

2023

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

*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

OUR FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

Committed to accelerating Bible translation so that all remaining Bibleless people groups have understandable Scripture, we:

Partner in Translation

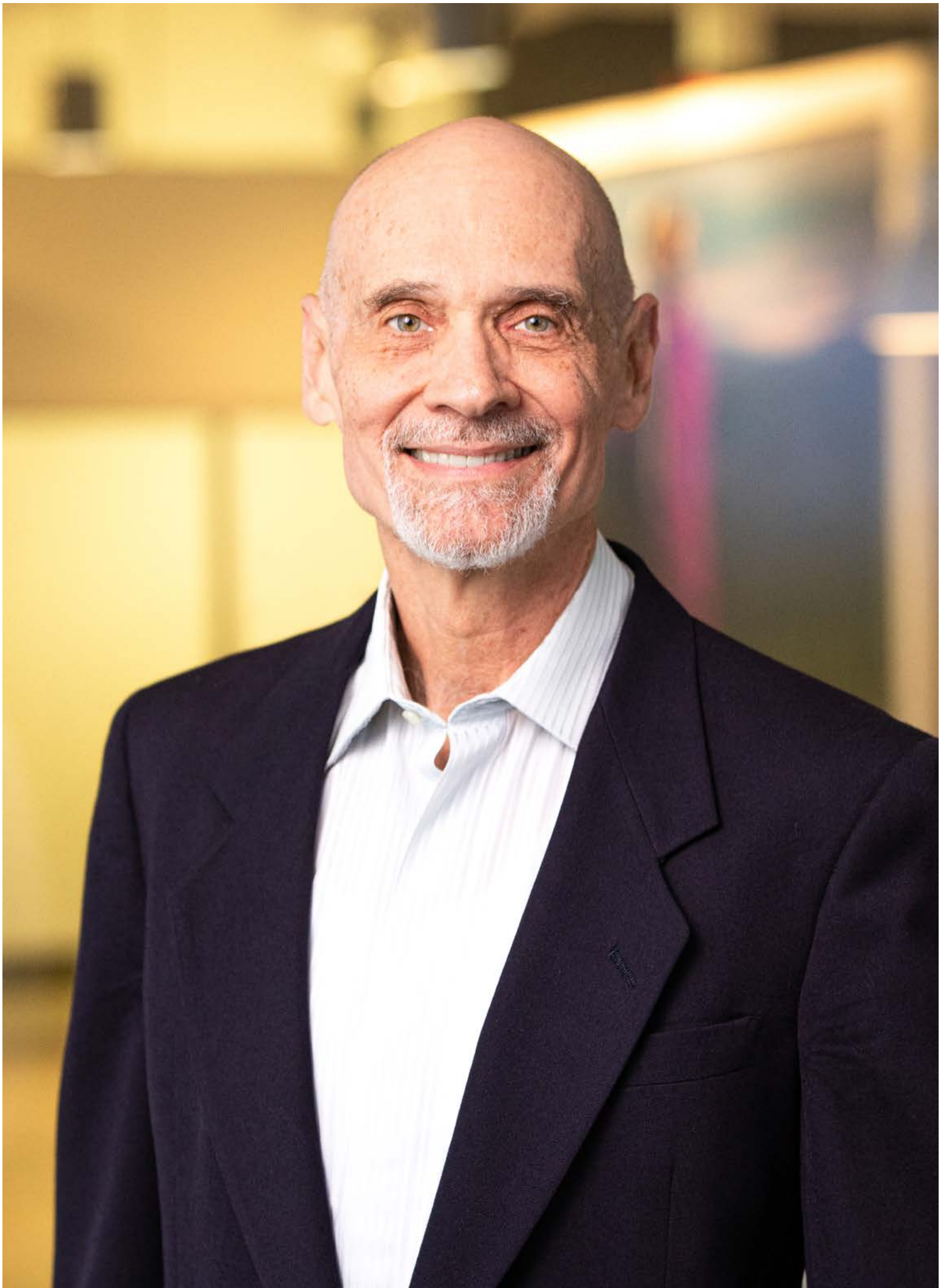
We cultivate relationships with local leaders to produce trustworthy Scripture.

Build Movement Capacity

We equip individuals and organizations to thrive through customized growth programs.

Scale Translation Solutions

We seek new translation technologies and methods, scaling what works globally.



Dear Praying and Giving Friends,

This is a poignant moment for Linda and me. As we prepare for me to transition out of my role as Seed Company's president and chief executive officer, I look back on these past four years with immense gratitude. God's grace and presence have been profoundly evident throughout my tenure. So many times, our staff has heard me say or seen me write, "Glory to God!"

Indeed, I have felt the Lord's favor, especially in the rich network of relationships I have enjoyed. Each one is a gift to me personally and a vital link to the success of our dynamic, impactful ministry. I have been the recipient of consistent friendship and genuine care by our board and staff since the day I agreed to step into the role on short notice in February of 2020. I am humbled by the measure of trust and goodwill extended to me, even in very challenging times.

I am equally and continually grateful for our national partners. They have changed my life! Their zeal for the Bible translation dimension of God's kingdom work has inspired me, and their kinship has warmed my heart—just as each of you have in your faithful support of their efforts. Linda and I are eternally grateful for the connections we've made with so many of you. You have enriched our souls, and we deeply appreciate the legacy of prayer, love, and generosity with which you lead.

For the last 30 years, it's that kind of legacy that has been foundational to our work. God has taken whatever we offer in humility and faith, and he has multiplied it. I believe Seed Company's best days are yet to come, and I could not be more delighted to announce Davis Powell as our next chief executive officer.

Davis joined Seed Company in July 2015 and has served in a myriad of roles since that time, including associate director of Executive Relations, chief of staff for Office of the President, and most recently, chief eXperience officer (CXO), providing leadership to Seed Company's development and marketing efforts. In each area of service, Davis has consistently proven his ability to think creatively, solve problems practically, galvanize teams efficiently, and serve key stakeholders graciously. And with each new role, Davis has gained deeper insight into the complexities of Bible translation and what it takes to accelerate the work without compromising quality. As Davis is highly collaborative—modeling an ideal blend of strength and humility—I am confident he will be a CEO who values diverse perspectives from investors and field partners alike. He will keep his eyes fixed on Seed Company's vision and mission while prayerfully listening to the Lord's direction for our organization.

This is certainly a season of transition, but not a season that comes as any surprise to our heavenly Father. He equips us to follow his lead, but to hear him, we must *seek* him. Please continue to pray—for me and Linda, and for Davis, his wife Kate, and their two children. And as always, pray for Seed Company. As our founder, Bernie May, often says, "See where God is going, and go there." That is our prayer for this next season: that we have eyes to see, expectant as we journey toward that day when "every nation and tribe and people" (Revelation 7:9 NLT) knows the God who speaks their language.

For his glory,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry B. Jones".

Larry B. Jones, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Seed Company Family,

It's hard to believe that it has been almost four years since Larry Jones became Seed Company's president and chief executive officer. By God's grace—and under Larry's steady, faithful, and compassionate leadership—we have experienced four years of favor and blessing on our work.

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to convey how incredibly grateful we are for Larry's wisdom, humility, grace under pressure, commitment to prayer, and passionate devotion to making God's Word available to every people group still lacking heart language Scripture.

We have accomplished so much together with Larry at the helm. What a blessing to simultaneously celebrate our 30th anniversary and our 2,000th language engagement with the Kuku people, a community who now knows God speaks their language!

As an outflow of our organization's health, the Wycliffe USA board of directors voted in 2023 to allow Seed Company to become its own legal entity. We have worked closely with Wycliffe USA as an affiliate for the past 30 years, and our relationship has never been stronger than today. Leaders of both organizations are excited to partner even more closely as peers to accelerate the work God has called us to.

Healthy succession has also occurred within our immediate Seed Company family. When Larry accepted the president and CEO role, he made known his priority of preparing the path for his eventual successor. In early 2023, Larry informed the board that the time had come to begin the official search process.

Many of you prayed with us during that search. Thank you! Our prayers were answered in amazing ways with the selection of Davis Powell, our chief eXperience officer, as Larry's successor. We considered a field of strong candidates from within Seed Company, around the Bible translation movement, and beyond. But Davis's humble spirit, listening skills, vision for Seed Company's future, and genuine desire to seek wisdom and input from others stood out to us. Through his various roles over eight years at Seed Company, he is uniquely prepared for the complexity and nuance of our mission.

Please join us in praying for Davis, his wife Kate, and their two children; for Larry and his wife Linda as they enter a new season of life; and for the Seed Company team as we work toward the day when our vision of seeing God's Word transforming lives in every language in this generation becomes reality.

Gratefully,



Matthew Mancinelli
Board Chair



Our Next CEO: Davis H. Powell

Davis joined Seed Company in 2015 and has served most recently as chief eXperience officer, providing oversight to the company's development and marketing efforts. Among his previous Seed Company roles was serving as chief of staff for Office of the President. Davis is a graduate of Clemson University and Dallas Theological Seminary. He and his wife Kate live in Dallas, Texas, with their two children.



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THE NUMBERS ARE IN

2,199 CUMULATIVE LANGUAGES
ENGAGED SINCE 1993

2,060 Momentum starts
+ 139 Multiplication starts

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

Of our 2,060 cumulative Momentum starts, 973 were active engagements by the end of fiscal year 2023. These projects, served by 145 field partners in 83 countries, have resulted in God's Word now being available to 846 million people.

And Seed Company is committed to that number growing! Supporting our partners, including those who are taking more ownership of the work through Multiplication engagements, will only serve to further the acceleration of God's Word across the globe. Especially encouraging is the number of new engagements and First Scripture engagements in our portfolio, both of which include Multiplication starts.

NEW AND FIRST SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2023

	New Engagements	First Scripture* Engagements
Momentum	97	47
Multiplication	139	88
TOTAL	236	135

* First Scripture engagements are those where language communities receive Scripture or implement approved storying methodologies for the first time.

The success of any project—and ultimately, of the Bible translation movement as a whole—is contingent upon a continual investment in those who are accelerating access to God’s Word among their people. Capacity building interns grow in leadership and learn more about efficient operations and field programming. Quality assurance interns grow in their ability to ensure that translations are accurate, culturally relevant renderings of original biblical texts. Both internship tracks are vital to ensuring efficiency and excellence, and Seed Company is happy to report that a total of 66 new interns began working around the world in fiscal year 2023.

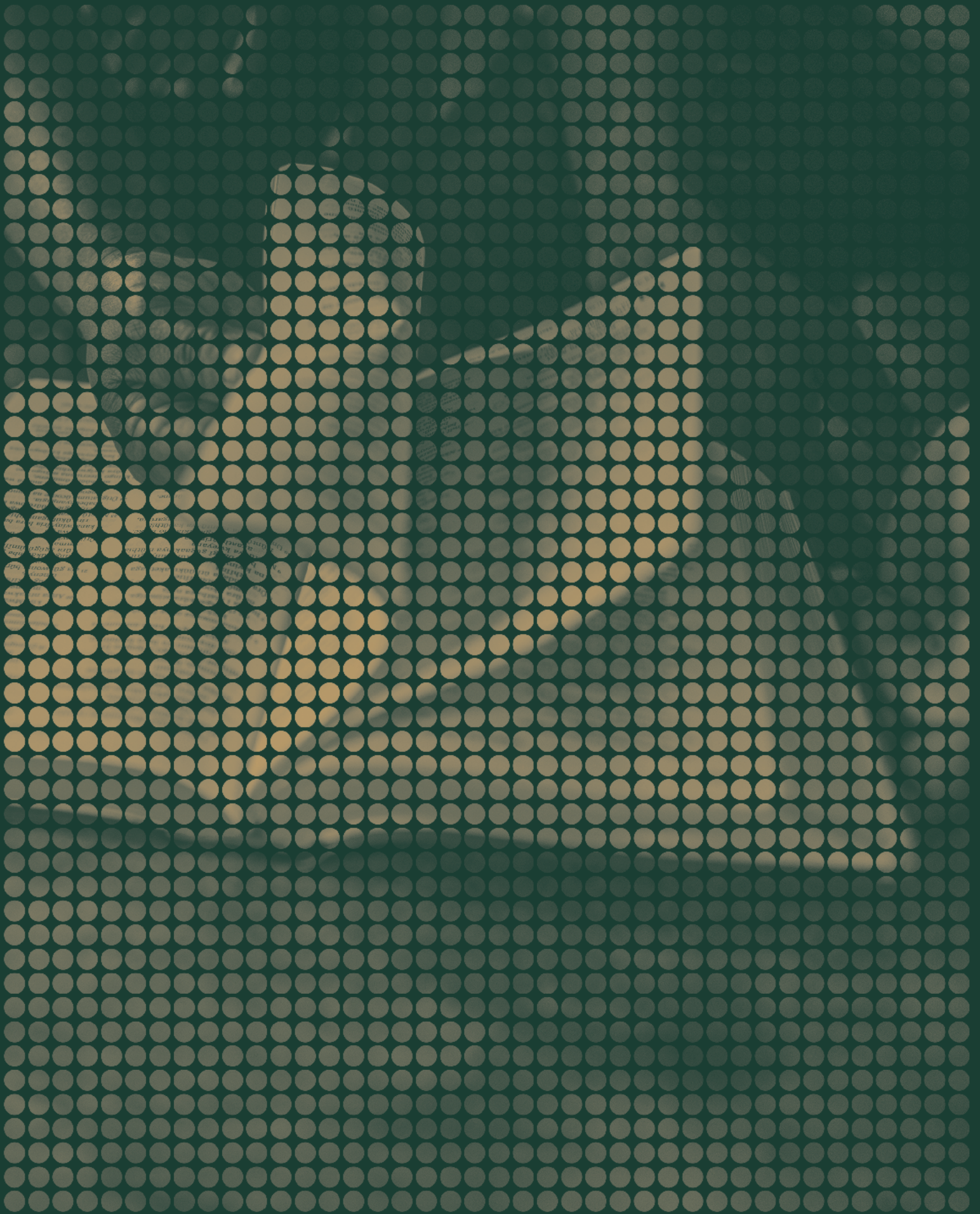
NEW SEED COMPANY INTERNS IN FISCAL YEAR 2023

	Capacity Building Interns	Quality Assurance Interns
Africa	26	14
Americas	10	9
Asia	2	0
Europe and the Middle East	0	4
Pacific	0	1
TOTAL	38	28

LOOKING FORWARD ...

