

 Seed Company

Annual Impact Report

Bible Translation. Life Transformation.

2022

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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

OUR CORE VALUES

Honoring God
in all we do

Valuing individuals
and relationships

Partnering
effectively

Encouraging creativity
and innovation

Managing for
quality results



A Letter from Our President and CEO

Dear Praying and Giving Friends,

It is my privilege to pass on to you this annual report of Seed Company's ministry in 2022. Throughout its pages, I hope you'll be encouraged once again by how God has accomplished his mission in and through us. That mission—to accelerate Scripture translation and impact for people without God's Word through Great Commission partnerships—has picked up speed! Our field staff are traveling once again to connect with our partners around the world, and our investor relations representatives are meeting with our circle of praying and giving partners. Thanks be to God that he has brought us through a long pandemic valley, and we are flourishing in his work on the other side!

Because of the extraordinary generosity of investors like you, we have been able to creatively support Bible translation as never before. Whether funding the development of a new computer application to make Bible translation more efficient, or helping partners build a platform to train Bible translators in their country, we have been granted the privilege of helping our Bible translation partners sow new levels of effectiveness in God's harvest fields.

I recently heard that one of our partners had digitally adapted a polished translation of the New Testament in one language so that they could draft New Testaments in two related languages within just a few months! This cuts years off the total time it would have taken to finish translating the New Testament for those communities. Although this technology has existed for some time, we continually strive to help partners apply it in new, innovative ways—suited to their unique contexts—so that people receive God's Word as soon as possible.

Seed Company is also accelerating the work by equipping more of God's people around the world to take leading roles in the Bible translation cause. Our Seed Company Internship Program has led the way in building the global Bible translation workforce for many years, and our in-house translation consultants are eager to share their

expertise, multiplying their knowledge in others so that more translations can be checked for quality, accuracy, and acceptability within their respective communities.

Our investment in building the organizational capacity of our partners around the world is equally bearing great fruit. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, we have seen partners surging forward to lead Bible translation in their contexts. In both Indonesia and Nigeria, large local church alliances—led by partners in whom we have invested—met this past year to plan out how they would help Bibleless people in their countries engage in Scripture translation as soon as possible. As you read stories of people serving in these ways, I pray you will join us as we cheer them on! They are flourishing as champions of the Bible translation movement.

Thank you for being collaborators with us in God's Great Commission cause. I am reminded of Mary's words in Luke 1: "I am the Lord's servant." Just as Mary was moved to praise and worship when she realized God was using her for his kingdom purposes, may we likewise be moved as we participate together in his great work.

Warmest blessings,



Larry B. Jones, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer



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You Have *Chosen* to
Partner with Us





Global Stats: *Every Number Has a Name*

19,897 chapters of Scripture completed for **239** language communities in **2022***

*At press time, fiscal year 2022 data (ending 9/30/22) was still being collected for 925 languages engaged.

61,000+ Total prayer partners

180 Projects that completed translation goals

239 Projects transitioned to another phase

1,956 Cumulative languages served since 1993

925 Total languages engaged at fiscal year end, representing more than

665 million people in

84 countries served by

157 field partners

141 New language starts in 2022:

78 Momentum starts (*53 First Scripture*)

63 Multiplication starts (*47 First Scripture*)

Bible Translation Methodologies Used in Fiscal Year 2022 Language Engagements

	Oral	Oral and Video	Oral and Written	Oral, Video, and Written	Video	Video and Written	Written
Africa	110	2	30	0	3	37	288
Americas	8	0	2	0	2	1	62
Asia	87	0	4	0	4	1	177
Europe/Middle East	9	0	6	3	4	9	44
Pacific	21	0	1	0	0	15	101

Looking Forward

More than 1,600 languages, representing more than 124 million people, still lack a single verse of Scripture.

In pursuit of our goal to start Bible translation in 959 new language communities by 2025, Seed Company is asking God for 500 of them to be projects managed and meaningfully resourced by our global partners.



Momentum starts are traditionally managed and resourced by Seed Company, whereas Multiplication starts are managed and resourced with more ownership by our international partners.

First Scripture engagements are those where no previous translation work by any organization, Seed Company or otherwise, has been done.



Generational Generosity: Cultivating a Legacy in Bible Translation

Logan Brown vividly recalls evenings at the dinner table when his parents' prayers before meals included the work of Bible translation. He still carries memories of attending Bible translation gatherings and learning about the need to reach the Bibleless with God's Word.

For many Seed Company investors, Bible translation is a multigenerational family affair. That's what Ginny and Jeff Brown wanted for their family. And Logan is grateful for what they gave him and his brother—a legacy of love and hope for the nations that they now long to pass down to future generations.

Growing Up with God's Word

Today, Logan is a Seed Company board member, and he is especially grateful for parents who modeled for him an all-in mindset. Ginny and Jeff were first introduced to Bible translation nearly 20 years ago when Logan was still in elementary school, and it wasn't long before they dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to not only sharing their finances but also their time and talents. (Jeff has served on the boards of both Seed Company and American Bible Society.)

From the outset, Ginny and Jeff's excitement about Bible translation was contagious, and Logan quickly caught their vision. Today, Logan and his wife Hallie, ages 29 and 30, are already considering how they will pass along this passion for translation to the children they hope to have someday. When

Logan looks to both his past and his future, he sees very distinct ways in which God was leading him to adopt what was initially a passion of his parents but quickly became his own.

Praying for Bible Translation

Bible translation has always been "a big part of our lives," Logan says. Those regular prayers around the dinner table kept translators, field teams, and, most importantly, people who would be receiving the Scriptures at the forefront of his mind.

Logan and Hallie hope to model in their own home a similar focus on prayer for the unreached. "We want our family's prayer life to center around Bible translation and getting God's Word into people's hands," Logan says. "The Bible isn't just a book; it's life-giving and life-changing! We want everyone to have what we have."

Connecting with the Translation Community

Logan remembers attending Bible translation gatherings where investors enjoyed fellowship, prayer, and a renewed commitment for reaching the Bibleless. As a young man participating in these meetings, Logan made several close friendships within the translation community.

Those relationships, combined with the translation seeds his parents planted in him as a child, made it "a no-brainer for us to double down on our commitment

to Seed Company and to continue supporting it both financially and with our time,” Logan says.

Partnering with Like-Minded Friends

Logan’s parents’ passion for Bible translation was not only evident at home but also among their friends and coworkers. In 2014, Jeff invited a business partner and his wife to join him and Ginny in supporting a translation project. That initiated a translation partnership—and closer friendship—between the couples that continues to this day.

In true legacy fashion, Logan has asked his best friend and business partner, Bradley Roofner, along with Bradley’s wife Sarah, to join Hallie and him on their translation journey. Together, the two couples now participate in translation gatherings, invest in translation projects, and pursue other ministry opportunities. “There’s another whole level of personal attachment to the mission when you’re doing it in close community with others,” Logan says.

Visiting the Field

At the same time, there is nothing quite like the experience of traveling to the field, meeting translators, and attending a Scripture dedication. For Logan, field visits that allowed him to see the work firsthand began when he was 14. More recently, he and Hallie traveled to Senegal in 2017 to witness a New Testament dedication ceremony for a project his family had supported.

The ceremony created dozens of memories they won’t soon forget. Hallie was particularly impressed by the people’s endurance and enthusiasm, their willingness to “celebrate in the heat of the day for hours on end,” and the honor they paid to all involved in the translation work. The experience also provided insight into the cultural and spiritual challenges that some teams face in translating Scripture.

“I got a very small glimpse of what translators are up against, and the kind of culture they’re trying to permeate with the Bible, and how things are different,” Hallie says. “It made their situation a lot more real to me and helped me gain a more holistic perspective.”

For Logan, visiting the field inspires him in an equally profound way. “Personally, I always feel a little bit of sadness about my own perspective on the Bible,” he admits. “When you see someone else get it for the very first time, you see how excited they are and how joyful they are. I’m reminded of how much I take it for granted and how casually I think about the fact that I’ve got several Bibles in our house. It’s just so easily accessible to me. But watching somebody get Scripture for the first time is life-changing. It’s emotional.”

Hallie wholeheartedly agrees. Prior to meeting Logan, she knew very little about Bible translation. Yet witnessing the enthusiasm and constant dedication of her husband and in-laws over a long period of time has convinced her that investing in Bible translation is well worth her effort, energy, and resources. “This isn’t just Logan’s passion anymore,” she says. “It’s something we’ve really owned as a team.”

Passing the Torch

Of course, these are only a few examples of how one family engaged their children in Bible translation. For Logan and Hallie, continuing the family translation legacy is never far from their minds, and their dreams extend beyond their family. They are particularly passionate about involving people their age—the next generation of investors—and creating personal experiences that motivate them to make Bible translation a priority for *their* families.

In many ways, that’s exactly what was done for Logan and Hallie. Older investors poured into them a love and fervor for taking God’s Word to the Bibleless, and that made all the difference. Now that Logan and Hallie have the ability to invest in Bible translation, they can’t imagine those resources going anywhere else.

“Getting God’s Word into the hands of people who currently don’t have access to it is potentially the most foundational element of the Great Commission,” Logan says. “It’s incredibly important—some of the most important work going on in the world.”





“The Bible isn’t just a book; it’s life-giving and life-changing! We want everyone to have what we have.”

— Logan Brown

Behind and Before: Fortified by Grace in 2022

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. — Psalm 139:5 (NIV)

God's goodness is all around us. Like a strong wall surrounding a fortified city is his faithful love for his people. The following praise updates represent a small fraction of nearly 2,300 posts to Seed Company's #prayer Slack channel over the course of the 2022 fiscal year. Rejoice with us as we are reminded once again of his handiwork among the nations.

(Praise updates lightly edited for brevity and clarity.)

10/6/21 | Asia **The Chawma team reports:**

After 14 years, the Chawma published the New Testament in two different scripts. When the chief imam (spiritual leader) saw it in the traditional script, he asked if he could buy a copy. The team leader said that he had 1,000 copies, and the chief imam asked for 200 copies for the mosques in the region. The team leader gave him the copies for free.

10/15/21 | Kenya **The Suba team reports:**



Before translation work began among the Suba community, church denominations had barriers between them, and a member of one church was not easily received by another church unless they were planning to join that church permanently. But when translation work began, we started forming different committees ... drawn from different church denominations. Unity began among these few members who

went back and talked to those in their different church denominations. Today, 27 years down the line, almost all church denominations have accepted one another.

11/4/21 | Uganda **The Aringa team reports:**

Aluma, 38 years old, experienced dramatic changes in his life after he began reading Scripture in his heart language. He told the team:

"I would like to give thanks to the Almighty God for changing my life through his Word in Aringa. I was challenged by Galatians 5:22–26 because I didn't have the fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life. I knew that without Jesus' help, I could not produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and yet, these are things that make man complete. I kept reading the Word of God privately in Aringa, and my understanding of it started to increase. As such, I can now stand in front of the congregation in our church to preach the Word of God. This is a change that none of my family members, elders, or friends expected to see in my life. I was seen as one of the most sinful people in our community, and I had a lot of self-pity and low self-esteem because of my character. My life now makes many people see what God and his Word can do in a sinner's life. My friends wonder at the visible change in my lifestyle. I never expected this transformation through reading God's Word in my language. My prayer is for the entire Aringa Bible to be translated so that my people can know and have the truth and the full Word of God in their hands, homes, and hearts. This transformation through the Word of God is real."

1/18/22 | Asia

The Yamka team leader reports:

We had been encouraging Yamka people to compose gospel songs. The last Sunday in October, I went to a village to join the dedication service for their new church building, and what I saw during the worship service filled my heart with joy. A women's group sang a song of thanksgiving while dancing in their traditional music style. About 300 Yamka people were there. Later that night, they gathered again with more women to sing and dance around the fire. Normally, people sing songs about their immigration history, but this time, they also sang songs of praise to God.

