched a beta test of this concept. God brought together more than 2,500 people in Zoom rooms and nearly 7,000 Facebook Live participants to pray. And pray they did! In more than 30 languages representing more than 50 countries, the incense of countless prayers for the most Bibleless countries on earth rose to the heavens for 24 uninterrupted hours. Roughly 120 worldwide ministries helped to organize, facilitate, and promote this event. One Persian Bible translator who participated was emphatic about why such constant, intense prayer is needed. "The level of spiritual opposition we encounter requires a *seven* to be added to this 24-hour event!" What a beautiful confession of our need to commune with God!

As Seed Company's Global Director of Prayer Solomon Lujan anticipated, the fruit of this initiative was God's confirmation of our focus. "We're well on our way to achieving unceasing prayer," he joyfully acknowledged. Thousands of participants have been praying daily for at least one minute at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., asking God to raise an army of 1 million unceasing prayer warriors for Bible translation by the end of 2022.

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Cultivating a vibrant community of faithful pray-ers is crucial to providing Scripture for those who still do not have access to it in their heart language. **More than 54,000 Seed Company prayer partners** fervently intercede on behalf of Bible translation around the globe. At least 10 prayer partners are connected to every Seed Company translation project.



[Click to discover how you can join the Unceasing Prayer movement.](#)



# PROGRESS *in the* PROCESS: *Translation Work Brings Transformation*



**FAITH:** Translators often take on the work because they need an income, but they gain so much more—new or deepening faith as they study and translate God’s Word.

**UNITY:** Denominational differences fade to the background as churches rally around a bigger cause: Scripture in their heart language.

**COMMUNITY:** Community members experience the joy of serving translators—bringing meals, providing office space, and sometimes offering lodging during workshops.

**VALUE:** People find new value in their culture by embracing their written language and learning to read it with Scripture-based literacy materials and Bible apps that have a read-along feature.





**IDENTITY:** As translation work fosters a resurgence of pride in minority languages, governments that once ignored those language groups finally begin to recognize them.

**PEACE:** Neighboring people groups who are normally at odds start to put aside their differences. This is especially apparent in cluster projects where several language teams come together for translation workshops.

**ACCESS:** Comprehension testing of Scripture introduces community members to God's Word, fosters relationships among them, and encourages personal ownership of the translation.

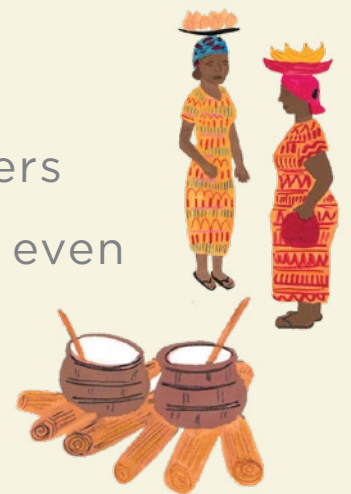
**GROWTH:** Through the translation effort, local leaders are identified and equipped, often going on to work in neighboring languages and projects.





As project teams and communities rally around Bible translation, God uses his words to bring about spiritual transformation, unity, and cultural identity long before the work is formally completed.

Here are just a few testimonies from our partners around the world, testimonies that reflect how even God's process of translation leads to progress in growing his eternal kingdom.







PROJECT:  
**Zayman Lafiya Cluster**  
LOCATION:  
**Nigeria**



### Renewed Identity, Love of Language

Diri translators explain that they didn't recognize the value of their language until they started work on the project. At that time, the Diri language was in danger of being lost. But now, the translators see the unique beauty and worth of their language. They are teaching their children to speak Diri, and they are also experiencing the joy of telling others about Jesus in Diri, the language that speaks most clearly to them.



"I'm full of joy that my children today can do devotions in Cicipu—sing hymns, say the Lord's Prayer, and actually pray in Cicipu."

— **Amos, lead translator (Cicipu project, Nigeria)**



"Prior to the translation work, church denominations in this area were in serious conflict with each other. But when the translators visited the churches to test and review the Scripture, relationships in the churches started becoming more stable. Pastors and church leaders of different denominations are having a good time together in fellowship as they share from the mother tongue Scripture."

— **Dangana Adamu, project coordinator (Geji-Zul Cluster project, Nigeria)**





PROJECT:  
**Kambari Cluster**  
 LOCATION:  
**Nigeria**

### A Prayer for National Unity

During a comprehension testing session, when Auna translator Luka was reading Isaiah 2, a woman stopped him and asked him to re-read the fourth verse. Thinking she must have caught an error, he read the text again, but she simply replied, “Amen.” Luka asked, “Why only ‘amen’? I thought you were correcting something.” She replied, “No, I only prayed in my heart that one day God will make this verse happen in our country.”

She went on to lament the utter disregard for human life she has witnessed: “People have become animals, hunted day and night. They have become goods for sale; money is demanded for ransom from people who don’t even have enough food to feed their family. I pray that God will visit us with this verse so that peace will return to Nigeria.”