More than 1,300 languages, representing over 50 million people, still lack a single verse of Scripture.

In pursuit of our goal to start Bible translation in 732 new language communities by 2025, Seed Company is asking God for 475 of those engagements to be Multiplication starts.



CELEBRATING 2,000:

Seed Company Hits Language Milestone

Thirty years ago, Seed Company founder Bernie May had a big dream. After starting with just 10 language projects, he prayed for more: 200 in the next decade. Sure enough, when Bernie retired 10 years later, the Lord had faithfully given Seed Company the opportunity to facilitate Scripture translation into 259 languages.

But God planned to do miraculously more.

And Seed Company's vision—to see God's Word transforming lives—grew even bigger. While people around the globe were accessing Scripture in their language for the first time, billions were still waiting to hear and understand God's Word for themselves. Partnership and innovation at unprecedented levels became the priority so that every people group would have Scripture.

The result? From 1993 to 2014, Seed Company partnered with 1,000 language communities. Then, in less than a decade, that number *doubled*. In 2023, Seed Company celebrated its 2,000th language engagement: the Kuku people group on the Uganda-South Sudan border.

Through innovation that has accelerated translation, committed investors and field partners, and God's mighty power, we mark this momentous occasion.

President and CEO Larry Jones says, "I feel truly humbled and blessed that God has granted Seed Company, our investors, and our field partners such a phenomenal share in the Bible translation part of the Great Commission cause. I am grateful to God for the fruitfulness he has granted to us in our partnership endeavor."

While we thank the Lord for his invitation to join him in making his Word accessible to all nations, the Kuku people are grateful as well. This people group has never been able to read or hear Scripture in their heart language. Now, they eagerly anticipate receiving the entire New Testament, projected to be completed in 2027.

PRIORITIZING PARTNERSHIP

The Kuku project is led by The Word For The World (TWFTW), an established Bible translation organization we have partnered with for the past 20 years.

Leah Knippel, field project manager for the Kuku project, describes TWFTW Uganda as a “joy to work with,” acknowledging their dedication to prayer and humble pursuit of new strategies. “I’m so impressed with them,” she continues. “I can’t say enough good things about what they are doing. They are smart, and they are accelerating Bible translation the way we want to accelerate.”

One way this partnership accelerates the work is through the Kuku project’s cluster approach. When language communities are different enough to warrant their own translations but similar enough to “cluster” together in collaborative settings, they all benefit from the shared learning and encouragement, getting translation done more efficiently than if they had worked independently. The Kuku translation team works alongside three other language teams in the area to expedite their work.

Their collaboration is also creating an opportunity for unity where it does not normally exist. Sandra Tuhumwire, director of TWFTW Uganda, says, “Bible translation is bringing people together where politics, religion, cultural differences, and denominational divides have driven them apart.”

The Kuku project is supported by four translators versus TWFTW’s usual three per language team. This extra manpower allows for more books of the Bible to be translated simultaneously in pursuit of an aggressive goal: the complete New Testament in five years instead of the typical nine.

Bolstered by this God-sized goal and strong partnerships, the Kuku project team is also seeking to build capacity by investing even more in the development of their translators. To increase their understanding of biblical texts, these translators work closely with exegetes throughout the process instead of only at certain points. Exegetes

share notes on books of the Bible and particular chapters before translators begin drafting. Because translators begin their work from a point of understanding the entire text, “this has greatly enhanced their [drafting] speed,” one team member attests. Only one year into the project, they have already drafted 12 books—over 40 percent of the New Testament! Their accelerated approach is working, and the team hopes their practices can be replicated in future projects.

The exegetes on the Kuku team are also taking charge in a way that addresses an even bigger challenge to the Bible translation movement—not having enough linguists and consultants available when needed. As they mentor translators to exegetically examine drafts, they are working themselves out of a job so they can pursue a new one: training to become consultants so that more quality Bible translation work can happen in less time.

DREAMING OF MORE, PRAYING FOR MORE

The day is coming soon when 242,500 Kuku people will have access to truth through the entire New Testament in their language, and Seed Company is honored to join them in the celebration. “This milestone is indeed a humbling privilege for the Kuku people. We are greatly favored and loved by God,” one translator joyfully declares. “Who are we to be counted among the thousands of languages in the world that are working on a translation for their own people? Amazing!”

The team leader adds, “It’s a dream come true when we see what the Lord is doing for our language group. We pledge to give all our best and will not bring the name of the Lord to shame but rather deliver to our people the Kuku Bible.”

Indeed, engaging 2,000 languages in 30 years is more than Bernie May ever imagined. “I thank God for what he’s taught us and what he’s allowed us to be a part of—the fact that there are 2,000 languages now that have been impacted with Scripture that they didn’t have before,” he says.

But true to form, Bernie is still asking for more. Not only more Scripture in more heart languages, but more of the transformation that only God's Word can bring.

"I also ask God to take that Scripture and make it real in their lives," he says. "Yes, we're focused on translating the Bible, which is foundational, but we need to ask God to put it to work."

"For every language Seed Company engages in, all credit, praise, and glory belong to Christ. We trust him with every new start, with what we need to sustain every project to its completion, and most importantly, with the transformation and spiritual growth of each community. All we have to do is be faithful, and he does the rest. That's how we've gone from 10 languages to 2,000; it's all him!"

— NYANJUGU GITHUI,
SEED COMPANY REGIONAL DIRECTOR,
ANGLOPHONE EAST AFRICA



Scan this code to read more about how our organizational pillars have helped us reach this incredible milestone.

The Kuku Language Community

POPULATION:

242,500

LOCATION:

Uganda-South Sudan border

ECONOMY:

Farming (crops include maize, rice, millet, and other grains), hunting, and artisan trades like blacksmithing and pottery making. Most Kuku people live on less than one US dollar a day.

RELIGION:

Christianity was introduced in the region 100 years ago by missionaries, but tribal traditions continue to shape the people's worldview. Animism is common.

CHALLENGES:

Community leaders hope translated Scripture will address relationship struggles, stealing, lying, alcoholism, and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

TRANSLATION PROJECT:

The team has started with the Gospel of Luke and the "JESUS" film. Other high-priority books include Mark, Acts, and 1 Corinthians before the ultimate completion of the full New Testament in 2027.



Rejoicing over heart language Scripture in the Kuku community—our 2,000th language engagement—would not be possible without the unwavering support of field partners who make it all happen. The Word For The World is one such partnership, and we are grateful for our growing collaboration with them. May God continue to bless us with his wisdom and grace as we seek his direction and timing toward our shared goal: accelerating Scripture translation for every language community still longing for it.

A FAITH-FILLED JOURNEY:

Celebrating Our Longstanding and Growing Partnership with The Word For The World

From the start, Véroni Krüger realized God's power was the key to shaking things up in the world of Bible translation.

In 1979, Véroni had a clear vision to start a translation organization in his homeland of South Africa, but one that would run counter to the way translation work was always done. Véroni wanted to train indigenous speakers to do the work, but most of his colleagues still believed sending missionary translators with academic expertise to a language group—and only enlisting local helpers as advisors—was the way to go.

As the founder of The Word For The World (TWFTW), Véroni met tremendous opposition—not unlike the opposition also experienced by Seed Company's founder, Bernie May.

In 1992, Bernie stepped down from a 12-year term as president of Wycliffe Bible Translators. And at 60 years old, he wasn't sure where God would lead him next. But he remembered what a friend once told him: "If you want to be successful, find out which way God is going, and go with him."

Wycliffe's board chair asked Bernie to spearhead an initiative focused on funding Bible translation projects in new ways. Most translation agencies were still supporting and sending missionary translators, but Bernie turned his attention to resourcing *local* partners.

After converting a broom closet into an office at Wycliffe's headquarters, Bernie got to work. Calling the start-up Partners With Nationals, he zeroed in on connecting investors directly to well-managed language projects that would accelerate translation through more targeted goals and realistic timelines.

Few possessed Bernie's vision or optimism, and many misunderstood the need. Undeterred, he asked 10 businessmen to contribute \$10,000 each for up to 10 years to fund 10 projects. They all said yes, and it was the start of what ultimately became Seed Company, a strategic organization with a mandate to accelerate Bible translation.

CROSSING PATHS IN ETHIOPIA

TWFTW and Seed Company grew on separate continents, but their paths soon crossed in their first partnership with the Gamo people of Ethiopia. With TWFTW leading the project on the ground and Seed Company funding it, the Gamo community translated the Gospel of Luke and the "JESUS" film for their people in 2005. Encouraged by that initial project's success, Seed Company resourced more Gamo translation projects in partnership with TWFTW. By 2011, the Gamo had the New Testament, and by 2021, they celebrated a full Bible! Since the early 2000s, as TWFTW launched other translation projects, Seed Company became their largest resource partner.

TRAVELING TOGETHER TO ACCELERATE THE WORK

In August 2020, Kobus van Aswegen, TWFTW International's president, approached Larry Jones, Seed Company's president and CEO, about working together in new ways. TWFTW wanted to accelerate their efforts in getting God's Word to more people, and Larry recommended they connect with Seed Company's Growth Partners team.

Since 2014, this small consulting team has been catalyzing growth within national Bible translation organizations while also promoting deeper local church connections to the work.

As a result of this collaboration and mentoring, TWFTW strengthened their operational practices and grew their financial support base. In the past three years, they've grown from a \$3 million organization to a \$14 million organization! TWFTW has restructured their ministry, multiplied their capacity, and expanded their vision. In 2022, Seed Company preapproved funding for 200 TWFTW projects to be started over the next four years, and by 2023, TWFTW had already started 77—the most of any SC partner and three times as many as TWFTW had ever started in one year. "We've seen a major shift in how The Word For The World works and count it a privilege to be part of their growth," says Mark Farr, Seed Company's chief field officer.

"We've seen a major shift in how The Word For The World works and count it a privilege to be part of their growth."

— MARK FARR,
SEED COMPANY
CHIEF FIELD OFFICER

MAPPING A PROMISING FUTURE

Kobus is grateful for TWFTW's strong foundation and believes collaboration has birthed a whole-hearted focus on expecting—and attempting—great things for God and for those without his Word. "Innovation is coming; it's coming fast and from unlikely places," he says.

Mark agrees, saying, "We clearly see God at work, and we are dreaming together about what we will accomplish for his glory."



Q & A

PARTNERING
FOR TRANSLATION:

An Investment in Eternity



For three decades, God has faithfully provisioned his work at Seed Company through partnerships with like-minded investors. So many individuals, families, churches, and business professionals have chosen to honor him through generous giving, earnest prayer, and godly wisdom. We asked two of our investors to reflect on how partnering has touched their lives.



STEVE BOSCHEN

Steve Boschen is lead pastor at Ocean View Church in San Diego, CA. He is a passionate Bible teacher and disciple maker at heart. His wife Christa and their two sons are also involved in full-time ministry work.



ELLIE GORWIN

Ellie Gorwin is a lifelong investor in Bible translation who lives in Yucca Valley, CA. She began supporting Seed Company projects in 1998, and today, she partners with us to design our weekly prayer journal.

HOW HAS INVESTING IN BIBLE TRANSLATION BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PART OF YOUR STORY?

Steve:

Ocean View Church and I were introduced to Bible translation at a Seed Company gathering several years ago. We're just one midsized church, but our focus since I heard about Seed Company has been to give to one of the Bible translation projects every year until the Lord comes or until the countdown to zero is accomplished.

I believe that Jesus is our blessing and blessing. Everything else is a bonus. Our church is convinced that being part of Bible translation is being rich in what matters most. No matter the size of the church—whether it's 50 or 5,000—Bible poverty is something that we need to focus on together.

Ellie:

I have supported Bible translation since I was in my 20s. When I learned about Seed Company in 1998, their emphasis on native speakers made sense to me because they already understand their own language, culture, traditions, values, and so on. I've been supporting Seed Company projects for 25 years! I love hearing about people coming to the Lord. A few years ago, I saw a video of people watching the "JESUS" film for the first time. I still can't watch that without crying.

About three years ago, I wondered if there was something more hands-on I could do for Seed Company. I asked if there were any volunteer opportunities, and that's how I started applying my technology background to the Unceasing Prayer website. More recently, I stepped into a new role, designing and producing Seed Company's updated prayer guide. I just love the purpose of it, that it gets people to pray.

WHAT ASPECTS OF SEED COMPANY'S 30-YEAR HISTORY MOST INSPIRE YOU?

Steve:

The first Seed Company gathering that my wife Christa and I attended included a dinner the first evening. We sat at a random table with people we'd never met. The man next to me was asking about our family, our church, our lives. So unassuming. Then, about 30 minutes later, he walked up onto the stage and began to talk. I looked at Christa and said, "Oh my gosh, that's the guy we read about before we came!" It was Bernie May [Seed Company's founder]!