1/25/22 | Kenya

The Rendille team reports:



On December 18, 2021, 13 ladies graduated from an adult literacy program through Africa Inland Church (AIC Korr). Geygeso, one of the graduates, had this to say:

“When I enrolled in the program, I was like a blind person. Being a mother, I never had the opportunity to go to school. But when the classes started, I was among the first to enroll. As the classes went on and the Word of God was shared on a daily basis, I became more interested in hearing it. In the process, I surrendered my life to Jesus. Now I have found the light. The Word of God in my language is becoming sweeter every day. I now have a tool in my hand, and that is the Word of God. My desire is to share this sweet Word with other women and children in my village. I want them to receive this light that I have received.”

1/31/22 | Asia

The Khily team leader reports:

Amid going through and facing all kinds of crises—from political corruption to the pandemic—there was no safe place for us. Fear kept us and our families awake most nights. However, the team has translated some of Paul's epistles, and 2 Timothy 1:7 has inspired them very much. They recognize that the God we serve has not given us a spirit of fear in times of crisis. Instead, he gives us powerful minds, love, and self-control.

1/31/22 | Asia

The Nosko team reports:

We operate in a country in Asia that is going through a political crisis. When the team leader refers to “freedom,” this is a concept loaded with meaning. In the first quarter of the fiscal year, we consultant checked Exodus 1–17. Here is the team leader's testimony:

“Moses knew his weakness, but he trusted God to deliver Israel. Like Moses, we are unworthy and uneducated, but we love our people, and we are trusting God to translate the Bible. We want our people to read the Bible in our own heart language. We want our people to be free through the Word of God, just as Moses delivered Israelites from slavery.”

2/10/22 | Asia

The Willin team reports:

After the Willin team translates and checks a portion of Scripture, they give it to the church leaders and brothers and sisters to listen to and use for teaching. One leader went to a village that had had very little contact with outsiders. The people older than 40 are not able to read or write the national language. They are unable to understand songs in the national language, so they don't like them. But they had heard there were some songs in Willin, so the majority of the village listened to songs—as well as Scriptures and Bible stories—in their Willin language. Praise the Lord that most people who heard the truth believed and have since been baptized. And they have now become a church!

3/3-4/22 | Europe

The East Slovak Romani team reports:



A translator for the East Slovak Romani project also pastors a church in Slovakia, about 20 kilometers from the Ukrainian border. This church is assisting Ukrainian Roma refugees who cross the border on foot. They pick them up and provide them with food and accommodations before they move on. The church's “sanctuary” is now a sanctuary for those who have lost their homes. “They are conducting services for the refugees every night of the week, and people are coming to Christ,” the project manager says.

4/18/22 | Africa**The Lahido team reports:**

We thank God that the presentation of the book of Genesis was well received by the leaders of the Lahido village. Even the imam himself (their spiritual leader) distributed the books among the representatives of the different clans and attendees. About 100 people were there! During the presentation, we also played a sample of the recordings that are available, and the people were very excited. Some asked us for the recordings. Glory to God! Let's remember that this ethnic group has been 99.9 percent Muslim, and their identity is in Islam. This has been a great step of acceptance, and we feel that we now have more freedom to share these resources with the community.

4/19/22 | Kenya**The Kenyan Sign Language team reports:**

Most Deaf don't understand what it means when they read in John 8:12 that Jesus is the light of the world. They think Jesus himself is bright or shiny. But when the passage is translated into Kenyan Sign Language, they understand the metaphor: the world is in darkness because of sin, and Jesus brings the light of salvation into the world for each believer to receive when they are saved.

4/19/22 | Togo**The Hougbe Cluster team reports:**

After doing the community checking of four Oral Bible Translation series from the Gospel of Luke in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Togo (EEPT), the catechist who is the president of the translation committee congratulated the translators:

"As the days go by, you are improving the work. I have already preached on these passages without understanding them well. But now that it is in my mother tongue, I understand them deeply, and I can preach them better. Our language is becoming part of history forever. May the Lord strengthen your hearts to face and overcome all the difficulties associated with this work."

5/2/22 | Asia**The Nosko team reports:**

During the last quarter, when the team checked Proverbs 31:10–31, one woman was especially encouraged to learn that a virtuous woman can bring blessings to her husband, children, and family. She testifies:

"In our culture, women are not respected, not valued very much. They are not valued as much as men, but God values men and women the same. I have come to understand the importance of women for their families, for their community, for the church, and for the kingdom of God."

5/2/22 | Uganda**The Ndrulo team reports:**

Several months ago, James 4:1–10 in the Ndrulo language brought about a radical change in Okecha, an alcoholic who had been thrown into jail several times for beating his wife. He is now praising God for saving his life. A month or so into his new life as a believer, he told his story to a friend and fellow alcoholic, Mathatha. This friend was touched by Okecha's testimony, and together, they called a pastor who came and taught them from the same passage in James, as well as James 1:1–9. Mathatha gave his life to Christ, and the pastor prayed for him. About two weeks later, Mathatha told Okecha and the pastor, "Jesus Christ will be my best friend in life."

5/2/22 | Democratic Republic of Congo**The Ubangi New Testament Cluster team reports:**

Yakidji did not want to hear about Jesus; he often said that the Christian religion is for the white man. As a hunter, he leaned toward using amulets and worshipping idols which, for him, provided animals. He hated God's servants.

However, on our last trip, we were surprised to find this brother attending church every Sunday. We asked the pastor what happened, and he told us that after the dedication of the Mono New Testament, he was leading an outdoor Bible study in Mono, right next to Yakidji's yard. He had been speaking about Paul's conversion in Acts 9:1–19.

From his yard, Yakidji followed the story carefully without the knowledge of the pastor. Two days later, he came to the pastor's home to testify how this Word marked his life, and he made the decision to renounce all the ancestral practices he considered his gods. Since that day, he has become a follower of Jesus, and the pastor has started to disciple him with the Word of God. Yakidji even bought a Mono New Testament, and today, like Paul, he bears witness of his changed life to others.

5/11/22 | Uganda**Gift Asiku, the language program coordinator for SIL Uganda, reports:**

It is wonderful to witness three interns (Andrew, Aristarchus, and Tom) taking charge of the training program, *An Introductory Course in Translation Principles*, as Enoch, their mentor, guides and encourages them. It is the first time in Uganda when all the facilitators are Ugandans. What a joy to see this growth and mentoring in the ministry.

7/6/22 | Nigeria**The Sakko Cluster team reports:**

One day, one of the storytellers, Pastor Laban, went to a nearby place and told a Bible story to idol worshippers.

They all accepted Jesus to be their Lord and Savior! They asked for a church, so one was started for them under a tree near their abandoned shrine. The community leader donated a piece of land for a church to be built. No windows or doors exist yet on the unplastered, roofed structure, but they are using the church for Sunday church services and other church activities. Just imagine starting a church in a place because of Oral Bible Storytelling!

7/22/22 | Tanzania

The Gitemi team reports:

Rev. Ezekiel Kassin, overseer of TAG Church Digodigo Section, shares:

“When I speak in Swahili, people listen and remain silent, but when I speak in Gitemi, people respond and say that it is true. When we sing in Kiswahili, people feel normal, but when we sing in Gitemi, all the people—even the elderly—wake up and dance. This shows that though we have preached for many years in Swahili, the gospel has not penetrated Batemi people. But if the Bible is completed in their language, I believe that the gospel will penetrate them and turn them to the true God Jehovah, and they will stop worshipping their gods.”

7/28/22 | Middle East

The Chakhi team reports:

At an Oral Bible Storytelling meeting, a young man spoke about what he had learned about prayer. He shared that, according to our culture, it is very difficult for a man to apologize to his wife. But then he learned that a lack of forgiveness is one of the things that can be a barrier to our prayer life. The words in 1 Peter 3:7 stood out as these verses speak about how husbands should live with their wives. He realized that he needed to tell his wife he was sorry, so he prayed that God would help him do this. God gave him the courage, and he asked his wife to forgive him of many things. When she saw his humility, she started to weep. Due to cultural hurdles, the men in our community are reluctant to ask for forgiveness, but when looking at this cultural norm through Scripture, it is different. Only prayer can motivate us to cross all our cultural hurdles.

8/2/22 | Nigeria

The Akoko-Edo Cluster team reports:

Before now, Christian organizations and churches in this community were not united. Because of doctrinal differences, they would not honor each other or attend crusades or outreaches together. But as members from various churches and denominations were selected for the translation project, skepticism about whether they could work together subsided. Various leaders now see that we are working together for the Lord.

8/15/22 | Asia

The Halung team reports:

This week, the Halung project advisor, his wife, and family traveled to a Halung village to baptize 20 believers. They gathered in a remote, mountainous jungle area by a stream. The project advisor’s wife had composed a song for them to sing before they were baptized. Her father was the first one to be baptized. Another man who had heard about the gathering traveled 100 kilometers by motorcycle over mountain roads with his 12-year-old Deaf son to attend the meeting. He hoped someone would pray for his son to be able to speak. After the church had been fasting and praying, the boy said *Grandpa*, *Grandma*, and *Dad*. His father was so moved that he decided to stop smoking and drinking and believed in Jesus. The project advisor is earnestly seeking the Lord to give him wisdom to know how to continue the task of feeding newly baptized believers.

“The Word of God in our mother tongue! On top of that, a very well-done translation, without any mistakes, that speaks directly to me. It penetrates my heart more than anything I have ever heard before. May the Lord be with you and give you what you need for the advancement of his work.”

— A Dangbe leader upon hearing the Gospel of Luke in his heart language

Unceasing Prayer: *Celebrating What's UP*

Virtual Prayer Hours/Week: **40**

Prayer Leaders/Hosts: **170**

Participants: **1,500+**

Minutes Prayed for Bible Translation: **280,000+**

TOP 10 NATIONS INVOLVED: Australia,
Germany, Greece, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Switzerland,
Uganda, United Kingdom, United States

As incoming leader of Wycliffe Bible Translators more than 40 years ago, Bernie May was challenged with a question: “What is the single most important thing you can do as CEO to advance your organization toward its goal?” The Holy Spirit led him to the answer: prayer.

In 1981, Bernie saw that prayer efforts were often focused on places where missionaries were present. But what about unreached people groups? He and his wife began praying for a Bibleless people group, and he challenged others to make similar commitments. The response was incredible, leading to Wycliffe’s Bibleless Peoples Prayer Project. That passion to pray for people with no Scripture became the DNA of Seed Company when Bernie launched it in 1993. Today, thanks to technology, that passion can unite prayer partners around the globe who are committed to Bible translation. The Unceasing Prayer (UP) virtual prayer room celebrated its first anniversary on January 1, 2023.

What is Unceasing Prayer?

Unceasing Prayer is a virtual prayer room that supports the battle cry to “Pray for Zero.” Pray for Zero is the global prayer movement for Bible translation, mobilizing and uniting people to pray for the day that every tongue, tribe, and nation will have God’s Word in their heart language. Zero marks the end of a countdown.

Currently, in 40 hours each week, UP connects prayer warriors around the world, intercessors who share a passion for bringing Scripture to Bibleless people groups. And as more one-hour, hosted sessions are added, even more translation partner organizations, field teams, and waiting communities will be covered with unceasing prayer, every hour of every day throughout the year. Why is this important? Because no matter

when or where you’re reading this, somebody is working on Bible translation. Right this minute. Through UP, we can pray for God’s work in the same way he works: nonstop!

How is UP different from simply praying on your own for the Bible translation movement?

Throughout the Bible, you’ll find people like Daniel and Moses praying alone. Even Jesus modeled private prayer. But God also calls on *communities* to seek his face. In those shared gatherings, he uniquely leads his children to model discipleship, experience impact, grow in faith, and encourage perseverance. People who rub virtual elbows with others in UP prayer rooms find that their personal prayer life is challenged and expanded as they pray *with* and *for* others, especially those working in areas hostile to Christianity. They find that their understanding of Bible translation deepens. But most of all, they gain a new appreciation for God’s work through his global church, the body of believers. Praying together reminds us that Christ unites us for his Great Commission purposes and moves us to action, no matter where we live.

What impact has God made through UP since its launch date on January 1, 2022?