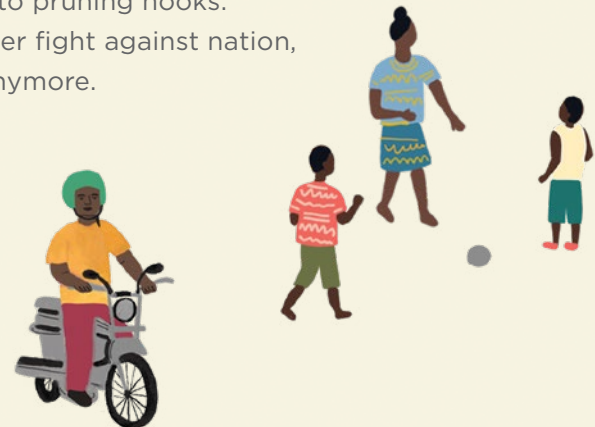


Magono ma Zuba ma yanka ta iyamba afada,  
 kpam u tuko makorishi ma ibili ma ama ushani.  
 A gonuko iburundu i le ashe a ucimba,  
 asovu a le kpam mmuwun ma lapuluka ndanga.  
 Uyamba wa doku wa radugba burundu u ne a  
 uyamba u roku wa, kpam a ka doku a rotsongusu  
 ure u kuvon wa.

— ISAIAH 2:4 (Auna)

The LORD will mediate between nations  
 and will settle international disputes.  
 They will hammer their swords into plowshares  
 and their spears into pruning hooks.  
 Nation will no longer fight against nation,  
 nor train for war anymore.

— ISAIAH 2:4 (NLT)







PROJECT:  
**Timber**  
 LOCATION:  
**Pacific**

**Unexpected  
 Lockdown  
 Opportunities**



To travel between their villages and the project’s office, dedicated Timber translators must cross a lake (about two hours by boat), then arrange a 40-minute ride into town. Depending on the season, they must sometimes wade through water on their commute. Multiple national lockdowns due to COVID-19 have limited these journeys, hindering some progress but providing other unexpected opportunities. Thankfully, the innovative team members found a spot on their lake—complete with a shaded “patio” and bamboo “desk”—with sufficient cell phone reception to send and receive translation data and notes.



In addition, team members found ways to involve and educate the wider community. They organized classes to teach the Timber alphabet to children and interested adults in several villages, and they even recorded a video on the alphabet and then distributed it on social media. Many people have expressed their support and asked the team to continue developing the Timber language.

With extended time in the villages, team members were also able to include more people than ever before in testing the translation for comprehension. They specifically sought input from their pastors on difficult biblical concepts. Best of all, when the team checked the translations in their villages, believing and non-believing Timber people were able to understand and answer questions about the text.





The background of the page is a colorful illustration. In the center, a man with a beard, wearing a blue suit, stands with his arms outstretched, addressing a group of people. The group consists of several individuals, including women wearing brightly colored headscarves (pink, yellow, red) and men in blue shirts. They are gathered in an outdoor setting with simple buildings, a ladder leaning against one, and a thatched-roof hut in the distance. The sky is a mix of light blue and white, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The overall style is flat and modern, with a focus on community and communication.

# *Translation Beyond* *the* **PAGE:**

*Celebrating the Different Ways God Speaks His Word*

For many, the Bible is a printed book. But for many more, God lovingly finds a different way to write his Word on the heart of a community. The following formats are ideal for people who prefer oral or visual communication.

#### **Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS)**

Roughly 75% to 85% of the world's population (including many who are literate) prefer to interact with spiritual truth through oral communication. OBS enables them to easily share stories from God's Word in their own language. When these stories are told in a tone and style that speaks to the audience, people remember what they've seen and heard.

#### **Oral Bible Translation (OBT)**

OBT has much in common with written translation. Each recording of an oral translation goes through the same rigorous steps for accuracy while maintaining the highest respect for the oral way of thinking, learning, and relating that Jesus himself modeled. These audio recordings are distributed on solar- or hand-powered Proclaimers, SD cards, and MP3 players. They are also available as digital downloads to cell phone apps.



## Scripture for the Screen

### The “JESUS” Film

The book of Luke is translated and used to create a script for the “JESUS” film—a powerful depiction of the gospel message that is often a community’s first introduction to God’s Word. More than 1,800 language groups now have this dynamic video of the greatest story ever told.

### LUMO Gospel Films

In partnership with the LUMO Project, Faith Comes By Hearing facilitates the creation of biblical film resources, currently available in 984 languages. These films incorporate recorded Scripture without the need for script translation, voice actor training, and dubbing.

## Sign Language Videos

Only 2 percent of the world’s Deaf population has ever had the gospel of Jesus Christ communicated clearly to them. Hearing communities often mistakenly believe that written Scripture should suffice, but literal, written languages are vastly different from signed languages that are contextual, involving both facial expressions and arm and hand movements. Reading will rarely feel as natural to a Deaf person, and for some living in developing nations, it’s not even an option as opportunities for education are limited. With 300 sign languages around the world, videos are a powerful platform for sharing God’s love with these often-marginalized people groups.

## Bible Apps

Even when a community *does* receive a written translation of Scripture, Bible books are often posted to apps with audio tracks where highlighted words are read aloud. This platform doubles as a valuable literacy tool for those communities eager to learn how to read their language.



[Click to discover more about how Bible translation works.](#)





# Celebrate with us God's love for variety!

Here are just a few stories demonstrating how Scripture is experienced beyond the confines of a page.