From that moment on, every person that we've rubbed elbows with here—often world-shaping, world-changing leaders—has been among some of the humblest people we've ever met. That humility has blessed us. Every person is just consumed with the vision and mission. They're not about themselves; they're about the glory of God. And man, whenever you share a mind like that with other believers, it takes you to all the right places.

Ellie:

There are two things. First, I'm inspired when I look at the people who lead and the kind of people who come on board to help. They're amazingly dedicated and deep Christians in their own personal walk and in their commitment to Bible translation.

Then there's the work itself. Seed Company has taken on more and more projects over the years—really making inroads into reducing the Bibleless languages to zero. They're doing a great job, and you just want to be a part of it.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE FUTURE OF BIBLE TRANSLATION?

Steve:

The short answer is, “What *doesn't* excite me?” Every time I talk to someone with a project or one of the partners there with Seed Company, I get more excited, mainly because it’s a countdown to zero. And it’s not the countdown to zero in and of itself, but it’s ultimately to the glory of God! All things are created to give pleasure and honor to the glory of God. The more people who have the Word, the more people who can give him the glory he deserves!

Ellie:

I worked in technology before I retired, so I appreciate how technology has helped to speed the work of translation. I’m excited to think that artificial intelligence could be utilized to accelerate translation even more. It means that we might reach that goal where every language has some Scripture by 2033. I just see Seed Company’s history of accomplishments continuing into the future.

“I believe that Jesus is our blesser and blessing. Everything else is a bonus. Our church is convinced that being part of Bible translation is being rich in what matters most.”



STEVE BOSCHEN

“When I learned about Seed Company in 1998, their emphasis on native speakers made sense to me because they already understand their own language, culture, traditions, values, and so on. I’ve been supporting Seed Company projects for 25 years! I love hearing about people coming to the Lord.”



ELLIE GORWIN

RUNNING THE RACE:

Churches, Translation Organizations Take Their Marks in Church-Based Bible Translation

Over the past decade, a paradigm shift has been taking place within the Bible translation movement. In what is becoming known as Church-Based Bible Translation (CBBT), churches are being empowered to take on primary leadership of Scripture translation projects inside their own countries and language communities.

While mission agencies and translation organizations continue to play an important role in CBBT, local churches are taking on even more ownership of translation goals and methodologies. These churches have always owned the vision of Bible translation, but now they are owning the means to that end, embracing all aspects of what it will take to provide their people with God's Word in the language they understand best. And Bible translation organizations like Seed Company are coming alongside those churches to offer guidance and support.

CBBT is not a new idea. In fact, up until the explosion of the modern missionary movement in the 1800s, the church was the main engine driving Bible translation. Granted, those translations were largely confined to the languages of Europe, and the elite population at that. Not until missionaries like Henry Martyn and William Carey set the stage for extending the reach of Bible translation beyond the hallowed halls of European churches did the idea of mother tongue Scriptures for all begin to take root. *Everyone* needed God's Word.

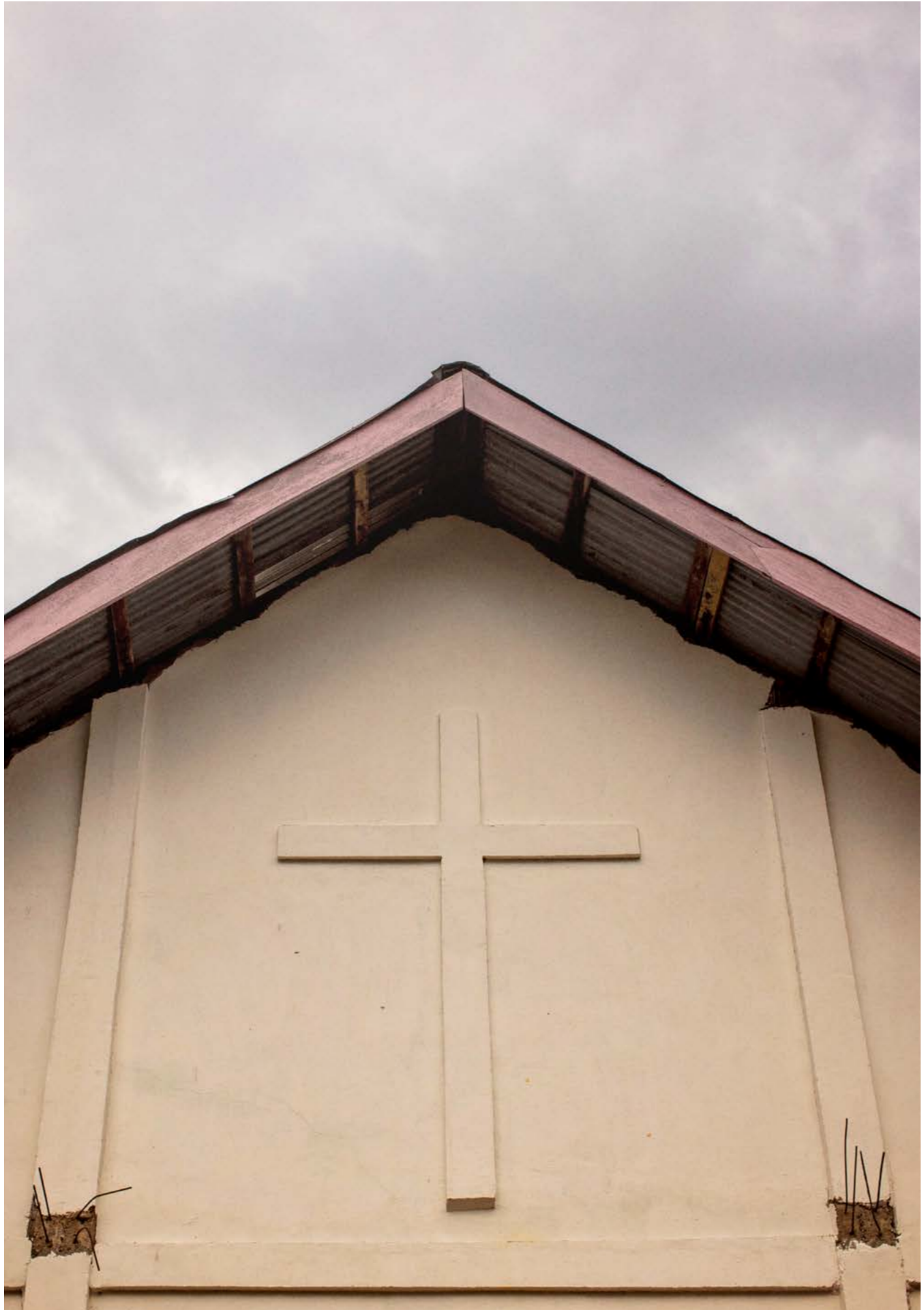
KEEPING PACE


Fast forward a couple of centuries, and more than 3,600 language groups around the world have at least some Scripture, according to August 2023's ProgressBible™ Snapshot. But this is largely due to those working outside the traditional church structure.

"In the past, the church was a customer, and parachurch organizations were the vendors that provided Bible translation," says Randall Lemley, Seed Company's vice president of Collaborative Exploration. "And in most cases, the church said, 'Glad for you to do it.'"

However, this method of translation cannot keep pace with the current demand, as ProgressBible™ estimates there are still more than 50 million people without a single verse of Scripture. And translation work alone—especially when produced by those who are not intimately connected to the recipients of the work—does not guarantee life transformation. Because churches know the unique needs of their people, they are most equipped to tailor translation and Scripture-engagement processes that work best for their communities.

"If the church owns the Bible translation program, makes sacrifices and invests to see it happen, and then promotes the use of the translation, it's going to have a much greater impact," says Roger Hanna, a Seed Company translation consultant working with projects in Southeast Asia.





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— *Roger Hanna,*
Seed Company translation consultant

ACCELERATING THE EFFORT

Seed Company's mission is to *accelerate Scripture translation and impact for people without God's Word through Great Commission partnerships*. To accomplish this, we have defined three pillars of acceleration: *we partner in translation, build movement capacity, and scale translation solutions*. Church-Based Bible Translation specifically facilitates the latter two.

When churches mobilize their own members to become translators, exegetes, and translation consultants, the global workforce for Bible translation expands. This approach also allows for a faster work pace as qualified translators from churches within or nearby their language communities become available, thus reducing reliance on the limited supply of outside consultants.

CBBT additionally provides room to 1) explore new approaches that ensure the trustworthiness of translations, 2) update training methods for specific translation roles, and 3) simplify tools to improve efficiency of mother tongue translation teams. Seed Company has committed to studying these new approaches and scaling those that show promise.

NAVIGATING THE TURNS

It's important to note that Church-Based Bible Translation is not a one-size-fits-all approach. On one end of the spectrum are those who view Bible translation as a means of providing Scripture to aid in church planting and discipleship. They tend to lean toward a crowdsourcing approach to translation, giving church leadership a higher responsibility to vet the quality of translation. On the opposite end are those who see Bible translation as a ministry within an existing church structure. They are likely to lean on established translation methodologies that include trained checkers and consultants. Many more land somewhere in the middle. The way churches and organizations approach Bible translation informs the way they implement CBBT.

"There are a lot of models out there, and each has its strengths and weaknesses," says Roger.

Regardless of how communities begin their journey with Bible translation, Seed Company is committed to ensuring the accuracy and quality of every project in which we play a part. From 2017 to 2019, Seed Company was one of several Bible translation organizations that participated in a quality assurance pilot program focused on improving the quality of translations for 12 language groups in Asia. In each case, the Scripture previously produced by another organization had been translated in a way that did not prioritize quality, and subsequently, did not serve those language communities well.

Out of that pilot program came two new roles: a checker and a lead checker. The checker is someone inside the translation team who identifies many of the low-level issues—such as spelling, grammar, and punctuation—that typically take up a great deal of time but don't necessarily require a high-level skill set. A lead checker works with four to five teams simultaneously and is tasked with determining key terms and making sure those terms are used consistently. As a result of these two additional roles, translation consultants' capacity has been doubled. This means they now can work with 10 to 12 (instead of four to five) teams at a time!

FINDING UNITY IN THE HOME STRETCH

While methods may vary from country to country—and even from people group to people group in the same region—Church-Based Bible Translation at its heart shifts primary leadership of Bible translation to churches within language communities.

"A lot of what's going on inside of CBBT is changing our landscape," says Randall. "That can make us nervous. But there are a lot of opportunities for Seed Company to be a healthy influence. CBBT is going to happen with or without us. Are we going to sit on the sidelines and criticize? Or are we going to roll up our sleeves and try to stimulate learning and influence toward an approach that may be an oasis for a language community rather than a desert?"



DEG KOROWII TON NYOA PIIA
2016
DELCODEP

DEG KOROWII TON NYOA PIIA

KWAME'S STORY:

A Legacy of Commitment to Bible Translation

“

Kwame Nkrumah has been a champion for Bible translation and a close partner with Seed Company for nearly 30 years. He was assigned by his mission—the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation—to facilitate the Paasaal project, one of the first 10 projects Seed Company sponsored. In addition to his valuable field work contribution, Kwame has helped us serve our investors as an articulate Bible translation advocate in many different settings. His testimony inspires my soul.

”

— LARRY JONES,
SEED COMPANY PRESIDENT
AND CEO

Sylvester “Kwame” Nkrumah’s colorful patterned shirt announced his passion for Bible translation long before he uttered a word. Specially created to be worn by Deg community members at the dedication of their New Testament, the shirt spoke of God’s bold and beautiful work, not just among Deg people but among people groups throughout Ghana celebrating the arrival of his Word in their heart languages.

Kwame would know. He is the executive director of the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation (GILLBT). Kwame previously held various roles within the organization, including director of field programs, associate director of language projects (34 at one time!), and executive committee member. He and his wife Naana also became translation consultants after completing their training through Seed Company’s Internship Program in 2015.

GILLBT celebrated their 60th anniversary in 2022, and the rejoicing continues as God’s Word in Ghanaian languages encourages faith to grow—in their nation, in their communities, and in individual hearts.

Including Kwame’s.

“When I tell my story,” Kwame says with a twinkle in his eye, “I say, ‘This is a God-orchestrated story.’”

LEARNING ABOUT CHRISTIANITY THROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOL AND SCRIPTURE UNION

Kwame's parents were farmers. His father was also a hunter, a respected member of the community, and a revered shaman. Much like people go to a pastor for advice or a doctor for medicine, people visited Kwame's father every day for assistance with what to sacrifice before a long journey or in preparation for a business deal. They wanted the ancestors and the gods to protect them, Kwame remembers.

But as God would ordain it, Kwame was introduced to a different way of life through the education his father was so passionate about. His father made sure all 19 of his children (from four wives) had the opportunity to go to school, and school meant the study of Christianity and mandatory church attendance.

Kwame remains baffled that a public school taught mainstream Christianity.

"Nobody ever studied Islam. Nobody ever studied traditional religion," he recalls. "We studied the Bible. You were taught the books of the Bible. We talked about Christ, Abraham and Isaac, and all the Bible stories." But for Kwame and other students, the learning became rote, and Christianity became little more than a graduation requirement.

Nonetheless, Kwame is grateful for that early introduction to Christianity because it prepared the soil of his heart for what he would learn next through Scripture Union—similar to Young Life in the United States.

Kwame says God used Scripture Union to draw him into a deeper understanding of his fledgling faith. He realized he needed to "take a step" toward true commitment and decided he wanted to be in a Christian church permanently. He told his father he would no longer eat meat offered to idols. Two of his brothers, who were also Christians, joined him in this conviction, and to their surprise, their father supported their decision.