The pandemic delayed Bible translation work in some ways, but it also accelerated the adoption of user-friendly video conferencing tools. One of those—Zoom—became the timely platform for UP, a place of vital connection where each scheduled UP hour became a testament to a unique story of impact! Here are just a few of those stories:

- When LuminAfrica wanted to build a coordinated prayer program, UP was the ideal platform. By identifying an hour on the UP calendar and rotating different leaders as hosts, they established a viable,

ongoing prayer ministry. They encourage staff and ministry partners to join their hour, consolidating and uniting on a common, shared platform.

- In the spirit of Bernie May's early initiative, a large coalition of Christian ministries have been praying for a single people group. They now use UP to pray weekly for the salvation of the 80,000 Deaf in Israel, plus a Bible translation project that will give them access to Scripture in their heart language.
- In the Caribbean, an UP hour on Sundays has led to gatherings where pastors encourage church participants to pray for Bible translation and Seed Company's work. "There was that catalytic advocacy of getting the word out," says Solomon Lujan, Seed Company's global director of prayer. "You could see that kind of relational equity with a pastor whose heart has truly been impacted by the Lord to the point where he said, 'Let's do that. God can move your heart too.'" When genuine advocacy for Bible translation captures a leader's heart, it is naturally caught by the hearts of those in the congregation.
- The Asian community began using UP as an advocacy tool to actively engage their prayer partners, investors, and staff in the spiritual work of prayer and the practical work of Bible translation. One bilingual Asian prayer host reported that her team is amazed by the Holy Spirit's work through them: "I see the fire is lighted. They know more [about] how they can get involved in the mission, and they have more motivation to follow, to support, to intercede. And they are more certain about God's might. I have seen their mindset has been changed, and more brothers and sisters acknowledge that prayer is powerful, important, and necessary."

What's next for UP?

UP is growing not only its prayer room capacity but also its breadth of engagement in the greater Pray for Zero movement. For example, on September 1, 2022, UP opened prayer hour hosting to individuals who aren't directly affiliated with a ministry. Training and caring for new hosts are also priorities as Solomon anticipates quadrupling the number of hourly sessions on the UP prayer calendar. "But it's not just quantity we have in mind; the most earnest prayers are well-informed," he adds.

UP prayer hosts—and others in the Bible translation community—can now benefit from a reimagined version of Seed Company's prayer journal, originally used only by staff. The new digital journal guides numerous prayer partners on a journey that highlights impact stories and prayer needs for Bibleless communities, field partners, and projects, all associated with a different region each week. This journal is also available on a reimagined Pray for Zero website, further increasing visibility for the UP movement.

Summing It UP

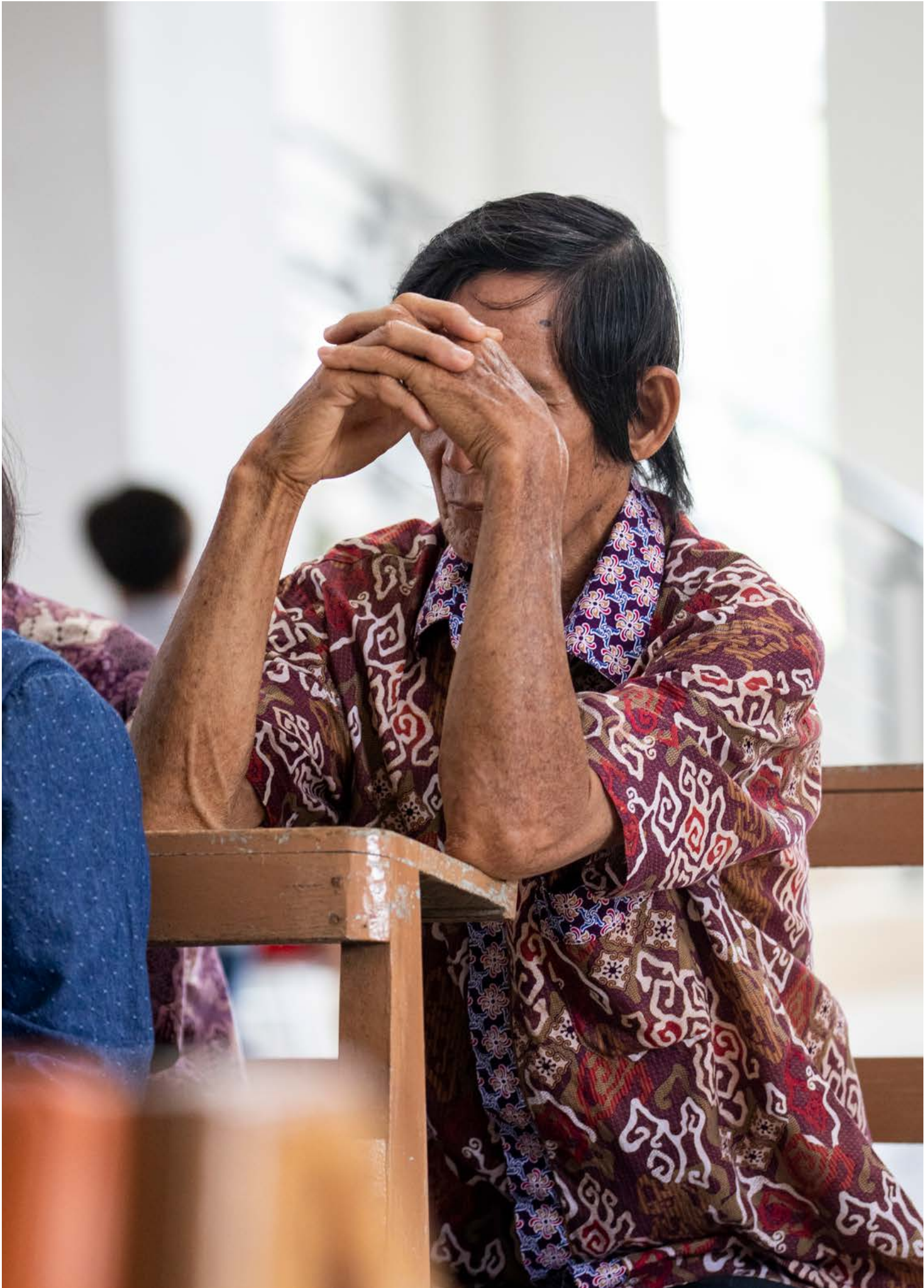
In just one year, God has established a cohesive prayer movement for the Bibleless across Africa. He's created concentrated prayer for the Deaf in the Holy Land. He's prompted island pastors to involve their churches. He's united people who speak different languages into shared prayer rooms. And he keeps producing a heartfelt desire for prayer that's contagious.

"Moving forward, we want to cooperate with what God shows us," Solomon says. Some of those next steps include greater utilization of social media to engage more people in prayer for the Bibleless. The UP team also continues to reach out to houses of prayer, inviting them to catalyze prayer in their own ways for Bible translation. And as always, they continue to prioritize educating more churches and ministries about how to champion Bible translation as part of a Great Commission focus.

"As God builds the Pray for Zero community through engagement with UP, this is an exciting time to be involved. We can't wait to see what he will do next," Solomon says, full of hope over what lies ahead.



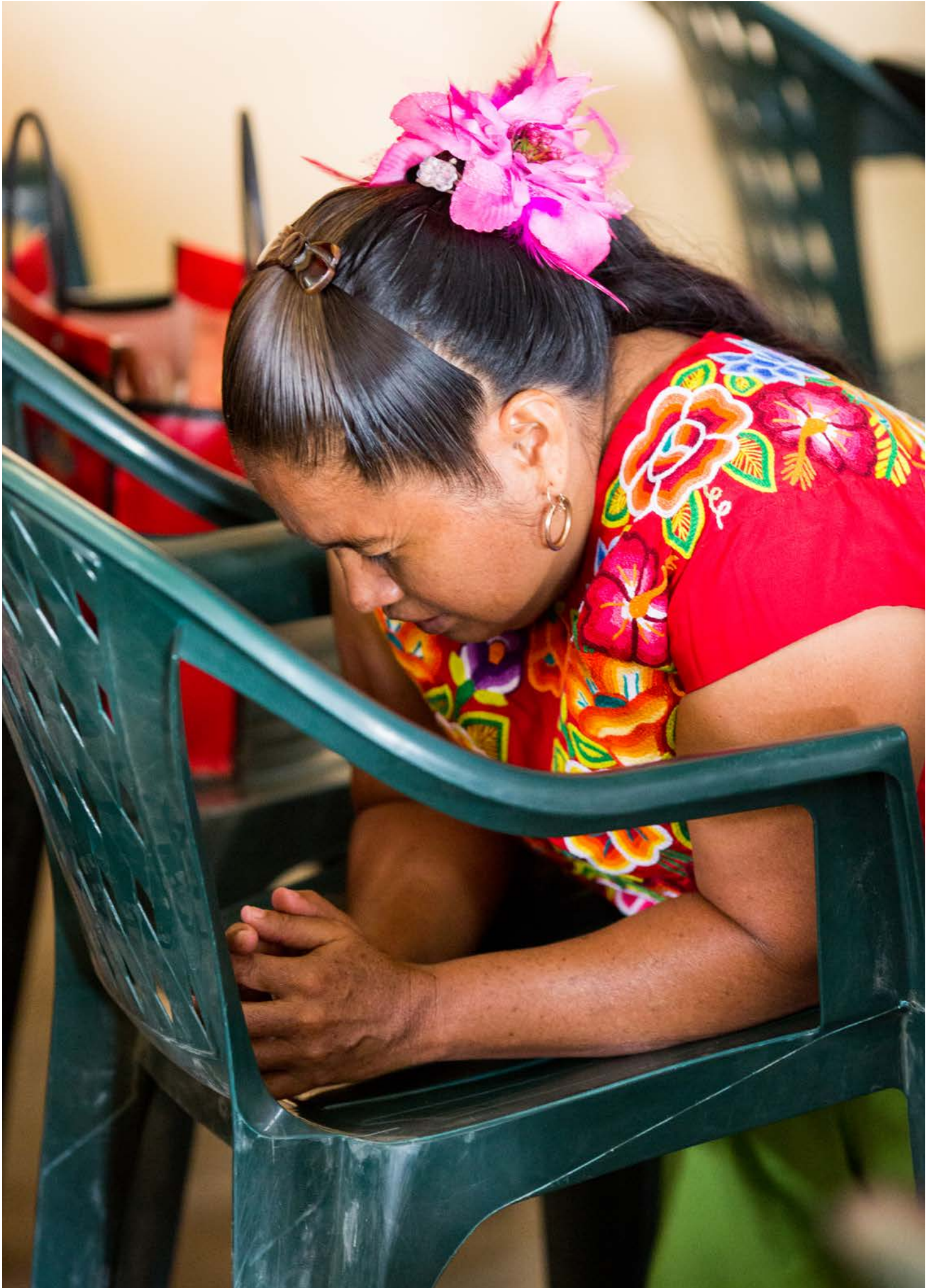
Scan this code to learn more about the Unceasing Prayer movement.






*“I always viewed Seed Company
as a prayer ministry that happens
to do Bible translation.”*

— Bernie May, Seed Company’s founder







You Have Brought
Gospel Truth to
Communities *around*
the Globe



Misriani's Miracle: *Joy in the Light, Protection in the Darkness*

The Helong people live in remote farming villages on the islands of Timor and Semaun in Indonesia. Such isolation has helped this small group of approximately 20,000 speakers retain their language and a pride in their identity. But when Christianity was introduced more than 100 years ago, they did not have a Bible to call their own. As churches grew, pastors orally translated the Scriptures from Indonesian (viewed as a formal or second language) into Helong during their services.

So, in 1998, God called local people—farmers as well as a university professor—to work on the translation of the New Testament and Genesis into Helong. Local churches also released pastors from their normal responsibilities so they could translate on a part-time basis. Their participation enabled them to immediately use the translated materials in their ministry to Helong speakers.