PROJECT: **Bakuna** | LOCATION: **Asia**

## Testimonies from TikTok

As a relatively new social media tool, TikTok has proven to be another effective way to share inspiring content. Translators from the Bakuna team have been busy uploading as many clips from the "JESUS" film as they can to this engaging platform. Some clips have been blocked by the authorities, but for those that are viewable, the impact has been profound. Translator Lee reports that the most viewed TikTok clip to date has been the story of "The Good Samaritan" with 4,749 views!

Viewers influenced by the clips include members of the translators' own families. Lee's uncle shared a link back to him with the comment, "Oh, there's something in our own language. So interesting and good!"

Team member Jennifer's older brother seldom reads the Bible or attends church services. However, when he came across the "JESUS" film segments on TikTok, he marked them as "favorites" and has played them again and again.

## Language Methodologies for 900 Engagements in 2021

	Oral Bible Translation	Oral Bible Stories	Written Translation	Visual Translation	Not Applicable*	TOTAL by Region
Africa	75	35	295	4	3	412
Americas	3	1	53	1		58
Asia	77	14	155	4		250
Europe/ Middle East	6	0	56	5		67
Pacific	10	6	95	2		113
<b>TOTAL by Methodology</b> <i>Data as of 9/30/21</i>	<b>171</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>900</b>

\*Three languages in a six-language cluster project are still undergoing linguistic research to determine the type and scope of their translation need.

### The First Complete Bible in Sign Language

According to DOOR International (Deaf Reaching Deaf For Christ), the world's 70 million Deaf are "the largest unreached people group." Not one among them has had the full Bible in sign language, until now!

The American Sign Language Version (ASLV) Bible has been a long time in the making. Starting in 1981, it took 23 years for the full New Testament to be translated. Some work was done on the Old Testament during that time, but in 2004, with the New Testament completed, translation teams could focus more fully on the Old Testament. Still, for most of the past 16 years, only one or two teams could work on different books. At that rate, the full ASLV Bible would not have been available until 2033. But in the last three and a half years, new technologies, more efficient translation methodologies, and increased funding enabled six teams to work on six books at the same time!

Chad Entinger, the chief executive officer of Deaf Missions, is grateful for the partnerships that accelerated this translation's progress. He said that, thanks to Seed Company and other partner organizations, the ASLV Bible was completed in June of 2020, 13 years ahead of schedule.

The full ASLV Bible was dedicated virtually on October 1, 2020, and "live" on September 11, 2021. Team members hope this translation will not only engage 575,000 Deaf people in the United States with God's Word, but will also provide a source text for approximately 300 sign languages still without a single verse of Scripture. Nathan Fair, Seed Company's regional director for the Americas, said of this monumental effort: "The ASLV Bible was truly created *for* the Deaf, *by* the Deaf. Our hope is that God will reveal himself to them in a way they can truly understand; now, they can receive God's words in their heart language."

*"American Sign Language (ASL) is the language we [Deaf people] can best understand. We really believe that having all God's Word in ASL will have greater impact and effectiveness as we reach out to Deaf people. It's hard for anybody to try to read and understand a Bible in their second language."*

— Chad Entinger, CEO of Deaf Missions





*The full American Sign Language Version (ASLV) Bible was dedicated on September 11, 2021. Team members hope this translation will not only engage 575,000 Deaf people in the United States with God's Word, but will also provide a source text for approximately 300 sign languages still without a single verse of Scripture.*









*Lafi e Devleso Cluster Dedication:*  
**GOD'S WORD**  
*to the* **ROMA**

*Roma people, often called Gypsies, are scorned throughout Europe, where most of them reside. They are darker in skin tone than other Europeans, usually far less educated, tend to keep to themselves, and have a reputation for lying and stealing. They are known as those who beg, might pick your pocket, usually have lots of kids, get married early, and dig through the trash to survive.*

*But God desires these social outcasts to become part of his family, and he is making his love for them known. Many Roma have become believers, and more churches and small Bible study groups are being started. There is also a renewed interest in preserving and promoting Roma languages and a realization that Bible translation is still needed. Of the 88 known Roma dialects, less than 20 have any Scripture, and of those, only a few have complete Bibles. Though Europe is generally post-Christian and postmodern, the Roma of Europe seem to be the most open to the gospel of Jesus.*

We love to anticipate—and celebrate—the happy endings of big milestones. Significant birthdays. High school and college graduations.

With Bible dedications, we also tend to wait for the grand finale: a complete New Testament. A full Bible. But what about the little steps along the way? They are equally worthy of great rejoicing as communities finally encounter the transformative power of God's Word! That's why approximately 500,000 Roma speakers—scattered throughout Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro—now have reason to celebrate! From September 8–15, four of their language communities—Arlj, Bayash, Chergash, and Gurbet—dedicated the Gospel of Luke and 50 Bible stories.

A few days prior to the dedications held in Serbia and Croatia, project coordinator Todd Price and several translators distributed some 1,500 printed Scripture materials! Recipients of those materials (other translators and pastors) were eager to distribute them into the waiting hands of their communities. The 50 Bible stories—encompassing creation to the return of Christ—are bound in a 700-page, full-color illustrated book made specifically for each language. Todd also showed them how to access the stories and Luke's Gospel through recordings on their phones.