"He seemed excited about it," Kwame reflects. "Any time there was a sacrifice, he would go and look for meat that was not offered [as part of a sacrifice] for us to enjoy. In hindsight, I see that God was really working in his heart. He allowed us to have our way, as far as Christianity was concerned. And anytime we were going to church, he would just shout and say, 'You guys pray for us when you go!'"

GROWING IN THE WORD

With his father's blessing, Kwame embraced his faith, but what really made it click was meeting a missionary who came to his village.

The missionary was a Bible translator, and before long, Kwame was chosen to help this man learn Delo so he could translate the Bible for Kwame's community.

"That was when I got it. That was when I was convicted," Kwame says, his eyes softening at the memory as if it happened yesterday.

Kwame worked faithfully with the missionary translator until it was time to go to college. But Kwame's father could not afford to send him, so the missionary and his wife stepped in to pay for all four years of his tuition.

After graduating with a linguistics degree, Kwame returned to his village to finish assisting with the translation of God's Word into his heart language. That was in 1990, and it spearheaded Kwame's involvement with GILLBT.

TRANSLATING GOD'S WORD THROUGHOUT GHANA

Kwame sees how the Delo project was merely the beginning of God's greater strategy to reach all 60 language communities of Ghana with his transformative Word.

Kwame explains, GILLBT "looked at Ghana, and they said, 'We need a 10-year development plan. And in that plan, we want to train [people] in Ghanaian languages so that Ghanaian graduates can do Bible translation. We want to lead the way.'"

GILLBT started by recruiting four university graduates to be translators. Then in 1993, a new Bible translation agency named Partners With Nationals (Seed Company's original name) came onto the scene with a new model that prioritized local ownership of the work. Kwame says the start-up agency identified the Paasaal language community as one of its first 10 projects. Mike Toupin, Seed Company's current vice president of Catalytic Opportunities, and his wife Vicki had started the project in 1988 as Wycliffe missionaries. Five years later, Mike recruited Kwame—who had recently graduated from Bible college—to be a translator and leader on the project.

"I went for it," Kwame says with a grin. Alongside Naana—the college sweetheart who became his wife—Kwame worked on the Paasaal project for 10 life-changing years.

"We shared our faith as we did the translation, and we saw lives being transformed," he says. "We saw the community completely transformed by the time we finished. We saw church planting growing as people began to read in their own language."

But when the missionary translator on the Delo project died in 1994, Kwame finished his work with the Paasaal community so he could lead the Delo translation team. The Delo dedicated their New Testament in 2006. Translation of the Old Testament began in 2015, and the complete Bible is expected in 2027.

Kwame says that although the Paasaal and Delo language communities are culturally similar, their languages are distinct. Thankfully, for himself and many of his colleagues, language learning is common. In Africa, most people speak a minimum of three languages. Kwame speaks five Ghanaian languages, plus English and French.

"I think speaking different languages is a gift," he says.

CELEBRATING GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH GILLBT

Kwame proudly lists how much GILLBT has to be thankful for: six New Testament projects and

20 Old Testament projects are underway in addition to the 22 New Testaments and 14 full Bibles already completed!

GILLBT's passion for Ghanaians having the whole counsel of God is why they are currently engaged in more Old Testament translation projects than New Testament projects. That being said, five language communities have yet to start what GILLBT prioritizes first—New Testament translations. But Kwame believes that with the help of other key organizations, they can start those remaining languages by 2025.

"God has favored us, and he is blessing us," he says.

*"God has favored us,
and he is blessing us."*

— KWAME NKRUMAH,
GILLBT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kwame is equally passionate about ways to accelerate that work, and that can only happen with a sizeable network of translation consultants. Ghana has 12 consultants, "enough to do our work," he says, adding that some countries don't even have three.

Meeting the need for ongoing training and mentoring of consultants is essential, but until that workforce grows, Kwame is happy to share GILLBT's consultants with their neighbors. Naana has worked in Zimbabwe and now works in two languages in Nigeria. Another consultant is also working with languages in Nigeria, and others plan to extend their reach to neighboring countries ready for the next step.

"We're nurturing them to not just be in Ghana," Kwame says. "How wonderful that we have as many [consultants] as we do. We have enough that we can nurture them to go outside."

CONSULTING AND BEYOND

At 63, Kwame says playfully, “I’ve seen a lot of Christmases.” His role as GILLBT’s executive director will end in August 2025 when he turns 65, based on GILLBT’s bylaws.

But that doesn’t mean Kwame will retire.

“I’ll go back to consulting,” he says through a grin that lights up a room. Naana will join him in that effort.

Kwame will also remain busy through entrepreneurial efforts. “When people ask me, I say, ‘I’m a missionary entrepreneur.’ That is the idea: business as mission.”

*“When people ask me, I say,
‘I’m a missionary entrepreneur.’
That is the idea: business
as mission.”*

— KWAME NKRUMAH,
GILLBT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kwame has a Christian radio ministry, Beyond FM, and a water purification plant, Bfresh, that benefit translation work in the area. The proceeds from the plant will be used to resource the radio station. And in a few years, Bfresh profits will also help to fund the discipleship training center he is launching. By the time Kwame transitions from his current position with GILLBT, he will be freed up to “get involved in training disciples for our language areas,” he says.

Kwame believes this discipleship training is essential for managing the reality of too few pastors serving too many churches in Ghana, where one pastor might be responsible for dozens of churches.

“Leaders who help those pastors need to be well trained. Those are the ones we really want to disciple,” he says.

Some of that discipleship is cultivated through the programming on Beyond FM. With a 90-mile operational area, Christian content is available 60 percent of the time, and social programming—focused on education, agriculture, health, and the environment—accounts for the other 40 percent. The station celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2022, and Kwame is excited about the seven language communities that benefit from its reach. Each one has also benefited from GILLBT’s work: they have God’s Word, and now they are using the airwaves each week to share and receive the good news of Jesus.

GOD’S WORD TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Kwame and Naana have seven grown children, all adopted. Some of them have learned trades, and they are all serving in various fields of expertise. One daughter recently graduated from college and lives at home while she determines her next steps. Another son oversees the radio station and manages the water purification plant. All but two are followers of Jesus Christ, and Kwame prays for them, as well as the future generation of his family—13 grandchildren “and counting.”

Most of Kwame’s family of origin now embrace Christian faith as well. Two of Kwame’s brothers are elders in their churches, and his sisters are involved in church too. Kwame also pastored a church for two years. He now only preaches on occasion because, he asserts, “Bible translation is my calling.”

The love with which Kwame covers his family—his legacy—is undeniable. His son who oversees his businesses recently sent him a text that says it all: “A lot of times we look at the physical. But I always appreciate your faith, which has yielded results.”

Not surprisingly, Kwame’s heart for the nations—and reaching them through Bible translation—is equally palpable.

“As long as the Lord gives me the strength and the ability to think, I’ll continue to do it until I fall dead. What else do I have to do?”

FINDING MOTIVATION IN TRANSFORMATION

To say Kwame is grateful for his involvement in 35 years of GILLBT's 60-year history is an understatement. When asked what motivates him to continue the work of Bible translation, his response is nothing short of an inspiring testimony to the transformative power of heart language Scripture:

What keeps me going is the impact that I'm seeing in the lives of people. When I see a cult dead—a cult in my village that enslaved women to worship a snake—it keeps me going. When I see two communities that are antagonistic, [but] on the day of a Bible dedication, [they] are able to come together to live at peace with one another, then I am motivated, and I'm inspired. When I see a young man who reads God's Word, or who hears it and comes back to church and says, "Folks, I read this and now I know how to treat my wife. I used to beat my wife, but now no more," then I am motivated. I am inspired to do more. When I see a Muslim who comes to work as a literacy supervisor and ends up leading the Old Testament translation work in his village, and [who is] now a Christian, then I am fired up. I am more excited to do what I am doing. So, when it comes to what keeps me going, lives being transformed is what keeps me going. Jesus is no longer a stranger, and he's no longer a foreigner. He's one of us. And he speaks our language.



Scan here to read more about what Kwame, Naana, and others have learned through Seed Company's Internship Program.



Scan here to join us in celebrating an incredible milestone: GILLBT's 60th anniversary!



CAUSE TO CELEBRATE:

Branchu Bible Not the Final Chapter

Sam paused to survey the scene around him.

The celebration for the Branchu Bible dedication had moved outside the civic center and into an open, paved area. The 500 attendees had finished a meal of chicken and rice, and the circle of people festively participating in one of this Asian country's ceremonial dances had dissolved. Conversations in the last of the scattered groups were winding down.

Sam, a pastor, was one of three original Branchu translators on hand. Their translation work started back in 1999 with the New Testament. But now, 400,000 Branchu speakers have access to *all* of God's Word in their heart language.

So much to celebrate. So much to reflect on.

Yet Sam looked ahead, stating in a tone considerably quieter than his bright-blue, patterned jacket, "This is just the start."

A MODEL PROJECT

The Branchu dedicated their New Testament in 2009. On March 22, 2023, they celebrated the arrival of three printed formats of the full Bible: national script, Branchu script, and di-script (both scripts). Because of printer delays in obtaining the special paper needed, a limited number were delivered the week of the dedication. Lines quickly formed to purchase the Bibles available. A church leader who traveled from a different region of the country bought 100 to take home.

Patrus Madden, a pastor attending the dedication, described having the full Bible in Branchu as a "privilege."

"As you read the New Testament, you need the Old Testament too," he said. "Now that we have it, it will be easier to share the gospel with friends, with family and neighbors, because we have the Bible in our language. People will be able to come to faith and believe."

There are 100 known languages* in this sensitive country where Christians comprise less than 2 percent of the population. Only six of those languages have a full Bible. Branchu—the first Seed Company project in this country—became the fifth. And its translators are now accelerating the work in ways that will have a ripple effect across the globe.

Field Project Manager Jeff Webster was one of eight dignitaries—and the only non-native of the country—given the honor of unveiling the Branchu Bible during the dedication because he worked so extensively with the translators.

Jeff, who joined Seed Company in 2016, started the project with a language survey in 1993 while working for international linguistics and translation organization SIL. At that time, Jeff had a plan for the Branchu project that some working in Bible translation in that area told him would not work: instead of a missionary moving into a Branchu village and learning the language, a team of Branchu speakers would lead the translation.

“They were the guinea pigs of my vision for what would be ideal,” Jeff says. That method became the template for future projects.

After completing the Branchu New Testament in 2009, the translation team wanted to begin work immediately on the Old Testament. Jeff suggested that the best path for securing continued financial support would be to create a cluster project of similar languages, with the Branchu team helping those language communities translate the New Testament while they worked on their Old Testament. From that idea, the Twig Cluster was born, and the Branchu team helped train new groups of translators.

Now the other five languages in this cluster—Acacia, Lilac, Wanchi, Yew, and Yucca—are expected to have their New Testaments in hand by April.

The Branchu project also offers a preview of Bible translation’s future. As part of a pilot program, the Branchu New Testament was used as a source text to gauge the ability of an artificial intelligence (AI) engine to draft the translation of Old Testament portions. Early results suggest AI could significantly accelerate the translation process (see “Artificial Intelligence: Does It Work in the World of Bible Translation?” page 52).

LET THE WORK BEGIN

The potential impact of God’s Word among the Branchu people is far-reaching.

In 1993, when Branchu pastors came together with the vision of one day having the Bible in their language, 19 churches existed across the country’s seven districts where Branchu was spoken. By 2023, the number of churches had mushroomed to 792. Although that growth cannot be attributed solely to the increasing presence of God’s Word in Branchu, it illustrates the opportunity for life transformation through heart language Scripture utilized in Branchu churches.

“God has used Bible translation in an amazing way to energize and equip the church,” Jeff explains. “It has catalyzed the vision for the Branchu believers to explicitly reach their own people.

It catalyzed the conviction and vision that one could be authentically Branchu and be a Christian. And Branchu Christians have done more than anyone to develop and use the language, the script, and their cultural forms of song and dance.”

“God has used Bible translation in an amazing way to energize and equip the church. It has catalyzed the vision for the Branchu believers to explicitly reach their own people. It catalyzed the conviction and vision that one could be authentically Branchu and be a Christian. And Branchu Christians have done more than anyone to develop and use the language, the script, and their cultural forms of song and dance.”

— JEFF WEBSTER,
SEED COMPANY FIELD
PROJECT MANAGER

Following the Branchu Bible dedication, Pastor Sam clutched a freshly printed Bible that represented more than two decades of helping his people translate God’s Word into their language.

“We are happy and excited to see this book,” he said. “But we’ll be more excited and happy when our people will read this and receive Christ as their personal Savior.”

And the anticipation of that ultimate celebration in eternity, the one to which God’s Word points, has Sam eager to start the work ahead.

* Data sourced from ProgressBible™. October 2023.



The Branchu Bible dedication celebrated not just the arrival of all of God's Word in the Branchu language but also the impact the project has made on other translation work. Among those on hand (middle left photo): Seed Company Field Project Manager Jeff Webster and three of the original Branchu project translators, dressed colorfully for the occasion.





YEARS



CELEBRATING
THREE DECADES OF
LIFE TRANSFORMATION
THROUGH BIBLE
TRANSLATION



MARÍA, MEXICO: Daughter of a shaman. Surrendered witchcraft for Christ. **CHRISTINA, EAST ASIA:** Accepted Christ days before joining the Communist Party. Became a Bible translation consultant instead.

ANONYMOUS MAN, MIDDLE EAST: Hindu religious leader who fought against Christianity. Came to know Jesus through Oral Bible Storytelling. **EDUARDO,**

MEXICO: Considered praying in his language irreverent. Learned God speaks all languages, including his.