Misriani, now a consultant in training, joined the project as a translator in 2003. She was overjoyed to see, bound in one volume, the full New Testament plus Genesis and 63 hymns. The work was completed in 2012 and dedicated on her home island of Semaun. This was an especially meaningful milestone for Misriani, who knows God's Word is the only hope for Semaun villagers still clinging to the false promises of

black magic. Freedom from the occult is her ongoing prayer for her people. It's also the miracle in her story.

“People so appreciated [having] the Bible!” Misriani beams. “God lowered himself to speak to us. Because people know us as a ‘black magic’ people, we’ve always seen ourselves as lower class, and yet Jesus broke the barriers and came to us.”

A huge smile spreads across her face and her eyes light up as she remembers the Helong New Testament dedication—a celebration that included more than 2,000 people from multiple denominations and religions, as well as government officials, all united in their excitement over the Word of God in their language. Misriani didn't want the party to end.

“You have this vision that is beyond you. It is too beautiful, to the point that you want to share the joy,” she says. So even when the day-long dedication turned into *two* days of celebrating, that didn't deter this tired consultant in training from joining her brother on a journey to “share the joy” with those who could not attend. The next morning, they loaded up their motorbikes and backpacks with roughly 150 New Testaments, intent on delivering

them to churches in each of the other 13 Semau villages. As a translator, Misriani had worked with several churches in those villages, and she knew almost all the pastors. A quick call to them was all she and her brother needed to solidify their plans. Even after connecting with a pastor whose church was in a very remote, unknown location, Misriani never weakened in her resolve. Surely, they'd find his church!

So on rough roads, or on no roads at all, the faithful siblings "danced" their way on their motorbikes, Misriani cheerfully says of the bumpy ride full of obstacles. Many times, they lost their way. They also pushed their motorbikes quietly through a dangerous herd of wild buffaloes. But running out of water is what proved most treacherous, so when they spotted a house ahead, they drove right up to the front door to ask the owners for a drink. Misriani was invited in while her brother looked after their motorbikes and precious cargo.

The couple seemed friendly enough and gladly made their way to the kitchen to get Misriani some water. When they returned, they asked where she was from, and she didn't hesitate to tell them about her family—all faith-filled Christians—or her plans to read and teach from the Helong New Testament once they finally made it to the church. While the couple listened, they extended a tray to her with the requested glass of water. But when Misriani grasped the glass, it inexplicably shattered in her hands. Water pooled all around her feet, creating a flood of questions and embarrassment. *What had just happened?*

The shards of glass left not a single scratch on Misriani's hand. Stunned, the wife returned to the kitchen for a second glass. Misriani drank the water and, sufficiently refreshed, expressed her appreciation before apologizing once more and continuing the journey.

Misriani and her brother finally made it to the church, and they stayed at the pastor's house. Misriani led multiple home Bible studies that night, and because she spoke Helong so well, the people asked her to "explain this and explain that." They nodded their heads and even shed tears as she read from the Helong Bible.

Misriani even had the opportunity to teach that Sunday! Long after the liturgy ended, she had ample

opportunity to talk about the Bible. She taught Helong speakers the importance of finding the Lord through his words to them in their heart language. Many wanted to meet her and get their own copies of the Helong New Testament, but the crowd eventually cleared away long enough for Misriani to lock eyes on two familiar faces.

"Hey, remember us?" they asked.

How could Misriani forget the couple who had provided her the glass of water? She immediately apologized again for breaking what could have been a very expensive glass, but she soon realized this meeting was about a far greater brokenness. The penitent couple bowed to Misriani as they backed away from her in fear. Then they started to cry, repeatedly uttering apologies in Helong.

"I put poison in that glass," the husband confessed while his wife tried to wipe away a steady stream of tears. "I wanted to kill you."

There was no fear in Misriani's response. Only joy, forgiveness, and a love for the miracle-working power of her Savior rose to the surface. "The Lord loves you the same way he loves me," she confidently told them.

The more accepting Misriani was, the more this couple opened up. They knew all about her mom and dad—passionate, Holy Spirit-led teachers of God's Word despite their lack of an academic biblical education. They also admitted to trying to kill her brother-in-law, a learned man who provoked neighboring villages to jealousy over his influence in the community.

To this day, the couple still attends the church where Misriani spoke more than 10 years ago. And the pastor still marvels at the ongoing transformation he sees in them. When he asked Misriani her "secret" for getting them into church, her simple response revealed where the only true source of power lies.

"I have no secret," she said. "I just talked to them about the Bible. I am just the tool that the Lord used."



*“They tried to poison me once.
Now they are following Jesus!”*

— Misriani, consultant in training

The Power of *Language*

When Misriani left a promising government job to work in Bible translation, even Christian friends and family expressed concern. But observing a consultant checking session of the book of Acts in her heart language of Helong was all the inspiration she needed to forge a new path. In addition to serving 10 years on the Helong team as a translator and editor, she's also been an advisor and translation coordinator on several other language projects in Indonesia. Misriani has completed an MA in linguistics, and this September, she will complete her consultant in training (CiT) internship through Seed Company's Internship Program.

Besides Helong, Misriani speaks three local languages, Indonesian, and English. She uses Indonesian for checking back translations—the step in which a draft is translated “back” into a language of wider communication to check it for accuracy. She learned English so she could understand exegetical sources, most of which are written in English. In addition to her CiT responsibilities, Misriani is training 15 local translators and church leaders in meaning-based translation. She hasn't taken a vacation day in four years, but for her, “working sometimes feels like resting” because she is so passionate about her calling.

Even in predominantly oral cultures, people often want to see their language written. Without an orthography, different speakers might write the same language in inconsistent ways, but an orthography helps reduce this confusion. It also lends permanence to the language and gives people a sense of pride and identity. Misriani gets to be

part of that process by creating orthographies for unwritten languages. She asks her audience questions like, *How do you say “spoon” in your language?* And when they answer with a word like *hodek*, she helps them identify what sounds the word contains and how to represent them in writing. “At the end of the day, they come up with this beautiful alphabet,” she says. “And they say, ‘Oh, so *this* is how we write our language.’ It is so beautiful.”

Misriani has completed three full orthographies with the help of a former member of SIL (an international linguistics and translation organization). She is now recording and analyzing word lists and will be working on three more languages at the request of a local church.

“I'm enjoying every moment of it,” Misriani says. “Training people to get to know the sounds that they make in their language is powerful.” She's also observed that when people *see* God's Word in print versus only hearing it, “they experience Jesus in a different way.”





Adding to Their Number: A Translator's Journey toward Gospel Truth

"No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number" (Acts 5:13–14 NIV).

A translator affectionately known as Little Brother pored over this passage in Acts, trying to get all the details right as he worked with a teammate to render the verses accurately.

"I don't get it," he said. The translation team leader assumed he was confused by the grammar; "even though" and "nevertheless" were used in back-to-back sentences. But Little Brother's question went far deeper, straight to the struggle of what most in his community deal with every day when considering the promises of Scripture. "How is it that people would join the Christians if they were afraid?" he asked.

Drawn to Scripture

Little Brother has lived his entire life as a devout Muslim in the arid Makori homeland of Africa's Sahel region. Brilliant from a young age, he earned a master's degree in linguistics and began working

with SIL translators in the mid-1980s. He has helped with various translation projects in the area for more than 30 years.

In 2016, Little Brother was translating *The Way of Righteousness*, a Christian radio program created specifically for a Muslim audience. Translating the entire program was a monumental task, and Little Brother was on track to do so in three months. But one day, as he was nearing completion, he emailed the team leader with a surprising message: *I quit*. When asked why, he said he found himself speaking regularly about Jesus, and before long, his Muslim friends started to accuse him of becoming a Christian. "No, no," he always responded, "I am not becoming a Christian. I'm just working on these translations." The pressure from the Muslim community continued, and Little Brother knew what embracing a new faith would cost him—everything. He told the team leader, "I do not want to become a Christian, so I cannot work with you anymore."

Little Brother left the team with *The Way of Righteousness* unfinished. But after 10 months of silence, he reached out again, asking for his work schedule as if nothing had happened. It was too

difficult for him to acknowledge the mistake he had made, so asking about the work was his best attempt at repairing relationships.

The team forgave Little Brother and allowed him to translate again, but they also wanted to show him that Christians embody both forgiveness *and* integrity. The team leader explained to him that he was welcome to rejoin the team under one condition: they would only pay him *after* he completed the work.

Little Brother agreed, grateful for the second chance. And for the next few years, he helped the team translate many new literacy booklets into Makori, as well as rough drafts of the rest of the New Testament and an oral back translation of it from Makori into French for the consultant checking sessions.

Desiring Prayer

In January 2022, the team leader was planning a trip to the Makori area for a consultant check of final New Testament books when he learned that Little Brother had been hospitalized with blood clots in his heart. Little Brother had requested prayer! The translators assured him that they were praying for him and that he was a crucial member of the team—they would not finish the New Testament without him. They needed Little Brother’s skill as a translator, yes, but they also wanted the predominantly Muslim community to see how Christ followers were treating Little Brother—like *family*.

The team prayed that both Little Brother’s physical and spiritual heart would receive healing. Finally, after three weeks in the hospital and a period of convalescence, he rejoined the team for the consultant check of 1–3 John, James, Jude, and Revelation. The completed New Testament is scheduled to be recorded and typeset this year with the fully published version available and dedicated in early 2024.

Moving Forward in Community

Little Brother’s response to Acts 5:13–14 reflects the struggle common to many Muslims in his community: they are attracted to Christ but paralyzed by fear. What will happen if they leave their culture’s ingrained beliefs?

Little Brother remains a Muslim to this day, but one who has been impacted by the gospel. He is still a faithful servant on the translation team. The team continues to pray that the powerful “nevertheless” of God’s Word would conquer his fear and transform his heart, adding to the number of those who believe.

Makori Project Overview

Each translation project Seed Company partners with has its own inspired history, a history that often stretches back long before we come alongside local teams and field organizations. Little Brother is part of one such project. Work in the Makori community began over 40 years ago, and *Seed Company became a partner on the project in 2016*. Now, Little Brother's community is on the verge of having the full New Testament in their heart language for the first time. Here are a few milestones to celebrate toward that end.

1980–1995

The Gospel of Mark and Old Testament Portions

In 1982, SIL members working in the region translated the Gospel of Mark. But with no Christians in the area and nearly 100 percent of the Makori adhering to Islam, there was little interest in the translation. Translators realized they needed to begin with the Old Testament because Muslims claim figures like Adam and Abraham as prophets. Thus, Muslims' acceptance of Old Testament prophet stories would provide a foundation for a basic understanding of the God of the Bible, preparing Makori hearts for the message of Jesus.

"The Old Testament is so rich in story that it is a win-win if you want to reach Muslims," the Makori translation team leader says.

1996–2011

The Gospel of Luke and the "JESUS" Film

In 1996, New Testament translation began. They started with the Gospel of Luke so that they could dub the "JESUS" film alongside printed Scripture. After years of hard work, Luke was completed in 2007 and the "JESUS" film was recorded in Makori in 2009. This marked the beginning of outreach using audio-visual technology, which is helpful in predominantly oral cultures like Makori, where many cannot read.

"You may think, as Muslims, they would reject anything Christian, but that's not true," the team leader says. "They reject being converted or forced, but if you show them a film that is interesting, they don't feel like you have crossed a line with them."

As the community showed more openness to this avenue for evangelism, the translation team dubbed more biblical films into Makori, including *Genesis*, *Acts*, *Luke*, and *Magdalena*.

2012–2015

The Four Gospels in a New Translation

In 2012, the Makori translation project formed as it now stands—with the ultimate goal of completing and publishing the entire New Testament. Little Brother was also a member of the project at that pivotal time when the team was first deciding what translation style to use.

Because few Makori Christians possessed biblical knowledge, translation work in their language initially employed an idiomatic translation approach—expressive, communicative, and dynamic. But Christians now involved in the translation process had been influenced by the older, well-respected Hausa and French versions, and they desired a more literal approach. The solution: a modified literal translation strategy which included extensive notes in the text to clarify biblical concepts difficult for readers from an Islamic background to understand.

With this approach, the team began work on the Gospels, completing one per year from 2012 to 2015 and publishing all four in 2015.