The audio files are on both YouTube and a special website for Roma Bible translation. In this way, expectant Arli, Bayash, Chergash, and Gurbet speakers can read, and hear, what God has to say!

“There was a lot of excitement, not just for the translators seeing their work in print, but for the community to have in their hands what we have been talking about for a long time,” Todd said.

The Ludari team, representing the fifth language in this cluster, is still working hard to see the same result within their community. They recently completed a consultant check for Luke’s Gospel, logging 199 hours on Zoom over a 10-month period of virtual meetings in the US and Croatia. They plan to have this book and the 50 Bible stories completed by March of 2022.

In the meantime, Todd is helping all the teams scope out their next steps while he also prepares for a shift toward greater availability as their consultant. More of the New Testament will be translated into some of these Roma languages, which means more opportunity for them to understand that their people, their language, and their culture are not rejected. They are learning that they *matter* to God, and that changes everything.

### More Heart Language Scripture Dedications in 2021

God’s children around the world are beautifully diverse, but they all share in one common hope—the promises they find in his Word, now in the languages that speak to their hearts.

*Join us in celebrating with them!*

#### AFRICA (16)

Arew  
C’lela  
Dekamo  
Digo  
Kinga  
Koti  
Malila  
Mono  
Ndali  
Ngbandi-Ngiri  
Ngoni  
Nsongo  
Nyarafolo  
Pagabete  
Sangu  
Yao

#### AMERICAS (4)

American Sign Language  
North Conchucos  
South Conchucos  
Toba-Maskoy

#### ASIA (7)

Ghalemp\*  
Hadirun\*  
Himauri\*  
Orjay\*  
Savias\*  
Washtakhe\*  
Weraim\*

#### EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST (4)

Arli  
Bayash  
Chergash  
Gurbet

\*Indicates pseudonyms used for areas hostile to Christian activity





### The Prodigal Son Story Speaks Hope in Bayash

“ After spending the night in a small town in Serbia, we crossed into Croatia on Sunday morning, September 12. There we spent more time with the translators, discussing changes and improvements we will be making to speed up the next phase of this Bible translation project and to get more translators and more churches involved.

From there, we went to Djena and Biljana’s church. Though Djena and Biljana are Chergash speakers, most of the Roma in their church are speakers of two other very different Roma languages, Bayash and Ludari. We don’t have Ludari done yet, but it was a great joy to share with them printed and audio versions in Bayash. I played the audio version of the prodigal son parable in the Bayash language. Everyone was very attentive and listened well.

At the end of the service, Biljana told me about a man in their church who cannot read and who has been attending their church for probably 10 years. They rarely get much of a response from him when they ask if he has understood what they have been preaching or teaching. But when he heard the story in Bayash played over the speaker, he got so excited. He told Biljana that he understood every word, and he started summarizing the story back to her. This is the most he has ever responded to them in church. Praise God! ”

— Todd Price, project coordinator for the Lafi e Devleso Cluster



“Bahtale injen tumen o čorore,  
adalese soi o carstvo  
e Devlesoro tumaro!”

— Luke 6:20b (Arli)

“Blessed are you  
who are poor, for yours is  
the kingdom of God.”

— Luke 6:20b (NIV)





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*E q u i p p i n g*  
**COMPETENCE,**  
*I g n i t i n g*  
**CONFIDENCE:**

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**The *Project Ignite* Experiment**

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Two field technology specialists with Seed Company could sense the excitement of *learning* ... even over Zoom. After two weeks of successful online training with six translation team members in a sensitive country, Darcie Drymon and Chris Guthrie were saying to themselves, *We should do more of this. But how can we scale it to a bigger audience?*

Along with their team, Darcie and Chris prayerfully imagined how they could maximize technology to accelerate Bible translation. Then they started the conversation by embracing the core foundation of all Seed Company endeavors: partnership.

**Partnering Purposefully**

Both Darcie and Chris had a longstanding appreciation for SIL's EMDC (Eurasia Media and Distribution Consultation) after attending their annual conferences for several years. But when the pandemic forced EMDC to cancel a scheduled conference in Thailand, they knew they needed to pivot to an online platform, a medium that would also help them

make their programming accessible to those working in sensitive areas. A programmer from a partner organization had been developing a database that he was able to duplicate for the EMDC platform, and on May 14, 2020, EMDC Online was launched.

EMDC workshops historically focused on ministry media and distribution, but Darcie and Chris decided to ask EMDC's leaders, "What if we added some helping hands to host classes on Bible translation, language technology, and orality?" And on February 16, 2021, Project Ignite was born.

**Training Virtually**

Darcie and Chris began getting the word out about this three-month experiment with EMDC. After recruiting teachers from SIL, Faith Comes By Hearing, Wycliffe Bible Translators, and JAARS, Seed Company's field technology team hosted 33 classes about various aspects of Bible translation, language technology, and orality. Darcie and Chris led sessions on software, including Paratext and Logos, and Bible





# Hello!

**I am Darcie Drymon.  
I am Chris Guthrie.**

We are field  
technology specialists  
with Seed Company.