DASHA, RUSSIA: Battled rejection, contemplated suicide. Stumbled into church drunk and desperate, found acceptance in Christ. **EBILIDIGUÉ,**

CAMEROON: Believed the Bible was an amulet that protected her in her sleep. Now knows God is the source of her security. **ANONYMOUS YOUNG BOY, PAPUA**

NEW GUINEA: Heard his first Bible story from his uncle. Gathered 69 of his friends so they too could listen to God's Word. **PHONG, ASIA:** Pastor who unwittingly perpetuated false teaching. Found truth in translation.

ANONYMOUS WOMAN, SOUTH ASIA: Fell off a three-story building while offering water to a sun god.

An oral Bible story sparked her desire to see Jesus in a new light. **BENDO, CAMEROON:** Squandered money on alcohol, ignored wife. Marveled at the creation of

“God’s Word is like a sunflower. A river of hope has opened, and sunshine has begun.”

NAPHTALY, KENYA

“My heart has been so dark, and these words are like light in my heart.”

ANONYMOUS MAN, SOUTHEAST ASIA

Adam and Eve and renewed marriage vows. **PEDRO,**

GUATEMALA: Was laughed at for translating Scripture on his own with a notebook and pencil. Made mother tongue Scripture accessible to 40 churches. **OLIVIA,**

KENYA: Born Deaf, considered herself less than human.

Understood Jesus' love for her through a sign language video. **TOM, PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** Lived a double

life, engaging in gang crimes while assisting with Bible translation. A team devotion led him to a profound realization: “This is the life I've been looking for, the real joy I've been searching for.” **BRIAN, ISLANDS ASIA:**

Muslim who agreed to voice record the translation of Luke. Discovered the Bible to be more detailed than the Qur'an. **GRANDMOTHER, MOZAMBIQUE:** Her

granddaughter was dying from cholera. Prayed for the first time in Jesus' name and trusted in him upon seeing her granddaughter's health restored. **ROSALINO,**

MEXICO: Ran from God for decades. Heard Scripture in his mother tongue and became a deacon and translation advocate. **ANONYMOUS TRANSLATOR,**

SOUTH ASIA: Believed in God but harbored dark lies in his heart. Reading the Bible transformed his inner life.

JEAN CLAUDE, CAMEROON: Sold tarantulas for idol worship. Listened to Mark's Gospel and led his whole family to Jesus. **ROSA, MEXICO:** Deserted by

husband and lost son in car accident. Chose forgiveness

over resentment after listening to the audio Bible.

VINE, INDONESIA: Loved music since she was young. Traveled from village to village to compile 100

local Scripture and praise songs to be published with the translated New Testament. **YAKIDJI,**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Dismissed Christianity as a white man's religion. Learned Jesus died for all through overhearing an outdoor Bible study.

USTAM, ASIA: Felt inadequate before God. Discovered purpose in translation work. **DAVID, CAMEROON:**

Pastor who wrestled with denominational division. Witnessed the translated Bible unite his people.

ANONYMOUS MAN, PHILIPPINES: Family pressured him to avenge his brother's death. Scriptures convicted him to show mercy. **ANONYMOUS YOUNG**

WOMAN, ISLANDS ASIA: Begrudgingly attended Oral Bible Storytelling training with her relatives. By

day's end, accepted Jesus as her Savior. **TEOFILO, COLOMBIA:**

Community leader focused on saving money for drinking and parties. God's Word redirected his attention to supporting the church. **ANONYMOUS**

WOMAN, SOUTH ASIA: Insisted on receiving a digital player loaded with heart language Scripture. Started

34 listening groups with 1,000 weekly listeners.

“Many years ago, I was sitting in prison. Now I am translating God's Word into our language.”

RAHUL, SOUTH ASIA

STEPHEN, KENYA: Studied sign language after losing his hearing at age 7. Inspired by God's Word to

plant a Deaf church. **ANTON, BOTSWANA:** Drank constantly after polio left him unable to walk. Brought

home an Afrikaans Bible and left alcohol behind. **PENNY, SOUTH ASIA:** Angered upon discovering

her husband was a secret Jesus follower. Reluctantly accompanied him to church until she experienced God's

profound love through oral Bible stories. **ALI, CAMEROON:**

Left Islam to follow Jesus. Declared he would brave persecution for the sake of Christ.

LEMAN, SOUTH ASIA: Once ignored destitute children outside his home. Prompted by Jesus' love to welcome them in. **STANO, SLOVAKIA:**

Pursued wealth and influence. Relinquished greed and became a Bible translator for his people. **BEATRICE, UGANDA:**

Grew up impoverished, doubting she could have a bright future. Found hope in memorizing Scripture and praying

daily. **DANIEL, SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Told translated Bible stories for three days straight to an enthralled

crowd in his community. Over 30 listeners came to know Jesus. **KAM, SOUTH SUDAN:**

Driven from his home by militants. Released his bitterness upon hearing Job's narrative and started ministering to other traumatized

men. **MANTIMO, NIGERIA:** Refused to identify with believers, rejected his “Christian” name. Gospel songs

led him to embrace church community. **CARATINA, MEXICO:**

Lived in an area where men are known for alcohol abuse. Her husband and seven sons all accepted Christ.

“I told lies and had all kinds of unspiritual thoughts in my heart. Now my work, my talk, and my deeds are changing.”

TRANSLATOR TRAINEE, SOUTH ASIA

Scripture on the radio. Imprisoned by the terrorists and gained a reputation as the praying prisoner.

MARSHALL, AFRICA: Thought good works paved the way to paradise. Learned in the Gospel of Luke that Jesus is the Way. **FELIPE, MEXICO:** Refused to attend church with family. After hearing translated Scripture, he wouldn't miss a week. **MATHEW, SOUTH ASIA:**

Fathered a mentally disturbed daughter. Watched torment leave her after she was prayed over by pastor.

DIDUMO, ETHIOPIA: Approaching divorce, her husband faithfully taught her Scripture. Now married over 65 years, they teach others about biblical marriage.

BENJAMIN, SOUTH ASIA: Thought Jesus was trouble and cautioned his friend about becoming a Christian. Scripture made him realize Christ is worth the risk.

KUL, SOUTH AFRICA: Adhered to strict traditional religion, vowed never to leave. Son's illness compelled him to trust God as his healer. **ANDY, ISLANDS ASIA:** Called national Bible an “empty tin can.” Satisfied by the fullness of God's Word in his heart language.

ANONYMOUS WOMAN, NIGERIA: Witnessed utter disregard for human life as people were treated like

ALLAN, SOUTH ASIA: Engaged in fights constantly. Embraced Jesus and suffered beatings from his father for sharing the gospel. **JAMES, BOTSWANA:** Plagued by fear of evil spirits. Oral Bible stories dispelled his nightmares. **NARD, PHILIPPINES:** Raised in a remote mountain village. Introduced to Scripture by a translator who inspired him to become a missionary pilot.

ANONYMOUS WOMAN, ASIA: Disrespected in her community for being female. Understood her value by reading Proverbs 31 in her language. **DELA, PAPUA**

NEW GUINEA: Unschooled man taught himself to read. Used technology to accelerate translation work in remote locations. **FEBE, GUATEMALA:** Born with a brain malformation that caused paralysis. Lived on the promises of God for years and experienced healing.

GAMA, ETHIOPIA: Planned to press charges against neighbor for property damages. Studied the parables of

Jesus and chose mercy. **ANONYMOUS MAN, ISLANDS ASIA:** Seminary graduate could not grasp “rebirth” until reading 1 Peter in his heart language. With that new understanding, he was reborn. **CARLOS,**

BRAZIL: Hit his mother at age 14. Embraced gospel at 15, leading to reconciliation and the honor of baptizing her. **SAIF, MIDDLE EAST:** Deaf man experienced the power of the “JESUS” film. Revolutionized translation method and viewing experience for sign language versions. **ANNA, BOTSWANA:** False doctrine left her confused and empty. Now joyfully imparts oral Bible stories to children. **WILMER, PERU:** Defected from a revolutionary terrorist organization after listening to

FOR THE REVE

goods for sale. Prayed Isaiah 2:4 over her country when she heard the translated verse. **CHARLES, TANZANIA:** Denied salvation existed. Bible translation introduced him to his Savior. **ANNA, ASIA:** Spent two years begging God for a job. Now translation work supports her family. **EPSON, ISLANDS ASIA:** Translating Ephesians compelled him to address domestic violence in his community. Fostered deeper intimacy with his wife and became an advocate against abuse.

HASHAR, SOUTH ASIA: Mocked Christian classmates at Deaf school. Embraced the gospel after seeing it signed clearly in his language. **OKECHA, UGANDA:**

Trapped in alcoholism, imprisoned for beating his wife. Saved by God after hearing Scripture in his native tongue. **JAWANZA, AFRICA:** Doubted his traditional

faith when he heard the creation story. Started seeking truth in Scripture. **ABDULLAI, CHAD:** Called to translation work through visions of angels and Jesus. Accepted the calling despite family's disapproval.

ANONYMOUS YOUNG MAN, ASIA: Seldom read the Bible or attended church. Came across "JESUS" film segments on TikTok, marked them as favorites, and now

watches them repeatedly. **BERNARDINO, AFRICA:** Considered Christianity empty and ritualistic until he

“It makes me feel like I have spent my life seeing the Bible by moonlight. Now, it is as if someone has turned a great big spotlight on the Scriptures, and for the first time in my life, I can see clearly what is in the Bible.”

TEAM MEMBER, ISLANDS ASIA

met a kind believer. Became a pastor and translated the Gospel of Luke with his wife. **CHARLES, NIGERIA:**

Dreamed of producing audio Bibles for 36 language groups. Uses an app to distribute recordings. **JENNY, PHILIPPINES:**

Felt ugly and inferior. Discovered through Scripture that she is beautifully and wonderfully made. **YULIOPKA, INDONESIA:** His shaman

father interpreted the will of spirits. But *he* translates the Word of God. **LINDA, SOUTHEAST ASIA:** As a 10-year-old, moved by hearing a missionary's story.

Grew up to equip ministers and mother tongue translators. **MARY, SOUTH ASIA:** Granddaughter to one of the first Christians from a headhunting tribe. Proclaims the gospel to continue her family's legacy of faith.

CALEB, ASIA: Once said of the Bible, "That book is dangerous—I heard it will change your life." It changed his.

“When I read the Bible in my own language, the heaviness in my heart becomes lighter.”

PRISONER, PHILIPPINES



Kobas people gathered and performed joyful dances to celebrate the completion of the New Testament in both print and audio formats. Among those present (bottom center photo) were Hesron, young son of translators Amos and Alina, and former translator Kuli, who gave Hesron a solemn charge to read God's life-changing Word for himself.

FANNING THE FLAME:

God's Word Comes to Two Remote Indonesian People Groups

Composed of five major islands and thousands of smaller ones, Indonesia is a nation of over 700 language communities as different as the islands separating them. But whether they are residents of big cities and suburban modern towns or indigenous people groups in remote villages, they all share a common problem: very few language communities have a complete Bible, and about 225 still lack a single verse.

Bible translation is changing that. Over 60 Seed Company projects are ongoing in Indonesia, and in August 2023, two celebrated a significant milestone. The Kobas and Kosarek people groups on the remote island of Papua are rejoicing over the arrival of their New Testaments, and along with them, the hope of spiritual transformation set aflame by the power of God's living Word in their languages.

LONG WAIT PAYS OFF FOR THE KOBAS PEOPLE

Decades of work have gone into producing the Kobas New Testament. Paul and Pip Etherington, missionaries from Pioneers, came to the area in 1992 to begin outreach and translation. Then in 2001, they began work with local translators Amos and Alina. Although Amos and Alina are grateful for their calling, serving has not been without challenges and great sacrifice. In addition to health problems for Amos, working in the translation office meant the couple's three

children spent many days home alone during their formative years. But both testify that the harvest has made the sowing season worthwhile. Community members are genuinely embracing heart language Scripture.

Take Peran, who has followed Jesus since he "was still young and strong." But the only Bible available to him has been in a language he doesn't read as well as Kobas. When translation work began years ago, Peran and his friends often prayed for the project. Now, many of Peran's friends have passed away. "But I'm still alive, and I can see it," Peran expressed gratefully. "For the Kobas tribe, this is very special to us. My heart is happy."

Kobas speaker Yobi agreed that Kobas Scripture is much easier to understand than the national language Bible they've used previously. "Our language is the language of our mothers," Yobi explained. "And if the Bible comes and speaks to us like our mothers would, then we would understand it and love it."

Scripture has also brought positive change to the Kobas community. Yobi explained, "There's an end of war and fighting. Family against family, clan against clan—there hasn't been loss of blood like that anymore."

Another Kobas man added, "The Word of God brings us together—with our wives, with our kids, and with one another."

KOBAS PEOPLE CELEBRATE THE BIBLE'S ARRIVAL

On Wednesday, August 23, preparations began early. By 8 a.m., crowds of people had congregated on an open hillside. Many were roasting pigs and preparing vegetables for the celebratory feast to follow. Others were dancing, singing, and chanting in large groups. As far as the eye could see, people were excitedly preparing for a party.

Later, the crowds migrated to the local airstrip, where a plane delivered 3,000 New Testaments. Loaded into trucks, the Bibles made their way to the village center followed by crowds on foot, with many people dressed in their traditional garb and performing customary war cries. They reenacted their old warlike traditions to symbolize that they'd once been at war with God—but now, the gospel has brought them peace.