2016–2024

The Complete New Testament

In 2016, Seed Company began its partnership with the Makori project, providing funding for the rest of the New Testament translation. Little Brother finished translating *The Way of Righteousness* and continued with work on this first Seed Company project phase (2016–2020) where the team translated Acts and the letters of Paul.

The Makori project is now well into its second phase (2020–2023), and the New Testament is nearing completion. The team is consultant checking 1–3 John, James, Jude, and Revelation. The completed New Testament is scheduled to be recorded and typeset this year with the published version available and dedicated in early 2024.



It Takes a *Village*:

*Comprehension Testing
Transforms Communities*

Bible translation is a process, but that process is all about *people*.

When a community is ready to begin a Bible translation project, no one-size-fits-all approach can be applied to the work. Each people group is different, and every translation team must customize its strategy to ensure God’s Word is not only accurate to the original texts but natural to the recipients. Sophisticated software automates some of the process, but it can never replace the human mind in understanding. Local team members first develop a culturally relevant context for understanding the text. Then they begin the time-consuming process of translation, comprised of six basic steps:

1. Draft: Translators analyze a passage for meaning and then draft it in their language.

2. Team Check: Translators collaborate with one another to check each verse for accuracy and clarity.

3. Comprehension Test: Translators give the drafted Scripture to their community and request feedback to determine how well it is received. Does the translation sound natural? Does the audience understand the message? Revisions are made to improve clarity, accuracy, and acceptability.

4. Back Translation: The draft is translated “back” into the language of wider communication so that non-native consultants can check it for accuracy.

5. Consultant Check: A consultant joins the team to check the translation, making sure it is both natural sounding and faithful to the original texts.

6. Publishing: Translators carefully proofread and typeset—or record—a final version of the completed Scriptures.

Of these steps, perhaps the most rewarding—outside the primary goal of producing a quality translation—is comprehension testing.

Comprehension Testing Enlightens Reviewers, Changes Hearts

Because Scripture is “alive and active” according to Hebrews 4:12, it begins its work in the community as soon as people interact with it. That power is especially evident during comprehension testing as local volunteers—from churches as well as the community at large—wrestle with passages in early iterations of Bible books. They ask: *Is the translation clear? Do the words used communicate the intent of the original passage in a context that best fits our culture?* And in the asking, they do so much more than “test” the work. They are personally challenged by Scripture. During this process, some grow deeper in faith, and some embrace Jesus for the very first time.

As God makes his words known—even in this early stage of the Bible translation process—he enlightens understanding and sparks hope. Here are a few observations made about the drafts of Mark and Revelation from community members in a sensitive region of Asia:

“When I finish with the check at the end of the day, I don’t stop thinking about the verses I read, but they are in my mind till I lay down at night to sleep. Even then, these verses are still going through my mind.”

“When I first came to read and help with this check of the Gospel of Mark, I thought this was only about doing a job—the technical process of translation. But when I got here, I found that it wasn’t just about

repeating back what verses meant in my language; you [the translators] asked us many questions like ‘Why?’ So, I realized I had to try and really understand deeply. ... I am in the university, studying law. I am always impressed by people who know how to make good speeches and arguments, like different politicians. But I have just learned through this [comprehension testing] process that Jesus was really good at making good arguments. All those who spoke to him, trying to trick him, never could. He always won. He is an example to follow.”

“When I saw that we were going to check Revelation, I was afraid because it talks about God’s anger [and] punishment. But God’s purpose isn’t to make us afraid. [He wants] our lives to change. Even though God shows his anger in this book, he also shows us what is beautiful (in the new heaven and earth) about eternal life. We keep sinning and sinning, and God keeps reminding and reminding us [about] ‘whoever overcomes.’ As we were reading through this book, I kept thinking of the different parties in this book. In which one of those am I?”

“In Mark 9:22b–24, I liked the story about when Jesus came down from the mountain and a man asked him to heal his demon-possessed son. The father said: ‘But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.’ ‘If you can?’ asked Jesus. ‘Everything is possible for him who believes.’ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, ‘I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!’ I know that I am a believer; I believe, but sometimes things happen which cause me to struggle to believe. In times like this, I call out to God to help me believe because I know that all this comes from God alone.”

“For me, there was a small thing, but it spoke to my life. In Mark 6:30–34, Jesus said to his disciples that they should go away and find a place to rest. He also had a need for rest, but when he and the disciples got to the place they were trying to rest, many people were already there waiting for him. He had looked for an opportunity to be alone, away from many people, but when he got there and saw them, he didn’t say, ‘Why did you come here?’ His heart was full of compassion and kindness, and he could see what they needed so very much. All those people

had walked all the way around the lake to get to him because they had such a great need of him, and he responded to that need.”

“In Mark 4:35–41, Jesus was sailing with the disciples, and there were huge waves swamping the boat. They thought Jesus didn’t care about them because they almost died. We often think we can plan out our lives, [but] we can’t keep ourselves from disaster or get ourselves out of it. We forget that Jesus is the one who protects us. Often, we face all kinds of troubles. We believe in Jesus, but we are in situations that make us doubt, and we think, ‘What in the world am I going to do?’ In every trouble, wake Jesus up, just as the disciples woke him up in the boat and asked for help. When he is with us, he will work everything out for us.”

“I know that I have a lot to learn, but I keep asking God, ‘Why am I here?’ In Revelation 3:8, we read the words: ‘I have opened a door for you.’ I realized I was here not just to learn, but because God is opening a door for my work in [another language community]. God is preparing me for my work there.”

“This book [Revelation] says that John saw many people, like the sands of the sea, from every language, tribe, and nation before the throne. This is amazing. It reminds me also of Philippians where it says that everyone, everywhere, is going to kneel and acknowledge God as Lord. In Revelation 3, it talks about one city with only a few believers. ... It made me think of my own nation. One day, everyone will acknowledge that Jesus is God.”

“When we read in the national language, we just read. But when we read this in our language, we jump right into the story.”





You Have Given
Them a *Reason* to
Celebrate



Ooratsa C'aak'uwa



A Time for Renewed Identity and Transformation in Africa: *The KOM Cluster New Testament Dedications*

As heart language Scripture comes to the KOM Cluster*, it is a time of rebirth. While the Konta, Oyda, and Melo share many of the same customs as their fellow Ethiopians, they live in remote areas, far from the center of power in Addis Ababa. Many feel like strangers in their own land. On the periphery. Forgotten.

But Pastor Eremias Mamo works with churches throughout Ethiopia and sees hope on the horizon for the KOM Cluster, due in no small part to Bible translation among them. He explains how heart language Scripture reminds them of their value, points them to faith, and grows them as stronger communities within the larger nation: “When I read [the Bible] in English, I feel like I’m talking to a Westerner. When I read it in Amharic, I feel like I’m talking to an Ethiopian. When I read it in my mother tongue, it’s like talking to my mom and dad. It contains meanings that other languages can’t express.”

With God’s Word in their languages, the Konta, Oyda, and Melo now understand what it means to belong to the family of God. They know he speaks their language, and as Pastor Mamo agrees, that’s

when true transformation can begin: heart language Scripture “sheds light in your life and helps you to be a follower of Christ.”

‘A Birthday for These People’

Nearly a thousand people were seated on the grass outside the church building. As they waited for the Melo New Testament dedication to begin, hundreds more waited outside the gates of the compound. There was simply no more room. Children climbed trees to get a better view. Abraham, one of the Melo translators, says this day was 10 years in the making. “People were always asking me, ‘When are we going to read our language? When can we understand the Bible wholly, completely?’” Today was that day.

The choir began with a hymn in Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia. The crowd, still seated, sang along respectfully. But when the first few chords of a Melo song rose on the air, the people could no longer contain their joy. They jumped to their feet, worshipping, dancing, and celebrating. “This is the language in which they express their love, sorrow, and joy,” explains Tesfaye Bekama,

**People groups in the same general region often speak related languages, but when those languages are different enough to warrant their own translations, teams collaborate in a cluster project, thus helping to accelerate Bible translation for their communities.*

the national director for The Word For The World (TWFTW). “It is actually their very life. So, to have the Word of God in their heart language is so important.”

Later, local church leaders struggled to maintain control of the crowd because everyone wanted to be among the first to hold the Melo New Testament—the first written document of any kind in Melo! Marcus, the project’s team leader, struggled to capture in words the depth of their delight: “This is a new day. A birthday for these people. We have been waiting for this day. God has been helping us. This day is a privilege and a joy. Praise be to God.”

‘We Are Now among the Ones God Has Called’

The Konta dedication began with a procession into town. Special guests for the day—including government officials, local partners, and Seed Company representatives—were presented with gifts: a traditional shirt, a hat, and a purple flower presented by the children of the community. A local church leader pointed out the significance of holding the ceremony at the Center for Culture and Tourism: “Christians have been persecuted in Ethiopia for most of my lifetime. Now, to have this dedication in a government building and to preach the gospel here is a miracle.”

The Oyda dedication also began with a procession and gifts as hundreds of people welcomed guests into the church building and gave them a traditional scarf. As with the Konta, a local community leader sees this day as a milestone for the people, reminding them of the years of hardship and struggle they have passed through. He rejoices that, with heart language Scripture in their hands, they have entered “a new time God is giving us.”

Both dedications included worship and speeches from the guests, leading up to the moment everyone had been waiting for: the presentation of the New Testaments. The guests were brought up to the stage, and as they were given their copies, they were

instructed to raise them high together. As the Word of God was lifted, the crowd erupted with shouts of joy. Women were crying, and children were dancing. The celebrations had begun!

Toward the end of the Konta ceremony, a community leader read aloud from Revelation: “And they sang a new song with these words: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it ... your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation’” (5:9 NLT). At the Oyda ceremony, one of the translators also turned to Revelation to describe the significance of this day for his people: “In the book of Revelation, we see how God calls people from different races, tribes, and cultures in their own language. Among these tribes is the Oyda. We are now among the ones God has called.”



Scan this code to read more about the joyful dedications of God’s Word among the Konta, Oyda, and Melo people of Ethiopia.

The Konta sing a new song. *The Oyda enter a new time.* The Melo celebrate a new day.

Now entering their third project phase, the KOM Cluster teams have already started translating the Old Testament, and they have done so from a posture of gratitude. The recent dedications of New Testaments in Konta, Oyda, and Melo are a tribute to God's love as he speaks it over them in each of their heart languages.

Project: **KOM Cluster**

Location: **Ethiopia**

Field Partner: **The Word For The World (TWFTW)**

Celebrating the arrival of God's Word
for **758,000** in three language groups:

Konta | 543,000 | June 25, 2022

Oyda | 65,000 | June 27, 2022

Melo | 150,000 | June 26, 2022

Long-Awaited Scripture in Papua New Guinea: *Dedicating the Full Aruamu Bible*

On the northern coast of mainland Papua New Guinea, several Aruamu men gave their hearts to Jesus during an open-air crusade. They began sharing the gospel with their people. Small, passionate churches were born. And before long, believers yearned for God's Word in their language.

That was in 1977. Roughly 10 years later, John and Marsha Relyea from Pioneer Bible Translators answered God's call to work among this people group of about 12,000. With the help of a capable translation team, they completed the New Testament in 2004. "But then John died in 2005, just before the New Testament dedication, and our whole world changed," describes Marsha.

Having the New Testament whetted the people's appetite to acquire all of Scripture in their heart language, but they didn't know how to begin work on the Old Testament without John and Marsha carrying out their key roles. That's when "the Aruamu really stepped up and began managing their own project," Marsha explains.