**“When you help one of us, you are  
impacting an untold number of others through  
our passing on what we learn from you.”**

**– EMDC Online participant**



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**“There’s a magic bullet somewhere—it’s human learning.  
I’m sure that competence and confidence will accelerate  
Bible translation.”**

**— Darcie Drymon, field technology specialist  
with Seed Company**

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translation experts presented on translation principles. Throughout the three months, 392 attendees representing 62 countries participated in multiple classes.

One attendee had always wanted her organization to send her to a “live” EMDC conference, but there was never any room in the budget. The online platform has since taken care of that problem. “Finally, I have a way to participate and learn about new things all over the world that people are doing in media, Bible translation, and orality,” she says.

Her excitement was mirrored by many other participants. The field technology team repeatedly received feedback from attendees saying they received *exactly* what they needed to do their jobs.

One commented, “I am currently a trainee typesetter, so I am interested in how I can also use what I have learned to help the translation team get drafts out sooner to the village for checking or early use.”

Another shared, “When you help one of us, you are impacting an untold number of others through our passing on what we learn from you, and the fact that it is recorded is even better, because I can go back and review it.”

#### **Paying It Forward**

The multiplying impact of partnering with EMDC Online is *precisely* what Seed Company’s field technology team had hoped and prayed for, and

that’s what they received. Of more than 80 survey respondents who gave their feedback on Project Ignite:

- 85 percent reported that increased knowledge and practical skills were the greatest benefits gained from the sessions.
- 74 percent recommended the course to someone else.
- 25 percent said they would consider facilitating a session.
- 76 percent said they are passing their new knowledge and skills on to others.

#### **Dreaming Further**

Looking back at Project Ignite, Darcie shared that one of the most rewarding components for her was getting to see “the lights come on” as participants discovered new things, became increasingly competent in their roles, and felt more confident as a result. “There’s a magic bullet somewhere—it’s human learning,” Darcie said. “I’m sure that competence and confidence will accelerate Bible translation.”

Although this three-month experiment has ended, Seed Company’s field technology team continues to partner with EMDC. Together, they’ve hosted 18 online classes, and they hope to recruit more indigenous presenters. Ultimately, they are praying that this partnership accelerates the multiplication effect of equipping the global translation workforce.

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## “TRAINING for TRANSLATORS” VIDEOS: *Proven Methods Go Digital*

For the last 18 years, translation consultant Steve Payne has trained new teams of local Bible translators in more than 35 languages. He knows that proper training in translation procedures and principles is essential to producing high-quality translations. Nonetheless, gaps exist. Some partners lack access to training materials or personnel qualified to lead workshops. And sometimes, new translators join a team after foundational training workshops have already taken place.

Steve is passionate about filling those training gaps to ensure Scripture translations are on the right track, even before he consultant checks them.

### Practical Training Made Scalable

Steve and his wife Laura have served in Bible translation since 1989. After finishing a translation project in Senegal, West Africa, through SIL, Steve came to Seed Company in 2003 to run Luke Partnership\* workshops. He originally used materials developed by Dr. Katy Barnwell, and then in 2015, he modified those materials into an updated series called “Training for Translators.” With a focus on translation procedures and principles, the series equips national translators to work independently and produce high-quality translations.

But when COVID-19 prevented many in-person workshops from taking place, Steve’s supervisor suggested that Steve turn his “Training for Translators” materials into a video series that could be used anywhere, and at any time. Steve was reluctant to commit to such a large project and felt uneasy about how much time it would take away from consultant checking Scripture with teams in Asia. “If I’m going to do something and put a lot of time and effort into it,” he says, “I want to make sure in advance that it will have a payoff and actually be used. And that was a big unknown.”

But his hesitancy was overcome by the need for accessible training and by others’ support for the idea, namely Laura’s. “My wife is my greatest cheerleader,” Steve says. “She is super behind these videos and feels like they’ll be greatly used.”

So, armed with the PowerPoints he had already developed for in-person workshops, Steve began producing the training videos in November 2020. He designed them to be:

- **practical**, rather than theoretical;
- **accessible**, with simple vocabulary and chunked speech so workshop leaders can orally translate videos for participants who don’t speak English; and



- **scalable**, so workshop leaders can modify them by adding extra exercises or local examples.

Steve also built many “pauses” into the videos so facilitators have time to interact with their teams. “The more discussion and interaction a workshop leader can encourage with the material, the better,” he says.

Steve finished the 39 videos for the first three-week “Training for Translators” workshop in August 2021. He is back to consultant checking with teams and hopes to produce videos for a second workshop based on feedback from the field.

### ‘A Gold Mine of Possibilities’

In the meantime, Steve has been inviting others to engage with the current series. He led a session on EMDC Online to present the training videos to people representing partner organizations interested in Bible translation. To date, teams in Asia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Uganda have expressed interest in using these training videos. Steve has even fulfilled a request to copy the videos to YouTube so they can be closed-captioned for use by Deaf translation teams.

One person commented, “This new resource is a gold mine of possibilities to help translation teams, new and old, to practice skills or gain new insights that they may not yet have integrated into their work.”

Another remarked, “These videos provide the resources for training that are lacking in my region. I’ll introduce these videos to my colleagues and try to see how we can use them in the future to train our translators ourselves instead of sending people for courses abroad.”