Over 1,000 people attended the 4-hour-long dedication filled with songs of praise and words of thanksgiving. A church leader preached on Revelation 5:9, highlighting how Christ's sacrifice redeems every tribe, language, and nation—including the Kobas. "God has never forgotten the Kobas people, and he *will* never forget the Kobas people," Chris Ayers, a representative from Pioneers, told the crowds. He also gave the admonishment that "God's Word was not designed to stay in your hands. God wants his Word to be in your hearts."

Later, project representatives distributed New Testaments to various church and community leaders. Former translator Kuli gave a Bible to Hesron, Amos and Alina's 10-year-old son. Along with it, Kuli gave Hesron this solemn charge: "Take this, but don't leave it in your home or use it as a pillow. You need to read it. It will change your life."

The Kobas people weren't the only ones whose lives would be changed. Just a few days later, less than 100 miles away, the Kosarek community experienced a similar blessing.

KOSAREK SPEAKERS ENGAGE EAGERLY WITH SCRIPTURE

The Kosarek people opened their hearts and minds years ago to the spiritual truths found in

Scripture. In December of 2022, they celebrated the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the gospel to their people. Now, the recent completion of the Kosarek New Testament represents another major milestone—one commemorated with jubilation by this vibrant community of faith.

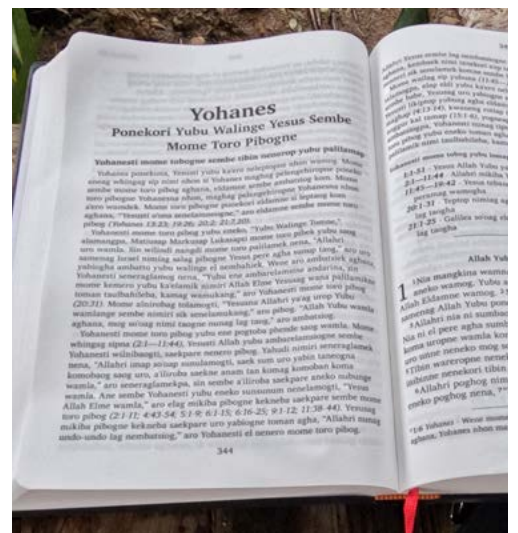
Translator Simon explained the significance of Kosarek Scripture: "Before it was in our language, it was unclear to us. It was dark. But now, when it's in our language, we can read it, and it's definitely a lot clearer."

Musa, another Kosarek speaker, shared his perspective: "People who listen to God's Word have harmony in the household and between the villages. They don't have all the infighting between villages that people who don't listen to it have."

Besides translation work, this project includes a strong literacy component since many Kosarek people haven't yet learned to read or write. Adit and Putri, a young couple from elsewhere in Indonesia, came to Kosarek five years ago to lead these efforts. Now, they've expanded from literacy alone to teaching Kosarek children several elementary-level subjects, including math and social studies.

But, for Adit and Putri, the most important thing they can teach the children is straight from God's Word. Using Kosarek Scripture to teach literacy leads to an even greater reward: exposure to spiritual truth. They tell their students that, when they go off on their own, they need a spiritual "wall" to help them make good decisions and avoid bad ones. "That's why you need the Bible," Adit instructs. "And that's why you need certain disciplines—to read the Bible, to pray, to have a good community, and to choose wisely, like Proverbs says." He and Putri have both seen encouraging examples of their graduates not only avoiding negative influences from their peers but also seeking out positive mentors and discipleship for themselves.

Scripture-based education is just one example of the Kosarek people's fruitful engagement with God's Word. The joyful celebration that followed bore further evidence of their eagerness to welcome the Bible into their hearts.



In addition to awaiting audio Scriptures, Kosarek people eagerly welcomed 6,000 copies of the printed New Testament in their language. Wycliffe missionary Mike Martin (top photo, orange shirt, center) and other project representatives distributed copies to Kosarek church and community leaders, who gladly received them.

GRATEFUL KOSAREK COMMUNITY RECEIVES GOD'S WORD

Leading up to the dedication, Kosarek people found every opportunity to celebrate and thank God. Dozens gathered on Saturday for praise and worship. On Sunday morning, a pastor preached in Kosarek, followed by more praise and worship that evening.

Kosarek speakers are grateful for those who've funded the work, enabling them to read God's Word for themselves. A man named Linais said, "There's nothing we can give to repay what you've given. But for how you've helped us to get God's Word in our language, we want to say 'thank you' and give you honor."

Translator Yesaya agreed: "We know that God sees what you've done, how you've helped throughout the years. We know that God will help you and will give to you from all the good stores that he has."

Then, on Monday morning—long before sunrise on the day of the dedication—joyful songs erupted from excited crowds. The celebration had begun!

Planes flew in 6,000 New Testament copies, and over 500 people gathered for the ceremony. Local church and community leaders gave speeches, and different groups sang and danced to traditional songs. Schoolchildren, led by Adit and Putri, performed a musical drama to commemorate the Bible's arrival.

Wycliffe missionaries Mike and Amy Martin brought in a whole host of family and friends from out of the country to celebrate this

culmination of the work God called them to over two decades ago. The ceremony honored those who've labored and sacrificed to make the dream of Kosarek Scripture a reality.

Then, various church and community leaders formed a line in front of the stage, and the Martins distributed Scripture copies to them. Seed Company's Field Operations Director Greg Gammon spoke briefly to the crowd of grateful recipients: "The Bible is like medicine in the hand. Unless you get it into yourself, it won't do any good."

Kosarek believers agree, as biblical discipleship is already a significant part of their culture. "It's not just a future hope that God's Word will take on the feel and the sound of the Kosarek people. It's something that we're already seeing," says Justin Stanford, Seed Company's field project manager. "This is the kind of project Seed Company loves to be a part of."

The completion of Kobas and Kosarek New Testaments is certainly worth celebrating. But the work is far from over—for these groups and for many others in Indonesia. Pray that God's Word will continue to spread, reaching even the most remote locations as it moves from hands to hearts, forever changing the landscape of this great nation.



Kosarek children are just as excited about the Bible as their parents are! Scan this code to watch and listen as they sing a song of praise in both Kosarek and English.

CELEBRATING 32 DEDICATIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2023

Region	Language	Dedication Date	Product
Africa	Aringa	03/23/2023	9 Old Testament Books
Africa	Gitemi	07/29/2023	Luke & the "JESUS" film
Africa	Hajaat*	03/18/2023	New Testament
Africa	Ilchamus	10/08/2022	New Testament
Africa	Kamwe*	07/28/2023	Full Bible
Africa	Laka	03/31/2023	New Testament
Africa	Bena	05/26/2023	New Testament
Africa	Nyiha	05/13/2023	New Testament
Africa	Safwa	09/23/2023	New Testament
Africa	Nigerian Sign Language	11/26/2022	Scripture portions
Africa	Pokomo	09/30/2023	Full Bible
Africa	Rufumbira	09/21/2023	New Testament
Africa	Suba	03/17/2023	Exodus
Americas	Nandeva	04/01/2023	New Testament
Americas	Ngiva	02/05/2023	Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament)
Asia	Notibu*	07/29/2023	Full Bible
Asia	Bulam*	02/09/2023	New Testament
Asia	Bramar*	05/27/2023	New Testament
Asia	Branchu*	03/22/2023	Full Bible
Asia	Lilac*	09/25/2023	New Testament
Asia	Acacia*	09/25/2023	New Testament
Europe and the Middle East	Darata*	09/22/2023	New Testament
Europe and the Middle East	Hakid*	09/22/2023	New Testament
Europe and the Middle East	Koid*	09/22/2023	New Testament
Europe and the Middle East	North Warmi*	09/22/2023	New Testament
Europe and the Middle East	South Warmi*	09/27/2023	New Testament
Europe and the Middle East	Taqt*	07/02/2023	New Testament (in two volumes)
Pacific	Ketning*	09/27/2023	Full Bible
Pacific	Kobas*	08/23/2023	New Testament
Pacific	Kosarek*	08/28/2023	New Testament
Pacific	Niuafou'u	07/07/2023	New Testament
Pacific	Zabana	07/02/2023	New Testament

** More than half of these dedications were for language communities in areas hostile to Christianity; asterisks denote pseudonyms for sensitive projects.*



MEETING AN URGENT NEED:

Printed Scripture and Seed Company's Publication Program

Across the Bible translation movement, remarkable progress in technology has made Scripture accessible in multiple formats. From audio and video recordings to sign language videos and Scripture apps, language communities now have many ways to access Scripture. But a deep sense of pride and connection remains in simply holding *printed* Scripture. Tonia Berthiaume, Seed Company's manager of Field Operations Programs, explains: "The significance of printing Scriptures in local languages, even for primarily

oral cultures, touches on several important components, such as cultural identity, accessibility, preservation, and engagement."

But as we strive to begin translation work in every people group expressing a need, the number of projects is fast increasing, and the desire for printed Scripture is rising accordingly. In response, Seed Company launched its groundbreaking Publication Program in October of 2022.

FILLING THE GAP

For countless communities, printing translated Scriptures presents formidable challenges. Widespread poverty prevents many people groups from independently funding their own Scripture publications. Most can gather only a fraction of the funds required for printing.

Religious persecution is another factor, often necessitating discretion and secrecy. These language communities cannot take advantage of the few publishing services worldwide that possess the expertise required to print Bibles because receiving Bibles from outside their own country's borders will raise suspicion. Similarly, political unrest stalls progress and complicates transportation. Meanwhile, the effects of pandemic lockdowns continue to ripple through the world's economies, disrupting supply chains and making printed materials hard to come by.

If these obstacles are not overcome, completed and consultant-checked Bible translations can sit for years, waiting to be typeset, printed, and distributed to the people who so desperately need them. The Publication Program works to break through the bottlenecks and alleviate financial barriers, thus accelerating the delivery of printed Scriptures to waiting communities.

Completed and consultant-checked Bible translations can sit for years, waiting to be typeset, printed, and distributed to the people who so desperately need them.

Through this initiative, Seed Company partners with organizations like Wycliffe USA and American Bible Society to increase funding, ensure clarity around intellectual property, and foster printing sustainability. When we help shoulder more of the burden for publishing costs, our partners can allocate their resources to other global projects in need of help.

HARVESTING THE FRUIT

The Publication Program may be in its infancy, but the impact is already far-reaching. By the end of September 2023, 17 language communities—representing more than 7 million people—received their printed copies of God's Word. Excited about this progress, Tonia shares, "It's refreshing that we're now able to finish the task alongside the community, being part of their celebration all the way through to completion."

"It's refreshing that we're now able to finish the task alongside the community, being part of their celebration all the way through to completion."

— TONIA BERTHIAUME,
SEED COMPANY MANAGER OF
FIELD OPERATIONS PROGRAMS

Expected costs for the Publication Program in fiscal year 2024 are \$1.5 million, with an average cost of \$21,800 per language. With 69 more languages in the program's pipeline, Seed Company looks forward to increased momentum in addressing the growing demand for printed Scripture.

For many people groups, translated Scripture marks the first printed material of *any kind* in their heart language, the first time to see their language—the very sounds they speak to one another—take form through an alphabet that shapes printed words on a page. As they experience affirmation in their linguistic and cultural identity, they can simultaneously learn of a new-found identity offered through the Lord Jesus Christ. There's no greater gift.



Scan this code to read more about how the Publication Program began, starting with the printing of a New Testament for the Dakon community in Asia.





ADDING TO THEIR NUMBERS:

Breaking Bottlenecks through the Translation Consultant Residency Program

“We need more translation consultants!” has long been a cry in the Bible translation world. Consultants help ensure the integrity of translated drafts in the context of various cultures, but their services are in short supply and high demand, forcing hundreds of language projects to experience delays.

Seed Company’s Bible Translation (BT) team has responded to this global challenge by developing the Translation Consultant Residency Program. In the past, pathways to becoming a translation consultant were often limited, time-consuming, and costly. The Residency Program is designed to quickly identify and equip individuals who are ready to commit their life’s work to Bible translation—without compromising essential academic training and practical experience.

CONFIRMING A CALLING

On January 9, 2023, the first eight residents embarked on a rigorous journey to becoming certified translation consultants. Twelve additional applicants were accepted into the program six months later. More residents are expected to join each year as this program continues to revolutionize the translation consultant pathway. They learn in cohorts with two or three other consultants in training (CiTs) and at least two consultant mentors. They also receive compensation, which allows them to fully immerse themselves in training and lessen the time needed to begin serving as fully qualified consultants.

In three short years, residents can become part of the solution, alleviating the consultancy bottleneck and furthering Seed Company’s unwavering pursuit toward a God-sized vision: his Word transforming lives in every language in this generation.

Dan Jones, director of Consultant Development, recalls his surprise at the staggering number of applicants received, which has enabled program leaders to curate strong teams. “We’re able to take the best candidates and really ensure that the people that are interested in the program are actually going to be a good fit,” he says.

As part of the application process, prospective CiTs attend an experience trip where they interact with seasoned consultants in formal settings while observing real-time checking sessions with translators via Zoom. They have opportunities to practice evaluating translated texts and identifying potential translation problems.

In addition to learning how to check drafts with translation teams, prospective CiTs spend time with consultants in informal settings, allowing them to realistically envision what their lives might look like as translation consultants.

“We want these vision trips to be a way for candidates to see the whole picture—the good, the not-so-good, the sometimes tedious nature of what it means to work with a team, and many other related aspects of the job,” Dan says. “This is an opportunity for them to confirm their calling for themselves.”