Marsha continued in her role as an exegetical checker, at first traveling from her home in Dallas to Papua New Guinea a couple times a year. Then translators, two at a time, started coming to Dallas for six-month visits to carry out remaining consultant checks. This, coupled with Seed Company's help beginning in 2012, accelerated their progress, and they completed the full Bible in 2020, ahead of schedule! This

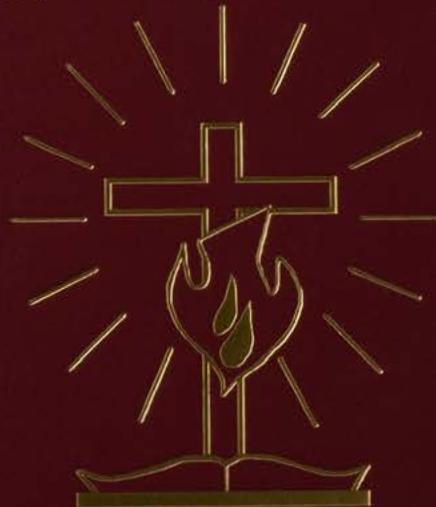
was especially remarkable in light of the pandemic and bans on international travel. Thanks to satellite internet communication with the Aruamu village, Marsha could continue work with the team and complete the typesetting process remotely.

Unfortunately, it would be two additional years before the Aruamu could celebrate this incredible accomplishment nearly four decades in the making. But when travel opened back up, they wasted no time in preparing to celebrate the arrival of God's Word. For the Aruamu, August 4, 2022, marked a new beginning and a promising future: the full counsel of God for their people and hope for more than 800 language communities throughout Papua New Guinea who are still waiting to receive the fullness of God's Word in their languages.

The Arrival of God's Word: A Feast for the Aruamu

The sun's first rays peeked over the foothills of Tiap village, greeting a tired but joyful cohort of Aruamu men and women. In this remote village, with no electricity or refrigeration, meals cannot be prepared in advance, so numerous people stayed up all night. Some peeled mountains of taro, yams, and plantains. Others slaughtered and prepared five pigs, 50 chickens, and a cow—all to be wrapped in banana leaves and placed in large cooking pits filled

Godin
Eghaghanim



Akar Gavgavir Dikirizir
Ghurim ko Igiam

Arutamin Akam

with hot stones. The pits were covered with dirt and left for several hours as the food steamed to tender perfection.

This labor of love affirms that you can't have a Papua New Guinea celebration without a *bung kai* (big feast). And a feast of this magnitude pales only in comparison to the reason for preparing it: the arrival of the complete Bible in Aruamu.

While some had cooked food all through the night, others woke up early to finalize last-minute details for a full day of dedication activities. Though a printed schedule stated that the program would begin at 8:30 a.m., everyone knew the event would start on "PNG time," that is, whenever enough people have arrived for things to get going.

Around 10:30 a.m., upbeat music filled the air as seven men played guitars, traditional drums, and a keyboard, drawing the growing crowd's attention. The rhythmic jangle of tambourines added to the festive atmosphere as 22 women, wearing colorful matching dresses, played and danced in unison. They led special guests and speakers to a makeshift grandstand situated at the head of an open field. The special guests—including local partners, a Pioneer Bible Translators board member, a Seed Company representative, a community leader, and translation team members—climbed an uneven ladder to take their seats on the raised platform.

The open field's perimeter pulsed with color as brightly dressed attendees huddled under shade trees to escape the sun's oppressive heat. All eyes turned to a group of ladies entering from the opposite end of the field. Wearing red, yellow, and black outfits resembling the Papua New Guinea flag, they made their way to the grandstand, bringing honor to their country and people as they sang the national and provincial anthems while raising respective flags.

Then Paul, the local pastor, welcomed the crowd—now several thousand strong—and pronounced a blessing from the first chapter of John. Translated literally, these words resonated powerfully among them: "Son Jesus he is talk, and the talk became man, and he walked about in the middle of the people, and everyone saw the strength and power that is his. This morning, I believe and declare the strength that is yours, the power that is yours, and the big name that is yours."

As the prayer ended, the crowd's gaze shifted once again to the opposite end of the field. The low beat of *kundu* drums contrasted with the high-pitched crooning of women's voices merged in song. With skin glossy red from plant saps and oils, men and women danced in traditional outfits and decorative *bilas*—headdresses, armbands, and necklaces made with shells, feathers, leaves, crocodile teeth, and wild boar tusks. In the center of the crowd, a young woman held the Aruamu Bible high for all to see. She handed the Bible to Marsha who carried it up onto the grandstand. Another local pastor, Jacob, dedicated these Scriptures to the God who faithfully sustained the translation effort—through countless joys and sorrows—for 36 years until this momentous day.

The program continued with seven speakers, each affirming the value of heart language Scriptures. Adrienne Baumunk, a Seed Company field project manager, shared how God uses his words to help us with life's trials and difficulties. Through the Psalms, he rescued her out of a "deep pit of destruction and despair." She continued to encourage the crowd with a charge: "Don't just leave your Bibles sitting on the table. No way! Pick up your Bible, read it, and declare God's truth to your family and friends."

The afternoon agenda also included a meaningful moment for the translation team as Marsha presented each of the nine translators with their own Bibles and a special word of thanks. She then gave a T-shirt and a Bible to each person who contributed to other translation steps and Scripture engagement—comprehension testing, back translation, and literacy. Even family members of deceased translators received gifts in their honor. Tender interactions occasionally welled into tears of joy.

A Promising Future

The large group that stood posing for a picture following the team member presentations shed light on why the Aruamus are among the precious few language groups in Papua New Guinea to have a full Bible. The number of skilled and committed people found among this community is a valuable rarity. And the Aruamu team recognizes this. As project coordinator and translator Steven Dazim stated in his speech, "Though the Aruamu Bible is now completed, this isn't a time for resting."

Steven and his team will continue developing literacy programs and materials to help their people learn to read and understand God’s Word. A few translators are also assisting with translation projects in other language groups, and several are involved in Faith Bible College (FBC), founded in Tiap village in 2016.

FBC is another example of the Aruamu people’s initiative and determination to reach people with gospel truth. Back in 2016, Steven told Marsha, “After the Old Testament translation is finished, this college will carry Aruamu people ahead into the future. And the generations who come after us will still follow Jesus.”

At FBC, students are trained to study, interpret, and teach Scripture. Graduates are sent to other Aruamu villages and beyond, to other language communities. Steven says they have a vision for sending Aruamu missionaries to other countries.

No longer counted among the unreached, the Aruamu are now extending *their* reach to others! The dedication on August 4 marked only the beginning of the next glorious season—one where the Aruamu continue to flourish as partners in God’s kingdom work.



The writer of this article grew up in Papua New Guinea and was blessed to return as the Aruamu celebrated the arrival of God’s Word. Scan this code to read her story!



Living Water in Asia: *New Testament Dedication Brings Showers of Hope and Dignity to Dakon Speakers*

The Dakon community of Asia may be small, but they are growing in their identity! This group of 210,500 speakers—long accustomed to their low status and mistreatment—normally shies away from seeking opportunities for a better life. But in recent years, they’ve displayed new confidence. As one nonbeliever put it, “Our language is no longer unrecognized. We now have songs, dictionaries, health materials, and even *devunu matta* (God’s Word).”

Church leaders affirm that translated materials have brought big changes to Dakon communities and have stirred a noticeable hunger for more of God’s Word. Many eagerly anticipated the arrival of the Dakon New Testament and the dedication celebration on June 29, 2022.

The day before the dedication, as attendees were making their way to the host village, heavy rains nearly halted their travels. At one point, project manager Viji braved the deluge to clear the road and shovel dirt into potholes so his group could continue.

Thankfully, spirits were not dampened as people trusted the Lord to hold back the rains during the festivities. Though the sky remained foreboding, no drops fell during the entire program. “Amazingly, heavy downpours were all around us, even 500 meters away, but not at our site,” describes an attendee.

During the dedication, bright decorations, colorful attire, and radiant faces contrasted with the stormy skies. As traditional music filled the air, joyful dancing kicked off the ceremony. The entire

program was conducted in Dakon and progressed “without a hitch,” says Viji. Over 1,200 people gathered to witness this thrilling occasion.

One pastor shared his enthusiasm about receiving the New Testament in his language, saying, “When I attend pastors’ meetings conducted in the state language, I feel out of place and alienated, like the least among the people participating. But when I attend a Dakon program and read Dakon Scriptures, I feel like a *raju* (a king). I am proud of my clan and my tribe, and I am proud of my God-given language.”

Team members closed out the ceremony by giving all glory to God and offering prayers of thanksgiving. When the last prayer ended, it began to drizzle. Dakon pastors declared, “*Devunu nenru onri peri kaaryam kithan*,” which means, “God has done a mighty thing today.”

“When I attend pastors’ meetings conducted in the state language, I feel out of place and alienated, like the least among the people participating. But when I attend a Dakon program and read Dakon Scriptures, I feel like a *raju* (a king). I am proud of my clan and my tribe, and I am proud of my God-given language.”

— A Dakon pastor



A Year of Celebration: *Dedications in 2022*

The Gospels. A New Testament. The full Bible. No matter how much Scripture is formally dedicated within a community, it *all* marks the beginning of a new chapter: God's words can now transform the stories of individuals ... families ... whole communities! Join us as we cheer on brothers and sisters around the globe who are rejoicing over the arrival of God's Word to their people.

More than half of the language communities listed below (denoted with an asterisk) are in areas hostile to Christianity.

Africa: Abureni, Boi, Duruma, Gamo, Manjak, Me'en, Meetto, Melo, Himba, Konta, Oyda

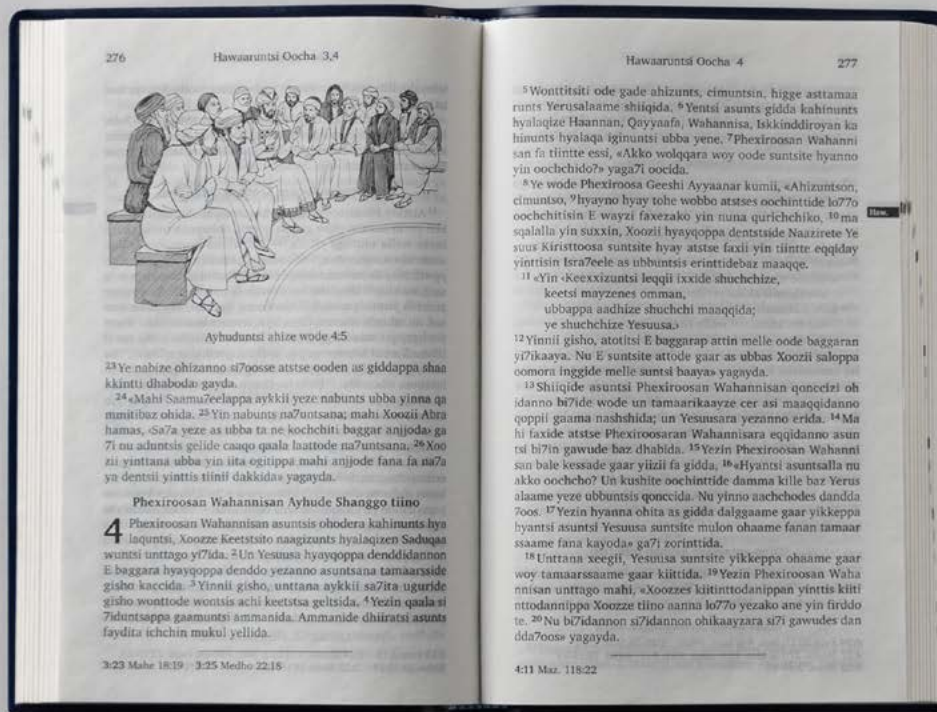
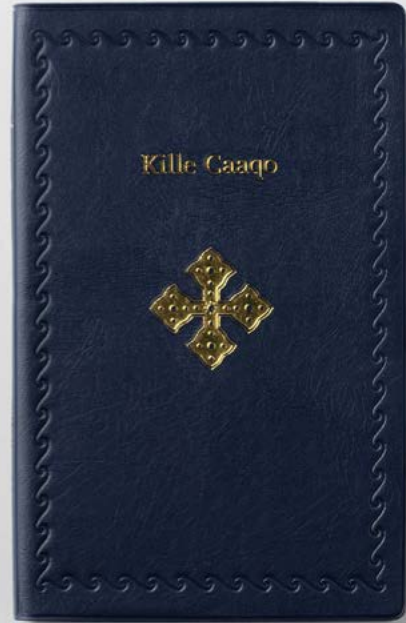
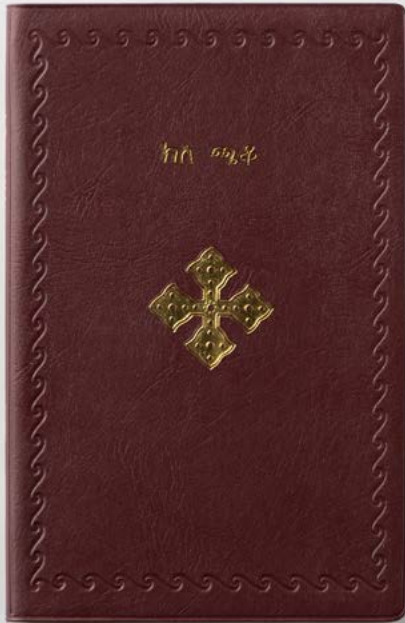
Americas: Headwater Choco*, Mountain Choco*

Asia: Chawma*, Dakani*, Dakon*, Diama*, Gubli*, Hanila*, Hidoli*, Jadasir*, Kanvadhī*, Khatei*, Lihayo*, Mahnahai*, Mapiyala*, Nafuli*, Obopar*, Obundum*, Oraja*, Ortag*, Sugu*, Tubhalu*

Europe/Middle East: Ducho*, Ludari

Pacific: Aruamu, Fanamaket

**Pseudonym*





You Are *Equipping*
Them to Do the Work



The Consultant Checking Dashboard: *An Innovative Partnership with Clear Bible, Inc.*

There's no doubt that Bible translation looks different in 2022 than it did 30 years ago. Always striving to innovate in field work, Seed Company regularly looks for ways to partner with like-minded organizations and implement new technologies that help spread God's Word faster and better.