And Dr. Katy Barnwell, the forerunner of creating training materials for the Luke Partnership, shared with Steve, “These videos look great. I am confident they will be well received and will have a widespread impact.”

### From Lockdowns to the Ends of the Earth

Throughout the process, Steve’s wife Laura has been his biggest supporter. She has compared the opportunity to create these videos with the apostle Paul’s imprisonment. “Paul probably would have never slowed down long enough to write his letters if he wasn’t under lockdown,” she says. “He would have just continued visiting churches in person.” Similarly, without the pandemic, Steve would have kept traveling to train new translation teams, one workshop at a time. But now, this video series allows the training to multiply. Rather than teams waiting for an experienced trainer to lead workshops, the videos can equip them to get started sooner. While the full impact of this effort still remains largely unknown, Steve is content to leave his work in the Lord’s hands. “I hope this is just the beginning,” he says.



Laura and Steve Payne

*“The Luke Partnership was founded in 1999 as a joint effort between The JESUS Film Project and Seed Company to begin Scripture translation in languages where there was none, beginning with Luke’s Gospel and followed by the “JESUS” film script.*

## MEETING THE NEED: Training for Quality Assurance

One of the biggest challenges to translation work is the difficulty in finding translation consultants and exegetical facilitators (mid-level quality assurance checkers) who can provide:

- **final advising and checking for translated texts in four areas: accuracy, clarity, naturalness, and acceptability;**
- **a rich understanding of the target language and culture; and**
- **the ability to bridge the two in a translation.**

With every final check of Scripture, translation teams, churches, and communities are assured that their translations are faithful yet culturally relevant renderings of the original

biblical texts. But the global growth of Bible translation has far outpaced the global ability to monitor the quality of work. In partnership with organizations worldwide, Seed Company is committed to increasing the capacity of our quality assurance

workforce by offering high-quality education—coupled with personal growth plans and practicums—to qualified men and women in areas essential to Bible translation efforts. In the last year, 12 quality assurance interns completed our program.

Quality Assurance Interns	IN 2021	SINCE 1995
AFRICA	25	184
AMERICAS	17	39
ASIA	7	71
EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST	4	27
PACIFIC	2	81
<i>(In an unspecified region)</i>	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>406</b>



*You*

*Are Multiplying Their Efforts*

Growth Partners:  
Helping  
Translation  
Organizations  
Expand  
Their Reach,  
Experience  
Greater Impact

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a dirt path leads to a concrete well structure. Two women in red saris are walking away from the well, carrying pots on their heads. The middle ground shows a large, circular, earthen structure, possibly a water reservoir or a well. The background features rolling green hills and a body of water in the distance. The overall scene is lush and green, suggesting a fertile agricultural area.









As Seed Company grapples with the enormity of seeing Bible translation in progress over the next four years for every people group waiting to begin, we recognize that the task is not ours alone. It will only be accomplished through partnership with others, and we are exploring anew what it means to partner effectively. “All our projects have always been done in partnership with others,” says Seed Company President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Jones. “And we are all the better for it.”

God has uniquely equipped our Growth Partners (GP) team, formerly known as Global Innovations, to inspire and assist our global partners toward increasing their capacity for leadership and organizational growth. However, the sheer volume of work to be done in the next four years has forced GP leadership to reimagine not only their methods, but also their intended outcomes. The result has been a heightened collaborative approach that capitalizes on the unique insights of our Great Commission partners, insights which have *helped us help them* accelerate both the pace and impact of their efforts. “We want to help them build capacity so they can launch and fund projects where we are primarily catalysts, not managers, of the process,” Larry explains.

In our ongoing commitment to building these collaborative engagements, Seed Company has developed a new way to measure the impact of our work. Although we still pursue and maintain new language engagements that are managed and funded more traditionally, we also now track *Multiplication Engagements* where our international partners take more ownership in managing and resourcing the work. Of the 1,100 new languages that will have Bible translation in progress by 2025, we are believing God for 425 of them to be Multiplication Engagements!

### *A Partner-Led Endeavor*

GP’s unique approach focuses on the holistic development of an organization. Consulting teams offer practical assistance in areas often found lacking in nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)—areas such as strategic planning, executive coaching, finance, human resources, board governance, advancement, and dependence on God through prayer. The ultimate goal: organizational transformation.

Limited time and resources prevent GP teams from reaching every organization with this vital coaching. But joining forces with other partners that can, in turn, replicate GP’s consulting methods is the key to multiplying their impact. When our partners ask for help, GP teams get to work by *first* asking the right questions. One GP team member estimates that, in those early conversations, he spends 80 percent of his time just listening. This kind of care demonstrates a sensitivity to culture and context.

Moreover, GP teams are wholeheartedly committed to helping organizations that want to work more closely with churches. They give a hearty “amen” to the partner who stated, “We want to be a Bible translation organization rooted in our own national identity, our own economy, and our own church.” Two of Seed Company’s partner







“We want to help them build capacity so they can launch and fund projects where we are primarily catalysts, not managers, of the process.”

— Larry Jones, Seed Company President and Chief Executive Officer

organizations are already experiencing healthy growth in important ways that, in turn, are spawning Multiplication Engagements for the glory of God.