Program leaders look for self-starters, team players, and problem solvers. Mary Roberts, Residency Program manager, adds that humility and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit are also essential character qualities. She explains that, based on how teams respond to questions, consultants often need to shift direction to pursue translation issues they hadn’t detected in earlier preparatory sessions or reviews. This requires flexibility, a commitment to listening, and a strong dependency on God to guide the process.

PROVIDING THE MEANS

For many CiTs, the Residency Program opened a door that once seemed shut. Some had sensed God's call to join the translation movement for years, but they saw no feasible path forward... until now. "This was a dream they considered unlikely to ever be fulfilled, but God is making it possible," Dan says. "We're grateful to be a part of the answer to their prayers."

Joshua Phillips joined the Residency Program in June. He witnessed how God carefully guided him and his family to Seed Company. "We've been following God's call into Bible translation for a long time," he explains. "To be honest, as time went on, the dream began to feel more and more distant, especially as we started having kids. Raising support and moving overseas began to feel like insurmountable obstacles in our way to joining the Bible translation movement. So, we prayed for God to show us the way, and he answered. God gave me my dream job working in Bible translation."

Jonathan Van Neste is equally excited about how God is preparing him for work in the field. As part of the first cohort that began in January of 2023, he is grateful for mentors who prioritize hands-on learning. "I have thoroughly enjoyed spending so much time with experienced consultants," he says. "I recently traveled with a very experienced consultant for two weeks to another country. I got to watch how he interacted with local translators and addressed their translation issues. I learned more in those two weeks than I learned during months in classes."

CHANGING THE CONSULTANT CULTURE

According to Dan, training consultants to become mentors has not always been a priority in traditional consultant-training methods. But through the Residency Program, "we're hopefully changing the culture to where we take the emphasis off simply checking as many verses as we can to also investing in the next generation of consultants. Yes, we need consultants, but we need them to be mentors as well. The mentoring piece must be there for this to all be successful," he says.

As Seed Company continues to explore new ways of building capacity in the consultant workforce, the Residency Program has become an ideal platform for accelerating translation momentum. For fiscal year 2024, the expected cost of the Residency Program is more than \$2.2 million.

"I'm so proud to work for an organization that sees the value in training global translators and consultants," Joshua relates. "Through this work, God is making the scene in Revelation 7:9 a reality here on earth!" Program leaders are adding nine new residents from all over the world during fiscal year 2024, empowering more individuals to ensure the gospel resonates clearly in the hearts of those without Scripture.



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



FROM SENDING MISSIONARIES TO MANAGING TRANSLATION PROJECTS:

The Launch of Wycliffe Malaysia 2.0

In 2016, Tan Lay Leng, executive director of Wycliffe Malaysia Berhad (WMB), posed a strategic question to her organization's board: should WMB continue exclusively as a "sending organization," or should it also begin actively engaging translation projects for Malaysia's Bibleless people groups?

Since its founding in 1994, WMB had operated only as a sending organization, financially supporting and faithfully equipping future missionaries for service in Bible translation. But Lay Leng's question inspired the potential for greater reach.

Of 111 indigenous language groups in Malaysia, only eight had a full Bible. The magnitude of their nation's Bible translation needs stunned most board members, including Chair Vive Supramaniam.

"We decided it's time for Wycliffe Malaysia to get involved in serious translation work in Malaysia," says Vive, remembering the board's conviction. Despite concerns that they might not be prepared to take on the responsibilities and expenses associated with Bible translation projects, board members stepped out in faith.

But where—and how—to begin?

PERFECT TIMING FOR A NEW PARTNERSHIP

Lay Leng decided they would start with one small translation project. She reached out to Marilyn Kaji, Seed Company's regional director for Islands Asia. Marilyn listened to their desires

and pledged Seed Company assistance for their first Bible translation experience, a two-year Oral Bible Storytelling project.

Marilyn also suggested that WMB connect with Seed Company's Growth Partners (GP) team. Consisting of organizational development consultants from around the world, the GP team encourages and equips ministry partners so they can initiate, resource, and manage their own translation projects.

The relationship with GP consultants "was a godsend," Vive says. GP consultants conducted an Organizational Performance Review (OPR) to identify WMB's key strengths, weaknesses, and needs. Following extensive interviews with the board, staff, and stakeholders, the GP team produced a report summarizing their findings. That OPR report was a critical first step in providing a roadmap toward WMB's ultimate goal: organizational transformation.

Vive, having come from the corporate world, was amazed at the quality of the OPR report, describing it as "professional, 'Big Five' consulting company kind of work." The report declared that WMB was at a critical point in the business cycle, suggesting that their 20th-century operating model needed a 21st-century reboot. This resonated with board members and became the driving force behind their efforts to create what some now call Wycliffe Malaysia 2.0.

Then the pandemic hit.

PARTNERING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

GP's work with clients is built on a foundation of trust—trust forged through face-to-face meetings over several months. But beginning in 2020, in-person meetings were prohibited by COVID-19 restrictions. Even so, the WMB board refused to delay their work. Instead, they launched strategic planning sessions with the GP team over Zoom.

Not just one or two Zoom calls, but 15 Zoom calls!

Some WMB leaders didn't have management training or a corporate background, but they were determined to learn. In the months that followed, several GP consultants shared their expertise and encouragement with WMB leaders in areas such as fundraising, digital marketing, finance, human resources, executive leadership, board governance, IT, orality, field programs and technology, and church engagement.

New vision and mission statements were approved, along with a commitment expressing WMB's determination to make organizational changes their own. "What I like about the GP team was that they didn't pressure us," says Lay Leng. "They just asked questions. They were leading and guiding us but not giving answers."

TRANSFORMATION UNDERWAY

While it's nearly impossible to catalog all the changes at WMB since their partnership with GP, here are a few highlights:

Resource Mobilization

In the past, WMB's fundraising efforts focused mostly on asking Western organizations to send money for project support. WMB is now making a concerted effort to raise funds from sources close to home. And it is working! Malaysian churches and believers fund the vast majority of WMB's managed translation projects.

Digital Communications

With the help of a GP marketing consultant, WMB has experienced a digital transformation, having built a website and an effective social media presence.

Church Engagement

WMB is increasingly connecting with Malaysian churches. Many pastors and congregations are shocked to hear about the number of indigenous groups in Malaysia that lack heart language Scripture. Thankfully, churches have turned their initial shock into action. "It's a good problem we have," Vive says. "Churches are coming and saying to us, 'We would like to partner with Wycliffe Malaysia. Do you have a new [translation] project?'"

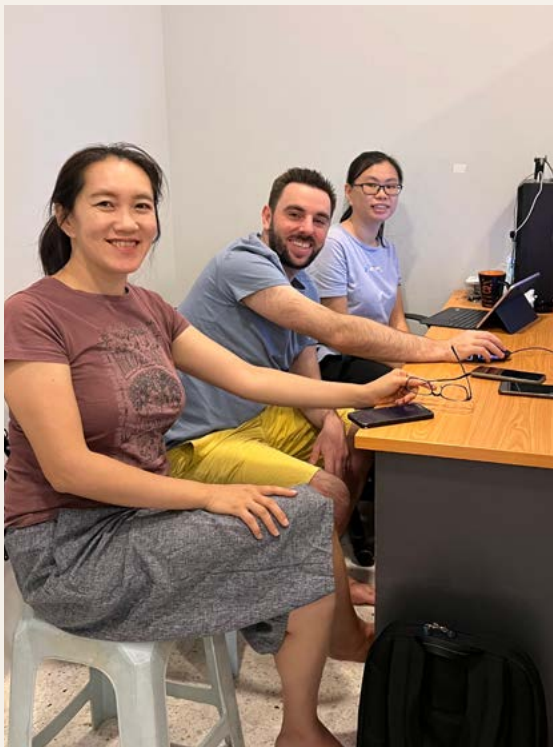
Before serving in her current position, Lay Leng was a university lecturer and WMB board member. She accepted the role of executive director in 2016 at the urging of other board members. Today, she is still guiding the organization through a myriad of changes with the help of WMB's board and staff.

But it hasn't always been easy.

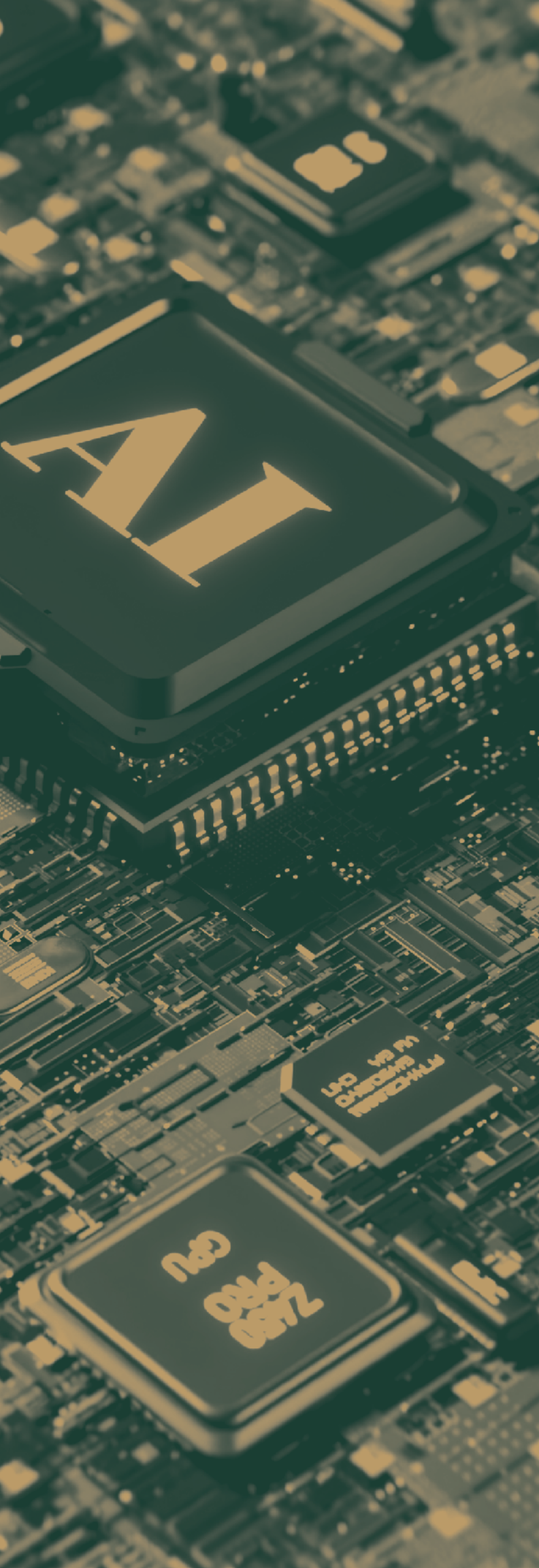
Lay Leng considers her monthly meetings with GP consultants Don and Leigh Anne Shultz among the most meaningful aspects of the WMB-GP partnership. In addition to coaching, Don and Leigh Anne pray for Lay Leng regularly. Sometimes after completing a difficult task, Lay Leng wonders, *Why did I know how to do that?* And then she remembers, *Oh yes, because Don and Leigh Anne are praying.*

TERIMA KASIH (THANK YOU)

Vive, Lay Leng, and the WMB team are grateful for Seed Company investors who made their partnership with GP possible. It's "not just providing funds, but providing access to the experts," Vive says. Those investments are "plowing the ground in Malaysia for the next five, 10, 15 years."



Relationships between the Growth Partners and Wycliffe Malaysia teams—rooted in prayer, a commitment to Bible translation, and mutual affection—last long after the consulting sessions end.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:

Does It Work in the World of Bible Translation?

We often think of “technology” as a modern-day term, but its essential meaning has existed—unchanged—since the earliest days of creation. “Technology” is simply the practical application of knowledge to accomplish a task. Given that definition, it’s easy to see how Cain built a city, Tubalcain forged instruments of iron and steel, Noah built an ark, and King Solomon built a temple—all benefiting from the technology of their time.

The world of Bible translation is no different. Innovating around new technologies and methodologies has always been a part of Seed Company’s DNA. And today, we have a relatively new tool to steward: artificial intelligence (AI) is showing great promise in accelerating Bible translation efforts around the globe.

Let’s look at some common questions, and answers, about AI and how it can be applied to Bible translation contexts.

WHAT IS AI?

AI is the term given to technology that allows computers and machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. It's like giving a computer the ability to think and make decisions, but instead of using a human brain, it uses software and algorithms to learn from data and solve problems. AI can do things like recognize patterns, understand language, and even make recommendations, all without human intervention.

(The above response was generated by ChatGPT, one of the most popular AI engines currently available. All remaining responses in this article were generated by humans.)

CAN AI BENEFIT THE BIBLE TRANSLATION MOVEMENT?

"There's not really a question as to whether AI will be helpful in Bible translation. That's a certain yes," says Mark Farr, Seed Company's chief field officer. "The questions are, *How do we make use of it? How do we leverage that technology to be productive?*"

We are excited to partner with organizations exploring ways to steward this tool God has given us, fully believing that—as part of the translator's toolkit—AI will accelerate the movement of God's Word to more people.

WHAT KIND OF AI HOLDS THE MOST POTENTIAL FOR ACCELERATING BIBLE TRANSLATION?

Seed Company has been testing AI tools, especially computer-assisted translation, since as far back as 2014. But it wasn't until late 2022 and early 2023 that we monitored advancements in natural language processing (NLP) and found that its application would show the most promise for Bible translation. NLP is a subset within AI that trains a machine to learn from one language in a way that allows good translation into a target language. NLP has given rise to large language models—of which ChatGPT is a type—that continue to learn from languages with significant amounts of data widely available, languages like Swahili or Mandarin.