To this end, in July of 2021, Seed Company began a partnership with Clear Bible, Inc. (Clear), an organization that specializes in developing tools for computer-assisted translation. Seed Company asked Clear to create software that would help translation consultants increase efficiencies in their work. The fruit of this collaboration is the Consultant Checking Dashboard (CCD).

According to Randall Lemley, Seed Company's director of Collaborative Exploration, "Quality assurance is at the heart of effective Bible translation and is crucial to God's Word impacting lives in language communities." And with only about 400 translation consultants globally, nowhere is shoring up efficiencies needed more than in how we equip these consultants to do their work. A tool like CCD would allow them to quickly view how texts in various languages are related to each other, thus accelerating the checking process and ultimately allowing them to serve more language groups.

The Problem: Too Many Screens

Translation consultants typically have limited knowledge of the target language a given scriptural text is being translated into. They rely on comparisons between texts to highlight potential issues that affect quality. Paratext, the current software, provides consultants with insight into biblical languages, existing translations in languages of wider communication, back translations, and reference notes—but all in separate windows or views. Moving back and forth between these different views is time-consuming and inefficient. When energy and resources get stuck in the checking stage, the progress of translation slows down, contributing to the consultant bottleneck.

The Solution: A Consolidated Interface

As a complement to Paratext, the CCD will provide consultants with all the information they need for word meanings and associations *in one place*, resulting in faster translation checks.

More specifically, the CCD has the potential to impact consultants and the wider translation community in four different ways:

Effectiveness

The powerful resources built into the CCD will give consultants the tools they need to produce highly accurate translated Scriptures. This platform will also enable more effective training of new consultants.

Efficiency

Consultants estimate that a tool like the CCD could save 10 to 50 percent of their time on a given project since it presents all the information they might need on one screen.

Collaboration

Seed Company is leveraging the content matter expertise of translation consultants from multiple agencies to make the most of Clear's innovation in machine-assisted translation.

Scope

Since many Bible translation agencies use Paratext already, the CCD could be a gift to the larger translation movement.

After sitting in on a CCD demo session, a veteran SIL consultant paid the development teams a great compliment when he said, "You've taken a myriad of things I've had to pull together in my head in any given consulting session over the last 20 years and put them in front of me, managed on my laptop, freeing my mind for other things."

Consultant Checking Dashboard: Development Milestones

We are so grateful for all who have prayed for and invested in this technology—a tool that will greatly facilitate efficiency in the consultant-checking process. Celebrate with us the progress that’s been made on the CCD, and join us as we continue praying for its successful release.

July 2021

Initial Funding

December 2021

Proof of Concept

January–February 2022

Research and Expanded Review

March 2022

Productization

September–December 2022

Alpha and Beta Testing

February 2023

Planned Release

“I believe that the Consultant Checking Dashboard will make it easier for translation consultants to see the connections between the original languages and the target language. Clear Bible has put in a lot of work to address our real needs and smooth out a lot of speed bumps.”

— Caleb Redfield, translation consultant in the Americas

You Are *Multiplying*
Their *Efforts*





Expanding Capacity:

Growth Partners Builds Trust, Accelerates Bible Translation

Imagine dreaming you could one day help translate and deliver heart language Scripture to your friends and family for the first time. Now, imagine your discouragement over the same scenario when told that—despite your knowledge of Scripture, love for God, and familiarity with your language—you can't.

In the past, indigenous pastors were known only as “language helpers,” but this limited involvement kept them at arm's length during the Bible translation process. Luis Chavez, an indigenous leader who serves as executive director of UNTI (National Union of Indigenous Translators) in Mexico, remembers that challenging season. But when a unique set of circumstances cleared the way for other indigenous leaders like himself to step into greater ownership of the work, he saw a God-given opportunity.

An Unlikely Turn of Events

Turbulent financial times and restrictive government policies in Mexico in the 1980s prompted many foreigners, including missionary translators, to leave. Without Western Bible translators, some wondered, “When will indigenous people in Mexico ever hear God's Word in their heart language?”

Ironically, the changes that required missionary translators to leave Mexico opened the door for indigenous leaders to participate in, and eventually lead and manage, Scripture translation efforts in their communities.

Indigenous Church Leaders Unify

With most Westerners gone, indigenous leaders in Mexico began meeting together for prayer

and fellowship. There, they discovered similar dreams, including a deep desire to restore dignity and respect to their communities. They agreed that Bible translation would be the centerpiece of these efforts. But as they needed funding to further their education in translation principles, they also quickly recognized the need to form an organization so they could request government support for this training. In 1995, UNTI was born.

Luis, working as a young church planter at the Bible League, initially heard about UNTI from his boss, who encouraged him to find out more about the organization. That meeting in the year 2000 proved providential on at least two fronts. First, it was there that Luis encountered Bibiana, UNTI's leader, who would become his wife 13 years later. Second, a successful partnership ensued between Bible League and UNTI, as the groups joined forces to help indigenous peoples by planting churches and conducting literacy and Bible study training. In 2009, UNTI invited Luis to manage the organization full time.

UNTI's Bible translation work was fruitful at this time, but projects remained mostly under the management of Western organizations. Luis knew that without additional guidance, increasing local efforts to translate God's Word for Mexico's more than 300 indigenous communities would take decades, if not longer, to complete. But who could be trusted? All too often, Luis had seen groups use UNTI's name and reputation to accomplish their own goals—not necessarily UNTI's.

Despite these concerns, Luis decided it was worth taking a risk to meet with representatives of Seed Company. Following initial discussions in 2012,



“Growth Partners and Seed Company are our allies. They should continue to take risks of investing in partners like UNTI because it’s God’s call. This strategy has gotten results because it comes from God.”

- Luis Chavez, executive director, UNTI (National Union of Indigenous Translators)

one successful Bible translation project with Seed Company quickly turned into another. Today, the two organizations are *partnering* on 25 indigenous language projects, but UNTI is *leading* them all, plus an additional four projects on their own.

An Encounter with Growth Partners

“Over time, we built a trust with Seed Company’s field program’s teams,” Luis explains. So, when they suggested meeting with Growth Partners staff to discuss organizational development in 2015, Luis was intrigued.

Comprised of more than 30 consultants from around the world, Growth Partners (GP) is dedicated to inspiring and equipping Great Commission partners so they can initiate, fund, and manage their own translation projects. Walking alongside organizations like UNTI, GP consultants provide practical advice in areas often found lacking in nonprofits—areas like strategic planning, executive coaching, operations, resource mobilization, and dependence on God through prayer. Their ultimate goal: organizational transformation.

By “bolstering organizations’ capacity and performance”—sharing lessons Seed Company has learned over the years in an encouraging environment built on trust—GP consultants “have the potential to increase impact and accelerate Scripture translation like never before,” says Mark Farr, Seed Company’s chief field officer.

Luis agrees wholeheartedly, recalling the advice, support, and prayer his team received during their meetings with GP. While GP consultants possess both expertise and experience, they have learned

that listening, observing, and praying with and for clients must precede any strategic discussions.

According to GP Vice President Dusty Hill, it’s important to diagnose problems before offering solutions. “While we want to be a catalyst for transformation, change often takes place in a culture and context very different from our own,” he says.

For example, a well-known term like “transformation”—both inspirational and familiar to Seed Company—could be the opposite for UNTI, quickly resurrecting painful memories of outsiders demanding that indigenous leaders do things “their way,” says Jonathan Kern, Seed Company’s vice president of Field Strategy and a GP team member. Consequently, GP and Luis agreed on different terminology and a slower pace, one that would allow UNTI to make the necessary organizational changes without interrupting their service to indigenous communities.

Looking back on their time with GP, Luis observes, “One of the big things—we felt trusted. We took the risk to work with GP, and it was good.”

A New UNTI

Of course, changes didn’t take place overnight. But in God’s perfect timing, UNTI produced results that were nothing short of extraordinary (see chart on next page). “Today, we can see a clear difference,” Luis says. “There is an UNTI before GP and after GP.”

Of all the changes UNTI implemented, the most significant may be redefining their identity and mission: to restore and dignify indigenous

cultures. “We are now living our mission,” says Luis, his voice quickening. “We don’t want to only produce books or translation—we want to see lives and communities restored.”

UNTI’s three-pronged strategy begins with Bible translation, Luis explains, since “everything changes when the Word of God touches hearts and minds.” Second is leadership development, nurturing those who can teach, preach, and help people relate to God and society. Third is language development, including literacy and education programs aimed at preserving the community’s culture and language.

Today, UNTI is paying it forward. Luis shares some of the lessons they’ve learned with indigenous organizational leaders from 10 Latin American countries. Some are adopting similar programs, having witnessed UNTI’s recent successes.

Luis is convinced that “GP is *not* Seed Company’s idea, *not* man’s idea. It’s a *call* from God to Seed Company.” He urges Seed Company to keep taking risks and “investing in organizations that, for years, have waited to be helped and assessed.” Because God is driving the work, GP can prayerfully and boldly continue what *he* has started and will be faithful to complete.

UNTI	Before Growth Partners (2015)	After Growth Partners (2022)
Translation Projects Managed	3	29
Board Members	Male church leaders from indigenous communities	Women and men—including Mexican nationals and indigenous leaders—with backgrounds in business, law, finance, human resources, and church ministry
Workplace	Operated out of a spare bedroom	Leased office space in Mexico City
Staff	2 paid + 1 volunteer	17 paid + 5 volunteers
Donations	\$5,000 US dollars	\$150,000 US dollars*
Mission	Bible translation and literacy programs	Restore and dignify indigenous cultures via Bible translation, leadership, and language development.

**Source: Mexican donors (individuals, congregations, and foundations) and indigenous communities who have collected annual offerings to help fund Bible translation throughout their country*

Seed Company’s Internship Program: *Building Leadership Capacity*

Through Seed Company’s Internship Program, capacity building interns grow in leadership and learn more about efficient operations and field programming. For example, they learn about the finer details of financial stewardship and translation technology. Once they complete their programs, they go on to train 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, six capacity building interns completed our program.

Capacity Building Interns in 2022

Africa	15
Americas	3
Asia	0
Europe/Middle East	0
Pacific	3
TOTAL	21



Step by Step: *Walking in Obedience* *Multiplies Quality Assurance Workers*

Husband and wife team of 31 years bridges the gap between theological education and Bible translation.