### ***Forging a New Strategy to Bolster Bible Translation***

In 2016, GP began working with a partner organization in a sensitive region of Asia. Based upon initial shared success, they asked us if they could use the GP model with *their* partner organizations. An expanded agreement in 2019 formed the scaffolding to replicate GP processes in Bible translation organizations throughout their country. During this past year, together with GP, they embraced a new countrywide strategy to increase church involvement, instill ownership, and raise missional awareness in this largely Muslim nation.

Their vision? To see God transform 10 Bible translation organizations in the next 10 years. None of the 10 organizations targeted had reported a single language start in the past five years. But when two of these organizations received mentoring in strategic oversight, programming, resource planning, vision, and reliance on the Holy Spirit, the result was *nine new translation starts!* Bible translation is also *restarting* in seven other languages that had previously hit major milestones such as completing the New Testament.

How did they do it? They connected with local churches went on to recruit more consultants, personnel, and investors for Bible translation. By 2030, this growing network of organizations expects to reach 250 people groups with Scripture. Maria Vega, senior strategic leadership consultant for GP and lead consultant for this partner country, describes progress as a key motivator for the organizations involved: “Our partners are passionate to

serve and willing to serve Bible translation. They are putting faith before fear, and God is moving. The boundaries are gone, and the results are truly amazing!”

### ***Government Restrictions Spur Bible Translation Capacity***

Another Bible translation organization in a sensitive region of Asia has been in business for more than 40 years, assisting with dozens of projects largely funded by Seed Company investors. However, in 2017, this group became increasingly concerned about proposed government regulations which would limit the amount of international funding that NGOs could receive. So, they turned to Seed Company for a different kind of help.

At the time, only about 5 percent of their funding came from in-country sources. As such, their leadership team wanted help with fundraising—specifically, connecting Bible translation with a greater share of resources coming from the church in their own country. But the GP team listened carefully and heard a different need. They followed up with broader questions—not just those related to raising money. They asked:

- Would you be interested in strengthening your entire organization?
- What if we helped you learn about your organization’s strengths and weaknesses?
- Do you want benchmarks to help you improve?

The answer was a resounding yes, and a memorandum of understanding was signed. A comprehensive assessment based on surveys of staff and board members identified areas ripe for improvement. Seed Company provided this organization with training on a biblical model of stewardship and followed up with coaching on how to build fundraising capacity. Three years later, the results speak for themselves:

- Since adopting the biblical model of stewardship, in-country financial support has grown from 5 percent to 30 percent.
- Training in board governance was slow to take root, reflecting natural resistance to change. GP’s governance consultant, Michael Kumer, explains that the team made several trips to meet with and observe the board in action. Patience, persistence, and prayer were rewarded in due time as the board realized the benefits of focusing on strategic issues versus operational activities.
- After receiving strategic human resources training, the HR staff is now more involved in member care and in future staffing and recruiting decisions.





**Building Bible Translation Capacity through Equipping Local Leaders**

Through Seed Company’s Internship Program, capacity building interns grow in leadership and learn more about efficient operations and field programming. Once they complete their programs, they “pay it forward” by training others—amplifying a cycle of growth where native speakers empower community members to take the lead in Bible translation and Scripture engagement. This supports the kind of multiplication that Growth Partners is all about. In the last year, four capacity building interns completed our program.

Capacity Building Interns	IN 2021	SINCE 1995
AFRICA	19	103
AMERICAS	13	31
ASIA	0	9
EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST	0	6
PACIFIC	5	45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>194</b>

- CFO mentoring has equipped the CFO to look beyond financial analysis to future financial planning.
- Numerous improvements in back-office functions have bolstered their efficiencies.

Today, this organization’s leaders are more confident and better prepared to oversee new translation projects in their country. Their translation portfolio had traditionally hovered around 40 languages—all supported by international sponsoring agencies. Now, because of their organizational transformation, that translation portfolio includes 52 languages, 12 of which are supported by their own network of donors!

***A Growing Family of Partnerships***

GP teams have now come alongside more than 20 international partners in Bible translation. Seed Company remains confident that walking with partners cultivates healthy, strategic, and self-sustaining organizations better equipped to run the race toward translating God’s Word into every remaining heart language. Seed Company’s Chief Field Officer Mark Farr believes, “This is some of the most important work we are doing and has the potential to increase impact and accelerate Scripture translation like never before.”

**Multiplication Engagements in 2021**

In fiscal year 2021, we exceeded our goal of 125 new engagements by 13 additional projects! This was no small feat in light of the pandemic, and we give God the glory for his favor over these 138 projects, which include 26 Multiplication Engagements!

**112 Traditional Engagements**  
(81 of which were First Scripture)

**26 Multiplication Engagements**  
(13 of which were First Scripture)











## A LOOK FORWARD: AN UPDATE FROM THE FIELD

Dear Seed Company Family,

We often celebrate—and *should* celebrate—the great momentum we’ve seen in the Bible translation movement, but the reality of what lies ahead prevents us from lingering there.