As young seminary students, Victor and Cristina Gomez thought their next steps would lead to a lifetime of service in church leadership and seminary teaching. But God had other plans.

After 11 years in pastoral ministry and education, the couple met representatives from SIL and Wycliffe and sensed God calling them to careers in Bible translation. Victor served on seven projects in various roles, and Cristina worked alongside him, handling logistics and finances while also caring for their two daughters. This work was their training ground for the next 19 years, a course in obedience that ultimately led to bigger next steps and a grander vision for getting God's Word to the world.

Changing Course

Victor is from Paraguay, and Cristina is from Argentina. Together, they dreamt of starting a translation organization in the Americas.

"We didn't have enough training, we didn't have enough money, and we didn't have enough people," Victor recalls. "We knew that everything was impossible from a human perspective."

But as one of their favorite Scripture passages says, "Nothing is impossible for God." Victor and Cristina started the ministry of LETRA (Latin Americans in Translation and Literacy) Paraguay in 2001 with the support of local churches and translation organizations, including Wycliffe

Global Alliance, SIL, JAARS, and LETRA teams in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. Their mission? To facilitate Bible translation projects and literacy efforts in the Americas.

"We now can testify that the Lord is the Lord of impossible things because he did *everything*, and we just obeyed and followed his advice," Victor says.

In 2017, Victor was certified as a translation consultant, equipped to check back translations (drafted Scriptures translated *back* into a regional language like Spanish) to ensure accuracy to the original meaning. And in 2020, believing he could maximize his impact by training other consultants and exegetes (those who can explain the meaning of biblical texts to translators), Victor became a consultant manager with Seed Company for the Americas region.

Around that time, Victor and Cristina began passing the baton of LETRA's leadership. Victor connected LETRA's new leader to a consultant in training (CiT), emphasizing that a primary function of his new role would be mentoring others in the translation work itself.

Inviting Others Along the Way

Victor had been teaching Greek and Hebrew in seminary for more than 17 years, and when he became a translator, he noticed an opportunity. The Bible translation movement needed Bible scholars who, if they knew of the need for expertise

in biblical languages, could offer their help. So, Victor first approached Juan Carlos Carrasco, a fellow seminary professor.

“You’ve been teaching Hebrew for many years, and now you have an opportunity to really use that,” Victor prompted.

“I knew that God had something else for me,” Juan Carlos responded. “All the years I taught equipped me to help people in real situations.”

And with that, Juan Carlos became Victor’s first recruit.

From there, Victor met with academic deans and professors from seminaries in 10 countries across Central and South America, inviting them to become exegetes or consultants.

“All of them are just like I was in 1999, working within four walls without knowing that, outside, there is such great need: people don’t have the Bible in their own languages,” Victor says.

Many more, like Juan Carlos, have responded positively, eager to use their skills beyond the classroom so that thousands of people across indigenous communities in the Americas can have understandable Scripture.

Victor has trained three Spanish-speaking CiTs through Seed Company’s Internship Program and is currently mentoring two more. He’s also serving beyond the expectations for his role by training 21 people to become exegetical facilitators. Cristina works alongside him to help with logistics, but she also has dreams of becoming a consultant herself!

As much as Victor longs to see God increase the number of translation consultants, he is just as passionate about multiplying *mentors*. He consistently encourages the consultants and exegetes he’s trained to multiply themselves by each training at least three others. One advanced exegete from Mexico is currently mentoring four new exegetes. A CiT from Colombia is teaching a couple from Brazil. And a CiT from Brazil is helping to train 10 new Brazilian exegetes!

Forging New Paths

Though Victor’s focus has been on the Americas, his heart is to engage communities across the globe. He recently proposed that a Seed Company exegete (with a TESOL degree) teach English to Spanish-speaking consultants so they can serve anywhere in the world where they’d need to check Scriptures translated back into English for their review.

Victor is also passionate about believers making the most of the time they have on earth to serve God’s kingdom purposes. He recently started a pilot program with four part-time exegetes who are retired from their careers (in ministry or otherwise) and now have more time to give. These trainees have demonstrated deep commitment to working as exegetical advisors, and Victor sees the potential for recruiting more retirees to serve in a similar capacity. “They still have 15 to 20 years to serve if the Lord permits,” Victor says, convinced that no matter our age, we never truly retire from the Lord’s work.

Just ask Victor and Cristina. Though it took more than 20 years for them to finally see the fruit of multiplying their contributions to the larger Bible translation movement, they readily acknowledge how God has used them at *every* stage: he didn’t waste one step in their journey.

“Before having the complete revelation of God’s call, one must begin to obey, and the Lord will guide the other steps,” Cristina says. Now, as she and Victor look back at each faith-filled step, they are grateful and amazed at how God used them to equip others toward taking *their* next steps in the Bible translation movement.



Scan this code to learn more about how Seed Company’s Internship Program is building the Bible translation consultant workforce around the globe.

Seed Company’s Internship Program: *Multiplying the Quality Assurance Workforce*

With every final check of Scripture, translation teams, churches, and communities are assured that their translations are accurate, 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, seven quality assurance interns completed our program.

Quality Assurance Interns in 2022

Africa	15
Americas	3
Asia	1
Europe/Middle East	0
Pacific	4
TOTAL	23

“We now can testify that the Lord is the Lord of impossible things because he did *everything*, and we just obeyed and followed his advice.”

— Victor Gomez, translation consultant manager for the Americas



A Look Forward: *An Update from the Field*

Dear Seed Company Family,

We pray this annual report has provided you with a global snapshot of Bible translation momentum in fiscal year 2022, but we can't stop there! God's unwavering provision in the past builds our trust, giving us a firm foundation of gratitude to set our feet upon as we follow his lead into the future.

This year—2023—marks a milestone worthy of celebration: three decades of faith-filled partnership in Bible translation! We thank God for what he is doing to accelerate the work through greater collaboration among Bible translation organizations and through an incredible increase in our national partners' capacity.

From 1993 through 2014, we were engaged with 1,000 language communities. Since then, that count has doubled, accounting for both traditional engagements and projects where our partners own more of the resourcing to accomplish their work. We will be celebrating our 2,000th language engagement in the coming months! Continued growth in capacity, well deployed, holds the potential for reaching every language in this generation! Praise God!

With Seed Company's clear role as a Bible translation accelerator, we have a wide range of opportunities to further the work that falls into three broad categories.

First, *We Partner in Translation*. Together with our global partners, we praise God that by the end of fiscal year 2022, he had orchestrated our involvement in 1,956 unique languages. Amazing! In the coming year, we will be identifying essential keys in our processes to unlock even more productivity. Among our 157 partners, there are a few with whom we'll build a more catalytic relationship so we can help them maximize their efficiency and flexibility. Equipping them in this way will accelerate the work among remaining languages within their purview.

Second, *We Build Movement Capacity*. Through regional capacity-building efforts, we will continue to focus on the areas of greatest Scripture need. We

will also prioritize multiplying quality assurance workers through mentorships in our Seed Company Internship Program and our new Translation Consultant Residency Program.

Lastly, *We Scale Translation Solutions*. While we humbly acknowledge the Lord's blessing on Seed Company to be an agent of innovation in Bible translation over the last 30 years, we also wholeheartedly believe that the learnings and best practices gathered from this experience are a global treasure to be shared. Our influence will be critical to evaluating, piloting, and—when found to be beneficial—broadening the use of technologies and methodologies that accelerate Bible translation.

What a privilege it is to partner with you in this earthly work because we know that God's Word has eternal value. Please pray with us for 260 new language engagements. This is a God-sized goal for 2023. We long to see heart language Scripture—in every language in this generation—transforming all the people of God, those for whom he will wipe away every tear and with whom he will ultimately dwell!

Sincerely,



Mark Farr
Chief Field Officer



Scan this code to learn more about Seed Company's Translation Consultant Residency Program.



Board of Directors



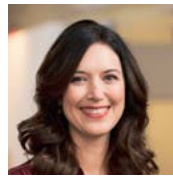
Matthew Mancinelli
Board Chair



Steven Ganss
Board Member



Jill Anschutz
Board Vice Chair



Amanda George
Board Member



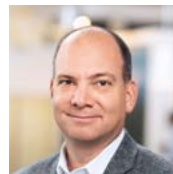
Logan Brown
Board Member



Michel Kenmogne
Board Member



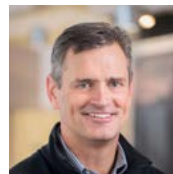
John Chesnut
Board Member



Robby Moser
Board Member



Tom De Vries
Board Member



Chris Ordway
Board Member

Executive Leadership Team



Larry Jones
*President and
Chief Executive Officer*



Mark Farr
Chief Field Officer



Sawnya Rogers
Chief Operating Officer



Davis Powell
Chief eXperience Officer



Chad Allen
Chief Financial Officer

THE WYCLIFFE SEED COMPANY, INC. | STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended September 30, 2022
With comparative totals for the year ended September 30, 2021

	2022			2021		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
OPERATING						
Support and Revenue						
Contributions	2,866,068	77,132,985	79,999,053	5,132,021*	46,090,062*	51,222,083*
Donated services	161,267	-	161,267	8,337*	-	8,337*
Member labor	1,007,694	-	1,007,694	882,315	-	882,315
Investment (loss) income	(2,060,273)	-	(2,060,273)	1,160,772	-	1,160,772
Other income	3,695	-	3,695	21,800	-	21,800
Net assets released from restrictions						
Field operations adjustments	19,299,328	(19,299,328)	-	10,750,818	(10,750,818)	-
Administrative assessments (19% administration and fundraising)	14,324,036	(14,324,036)	-	8,543,347	(8,543,347)	-
Satisfaction of program restrictions	24,113,958	(24,113,958)	-	15,804,796	(15,804,796)	-
Total Support and Revenue	59,715,773	19,395,663	79,111,436	42,304,206*	10,991,101*	53,295,307*
Expenses						
Program services—Bible translation	44,320,469	-	44,320,469	32,359,445	-	32,359,445
General and administration services	3,314,747	-	3,314,747	2,812,995	-	2,812,995
Fundraising services	8,968,946	-	8,968,946	6,692,373	-	6,692,373
Total Expenses	56,604,162	-	56,604,162	41,864,813	-	41,864,813
Change in Net Assets from Operations	3,111,611	19,395,663	22,507,274	439,393*	10,991,101*	11,430,494*
NON-OPERATING						
Change in value of beneficial interest in trusts	-	(388,821)	(388,821)	-	111,951*	111,951*
Grant expense due to deconsolidation	-	-	-	(1,188,342)	-	(1,188,342)
Equity transfer from Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.	3,876,912	399,109	4,276,021	3,885,678*	19,354*	3,905,032*
Change in Net Assets	6,988,523	19,405,951	26,394,474	3,136,729*	11,122,406*	14,259,135*
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	18,324,532	36,798,952	55,123,484	15,187,803	25,676,546	40,864,349
Net Assets, End of Year	25,313,055	56,204,903	81,517,958	18,324,532*	36,798,952*	55,123,484*

All financial figures cited in this document for fiscal year 2022 are unaudited as of press time. Audited numbers will be available in early 2023 at seedcompany.com.

*Certain fiscal year 2021 amounts have been reclassified for consistency with the current year presentation as a result of the adoption of ASU No. 2016-14: "Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities." These reclassifications had no effect on the change in net assets or net assets in total.



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.

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illumiNations is a collective impact alliance of Bible translation partners and resource partners working together to eradicate Bible poverty in this generation. Believing that illumiNations is a significant part of God's plan to reach the nations, Seed Company is honored to be one of 11 Bible translation partners. Together, we envision bringing understandable Scripture to people around the world who still wonder if God speaks their language.

SPECIAL NOTES

Approximately 1,600 people groups, representing more than 100 million people, do not have a single verse of Scripture in their heart language. Seed Company exists to come alongside these people groups and 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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Pseudonyms have been used throughout this report to protect the identities of individuals in regions hostile to Christians.

This report reflects data through the end of the 2022 fiscal year (9/30/22).

Photography

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Wycliffe USA: page 33

Illustration

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