Approximately 1,900 languages are still waiting for their very first verse. To reach them, we must rethink what it means to truly partner with our Bible translation colleagues around the world. While we leverage our strong cash position and multiplication mindset through our Growth Partners (GP) initiative, our partners are increasing their ownership in both the funding and management of translation projects. This is a winning combination, and one that we believe can *dramatically accelerate* the pace of our projected progress in the Bible translation movement, if we diligently pursue three key goals:

**Catalyze Great Commission organizations** with the vision to accelerate their own Scripture translations and impact. In the next four years, while Seed Company fully expects to take on 675 new projects to traditionally fund and manage, we also expect to mentor our partners in an additional 425 Multiplication Engagements where they will take on greater responsibility in all aspects of their projects. Our GP consultants will mentor them on how to maximize their talents and assets.

**Transform the Bible translation consultant core at Seed Company** from a team focused only on checking translated Scripture to a team focused on *mentoring others* in appropriate methodologies that ensure clear, accurate, natural, and acceptable Scripture translations. This shift 1) better ensures knowledge transfer, 2) increases efficiency, 3) streamlines strategies for quality translation, and 4) expands partnerships with churches, grassroots organizations, and remote teams.

**Incentivize greater leadership among Great Commission partners** by becoming a minority investor for their projects.

This allows our partners to be more accountable to local stakeholders and more autonomous as they not only assume increased leadership over their Scripture translation efforts but are also inspired to accelerate the work! In 2021, Seed Company celebrated First Scripture starts in 94 language communities, 31 percent of which were launched with the help of our GP consultants who worked with grassroots organizations from Nigeria and Indonesia. We are also seeing our partners in Southern Africa, Mexico, Russia, India, and East Africa becoming increasingly responsible for the funding and managing of their own projects.

In Ephesians 3:20, Paul reminds us that God can do *immeasurably* more than we ask or imagine—including what he does with our deepest prayers and highest hopes for the Bible translation movement! Please continue to pray for us and our partners as we not only ask for, but *anticipate*, God’s “immeasurably more” in this Great Commission work.

Sincerely,

Mark Farr  
Chief Field Officer









Help us improve  
your experience!  
Click to take a  
2-minute survey.



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Chief Financial Officer



MARK FARR  
Chief Field Officer



FINANCIALS:  
NUMBERS BY  
THE BOOK





THE WYCLIFFE SEED COMPANY, INC. | STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2020

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>OPERATING:</b>				
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>				
Contributions	\$ 5,140,358	\$ 46,089,700	\$ 51,230,058	\$ 55,479,538
Support from affiliates				
Wycliffe contributions	179,337	131,667	311,004	37,563
Member support	882,315	-	882,315	759,819
Service income	-	-	-	15,000
Investment income	1,160,772	-	1,160,772	603,716
Other income (loss)	21,800	-	21,800	(83,195)
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Field operations adjustments	10,750,818	(10,750,818)	-	-
Administrative assessments (19% administrative & fundraising)	8,543,347	(8,543,347)	-	-
Satisfaction of program restrictions	15,804,796	(15,804,796)	-	-
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>42,483,543</b>	<b>11,122,406</b>	<b>53,605,949</b>	<b>56,812,441</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Program services—Bible translation	32,359,445	-	32,359,445	39,210,423
General and administration services	2,812,995	-	2,812,995	3,396,574
Fundraising services	6,692,373	-	6,692,373	5,516,203
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>41,864,813</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,864,813</b>	<b>48,123,200</b>
Change in Net Assets from Operations	618,730	11,122,406	11,741,136	8,689,241
<b>NON-OPERATING:</b>				
Grant expense due to deconsolidation	(1,188,342)	-	(1,188,342)	-
Equity transfer from Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.	3,706,341	-	3,706,341	3,861,475
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,136,729</b>	<b>11,122,406</b>	<b>14,259,135</b>	<b>12,550,716</b>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	15,187,803	25,676,546	40,864,349	28,313,633
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 18,324,532</b>	<b>\$ 36,798,952</b>	<b>\$ 55,123,484</b>	<b>\$ 40,864,349</b>

Seed Company's audited financials for the periods ending September 30, 2021 and 2020, respectively, can be viewed on [seedcompany.com](http://seedcompany.com).



Seed Company is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and complies fully with its rules for Christian ministries, including an annual independent financial audit.



It is the same  
with my word.  
I send it out,  
and it always  
produces fruit.  
It will accomplish  
all I want it to,  
and it will prosper  
everywhere  
I send it.

— ISAIAH 55:11 (NLT)













## SPECIAL NOTES

Approximately 1,900 people groups, representing hundreds of millions of people, do not have a single verse of Scripture in their heart language. Seed Company exists to come alongside these people groups, to help resource the Bible translation process. We invite families and churches to partner with us through prayer and financial investments.

Seed Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a vision to accelerate Scripture translation and impact for people without God's Word through Great Commission partnerships.

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1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Pseudonyms have been used throughout this report to protect the identities of individuals in regions hostile to Christians.

*Data in this report reflects totals as of 9/30/21.*

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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Steve Payne: page 46, back fold  
Todd Price: pages 39, 40, 41

## ILLUSTRATION

Anna Godeassi: page 23  
Monica Hellstrom: pages 3, 5, 55  
Stella Isaac: pages 26-31  
Tom Peake: pages 32-33

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Meanwhile, the word of God continued to spread,  
and there were many new believers.

— Acts 12:24 (NLT)



*Bible Translation. Life Transformation.*

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