WHERE DO WE SEE AI MOST IMPACTING THE BIBLE TRANSLATION PROCESS?

Eventually, AI may be involved in nearly every stage of the translation process, but for now, AI shows great promise in accelerating the drafting and early review stages. In the drafting stage, we begin by asking the question, *What is the minimum amount of Scripture needed for an AI engine to create a good draft for the rest of the Bible?* That answer we are pursuing is referred to as "the golden path" for AI in Bible translation.

IS SEED COMPANY EXPERIMENTING WITH AI IN A REAL-WORLD PROJECT SETTING?

Six of our translation projects in a sensitive region of Asia participated in an AI pilot to see if we can use a finished New Testament to accelerate the drafting of the Old Testament, and the initial feedback is promising. SIL, an international linguistics and translation organization, created an AI model that is specifically trained for each target language, using their completed New Testaments (and other completed books) compared with a national language text. That model was then used to generate a draft of portions of the Old Testament in each target language so teams could then evaluate and revise the AI drafts into polished first drafts. Jeff Webster, a Seed Company field project manager for these languages, was impressed with how similar the AI drafts were to human translation: “Wow, mind-blowing! The initial AI-generated drafts were mostly natural and grammatically correct.”

The drafts were far from perfect, but they were a good start. A translator could revise an AI-generated draft in less time than it would take to create the same draft from scratch. Given that the average New Testament can take six to 10 years to complete, and the Old Testament is three times as long, “The stakes for AI’s potential [for drafting] are huge,” Jeff concludes.

To learn more about AI in Bible translation, you can visit [ETEN Innovation Lab’s website](#).

Subscribe at [etenlab.substack.com](#), then listen to technology podcasts and learn about the latest tools and methodologies being tested and implemented as we strive to get God’s Word to more people, faster.

CAN AI LEARN “LOW-RESOURCE” LANGUAGES WITH LITTLE TO NO DATA AVAILABLE—LANGUAGES LIKE THE MAJORITY OF THOSE IN SEED COMPANY’S PORTFOLIO OF PROJECTS?

This is the greatest challenge of applying AI to Bible translation. We hypothesize that low-resource languages with a well-translated corpus of Scripture—like a New Testament—might have enough digital data for an AI engine to digest and produce drafts of Old Testament portions. This is what we observed in our recent pilot, and we are encouraged by this potential for acceleration in the drafting stage of translation work.

Through our collaboration with SIL and the Innovation Lab of ETEN, a collective impact alliance of Bible translation partners that includes Seed Company, we will continue pioneering AI engines that can translate from national languages into low-resource languages.

ARE WE EXPERIMENTING WITH AI AT THE CHECKING STAGE YET?

Yes, we are. Collaborating with Clear Bible Inc., we are developing the Consultant Checking Dashboard, a software tool that allows consultants to quickly view how texts in various languages are related, accelerating the checking process.

Inside the dashboard, we are testing SIL’s Aqua Initiative, a plug-in that leverages AI to examine drafts and provide a heat map of potentially problematic textual variances—such as varying sentence lengths and capitalization inconsistencies—that may need attention, thus allowing consultants to be more effective and efficient with their time.

WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS SEED COMPANY IS UTILIZING AI?

“If we are true to our core values of creativity and innovation, AI is going to change the way we do work,” says Randall Lemley, Seed Company’s vice president of Collaborative Exploration. A couple of ways Randall and other staff see AI impacting the way we work include:

- *Transforming everyday tasks:* From software developers using AI to help write code to field project managers using ChatGPT to synthesize lengthy quarterly reports from partners, AI tools are reshaping everyday tasks across the organization.
- *Leveling the playing field for translators:* Many translators must rely on English Bible reference materials to aid the translation process. AI can now process those same English texts and create reference materials for other major languages. Reducing dependency on English to be effective in Bible translation allows God’s people worldwide to take greater ownership of their projects.

WHAT CHALLENGES DOES SEED COMPANY ANTICIPATE IN WORKING WITH AI?

Taking the leap of faith required to adapt to new ways of doing translation work is speculative, but it’s part of Seed Company’s DNA. Always discerning how best to steward AI with the goal of accelerating translation, we are carefully navigating the following potential risks:

- *Personnel and data security:* Because many of our projects are in countries opposed to the gospel, we must continually assess the security of our team members and project data.

AI engines may inadvertently place sensitive data into the public sphere, but we mitigate this risk by working with trusted partners in controlled environments.

- *Valuing expediency at the cost of life transformation:* Lives are forever changed when the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of translators and community members grappling with how best to communicate God’s Word in their language. Machines will never replace that invaluable interaction. AI is merely a tool to enhance human productivity, not replace it.

HOW CAN I PRAY FOR SEED COMPANY AS IT NAVIGATES THE WORLD OF AI?

We would appreciate your prayers in three specific areas:

- *People:* For God to lead us to people skilled with the education and perspective needed to get AI initiatives off the ground and running.
- *Partnerships:* For courageous partners who share the conviction that God is leading us down a new path and have the faith needed to walk it.
- *Pilots:* For opportunities that allow “white space,” ample time for translation teams to try, fail, iterate, and learn more as we explore this new intersection of AI and Bible translation.

“We’re not trying to be evangelists for AI,” Randall reminds us. “We’re trying to see how translation is going to be accelerated and what role AI plays in it.”

As Seed Company listens to the Holy Spirit, we want to become agents of change who continue to move Bible translation forward—out of the lab and into the capable hands of our translation teams and consultants in the field.



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT:

Starlink Satellites Accelerate Scripture Translation

High up in the mountains of Latin America live the Black Hills people. Located nearly a mile and a half above sea level, many of their remote villages lack paved roads, limiting access to and from their community. In fact, most Black Hills people walk wherever they need to go. Cell service and internet connectivity are also poor, making face-to-face gatherings essential, especially for members of the Black Hills Bible translation team.

Last year, translation coordinator and accountant Novo would get in his car every few days and drive 2 hours from his home in the state capital up into the mountains to meet with the team. Then, after several hours, Novo would retrace his route, driving down the mountains to his home. While the frequency of these trips proved time-consuming for Novo, the back and forth became inconvenient for the team as well. Many times, the translators had questions or ran into issues that forced them to halt their work until Novo's next visit. The success of the translation project depended on these visits, but the reliance on in-person communication often slowed progress.

This problem is not unique to the Black Hills community. The United Nations International Telecommunication Union estimates that nearly 3 billion people are "offline"—that's more than 37 percent of the global population. Various factors contribute to this number, including a region's isolated nature, the unaffordability of devices and services, some people's hesitancy to acquire digital skills, and even governmental restrictions.

AFFORDABLE SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY NOW AVAILABLE

Because many of the more than 1.2 billion people who lack a full Bible in their heart language can be

counted among the 3 billion "offline" individuals, Seed Company continually examines emerging technologies for solutions to combat the digital divide. In recent years, Seed Company's field technology team has become particularly intrigued with Starlink, a division of entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX company. Starlink deploys thousands of satellites into space, providing high-speed, low-latency broadband internet to remote and rural locations around the globe.

After much research, field technology staff visited the Black Hills community in February 2023 to train translators on how to install Seed Company's first Starlink satellite system.

For years, Seed Company has used BGAN (Broadband Global Area Network) satellite systems. Unfortunately, costs for BGAN data and the lag times (a.k.a. latency) are often high. This is because BGAN satellites typically orbit at altitudes higher than 22,000 miles above the Earth's surface.

For perspective, the Maya Naha translation team in southern Mexico was paying \$5 a megabyte with the BGAN system. Logos, an important translation software, requires a 14-gigabyte download. At the rate they were paying, the translators would have had to spend \$70,000 to download Logos onto a single computer using the BGAN. Needless to say, that wasn't feasible.

In March 2023, Seed Company Field Technology Specialist Chris Chance worked with the Maya Naha team to install their own Starlink system. "Up until now, service via normal satellite companies has been very expensive, partly because they have very few satellites up in orbit," he says.

In contrast, Starlink currently has more than 3,800 satellites in orbit and offers unlimited data in Mexico at just \$55 a month—after a roughly \$470 one-time payment for the initial equipment. Starlink satellites orbit much closer to the Earth, at about 370 miles from the surface. This significantly reduces latency and lowers costs for users around the world.

The installation kit arrives with a dish, router, stand, and cables. The Starlink app gives step-by-step installation instructions and helps orient the equipment to connect with its satellites. While cell service is needed to initially download the Starlink app, it is not necessary to run the app. A typical Starlink installation takes less than 30 minutes.

“As long as you have a smartphone that works, the dish itself, and a power supply, it’s an easy process,” Chris explains.

When the field technology team was weighing satellite internet options, cost and ease-of-use made Starlink a front-runner. But portability was another crucial factor.

“That’s one of the things that we were looking at for sensitive areas where people don’t want to draw a lot of attention or for situations in which team members might have to flee,” says John Lamphear, Seed Company’s vice president of Technology Engagement. With Starlink, John

adds, translators “can easily carry the router, cables, satellite dish, and stand in a backpack.”

Whether translators are safe at home or moving from place to place, the Starlink app allows the field technology team to remotely troubleshoot any issues that may arise.

“It’s a real game changer,” says John.

As Starlink’s reach expands, so does its potential impact on Bible translation, especially in countries like Papua New Guinea, where hundreds of language groups lack mother tongue Scriptures.

As for Novo and the Black Hills team, they’re now able to work much more efficiently. Although Novo still goes up into the mountains occasionally, his visits are less frequent than before Starlink was installed. Now he can sit at his kitchen table, talk with the team for hours via Zoom, and avoid 3 to 4 hours of commute time. Better yet, key resources like Paratext, Logos, and online trainings are now available to the Black Hills team.

In his infinite wisdom, the Lord has chosen to use technology as an avenue to send forth his Word to those in the most remote corners of the world. Praise God for innovations like Starlink that facilitate communication and accelerate the pace of Bible translation so that all may “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18 NLT).



WHEN IT COMES TO
AFFORDABLE, EASY-TO-
USE SATELLITE INTERNET
TECHNOLOGY, STARLINK IS
“A REAL GAME CHANGER.”

— *John Lamphear,*
Seed Company vice president of Technology Engagement



ILLUMINATIONS:

Celebrating 10 Years of Partnership, Pursuing God's Word for the Nations

It's thrilling to celebrate moments that, in hindsight, reveal significant milestones in God's marvelous plan. Not long after Seed Company formed, God was planting seeds for collaboration in Bible translation on a scale never imagined, a collaboration that would forever impact how we resource this work around the globe.

In 1998, Mart Green, founder of Mardel Christian & Education, traveled to Guatemala to attend a New Testament dedication. Knowing that his own stores back home offered close to 1,200 different Bibles for purchase, Mart watched, stunned, as translator Gaspar wept over receiving God's Word in his language. Later that year, Mart journaled about a vision he'd had: resource partners coming alongside ministries, all working together to tackle a problem that none could handle alone.

Twelve years later, Mart and his wife Diana were guests at Seed Company's board retreat in Guatemala. During that trip, Mart sensed the Lord's refinement of his vision. He began meeting monthly with a band of visionary leaders—resource partners and CEOs from several Bible translation agencies—who all shared a common dream: God's Word available in all languages within their lifetime.

And they knew unity would be a driving force to make that happen.

MIRACLE WEEKEND INSPIRES SHARED VISION

In 2014, Mart and Diana attended a Seed Company gathering to celebrate reaching 1,000 languages engaged in Bible translation. That weekend celebration was branded *illumiNations*, taken from the words of Isaiah 60:3: "All nations will come to your light" (NLT). It was a special gathering that soon became known as the "miracle at Dove

Mountain" because God's people gave \$21 million that weekend to eradicate Bible poverty.

Mart wondered, *Could this demonstration of lavish generosity be the fulfillment of his dream, a world-class event to resource Bible translation?* Only one detail was askew—it was a single-ministry fundraiser, and Mart's vision was for *many* Bible translation agencies to come together for an event like this.

As if on cue, Todd Peterson, then interim CEO for Seed Company, called Mart shortly after that weekend. "I'm pretty sure the Spirit of God just convicted me, 'This is not about one agency. It's about Bible translation. It's about the Bibleless people of the world. It's about the fame and renown of Jesus among the nations,'" he told Mart. And from then on, with approval from Seed Company's board, this gathering became an annual weekend celebration used for the joint efforts of the broader Bible translation movement.

UNPRECEDENTED UNITY TRIGGERS STUNNING GENEROSITY

As *illumiNations* celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, Seed Company is honored to be one of the 11 collective impact alliance partners in this movement. So far, *illumiNations* has been used by God to inspire the giving of nearly \$400 million toward eradicating Bible poverty. We look forward to the day when *this* dream—all people having access to God's Word by 2033—is realized. Join us in praying that all nations will come to the Light.



Scan this code to learn more about the *illumiNations* movement.

“AFTER THIS I SAW A VAST
CROWD, TOO GREAT TO COUNT,
FROM EVERY NATION AND TRIBE
AND PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE,
STANDING IN FRONT OF THE
THRONE AND BEFORE THE LAMB.”

— *Revelation 7:9 (NLT)*

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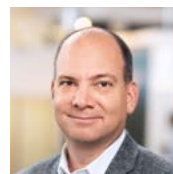
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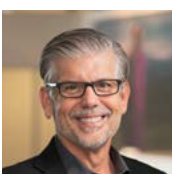
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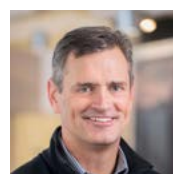
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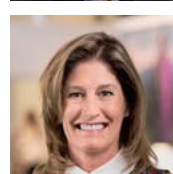
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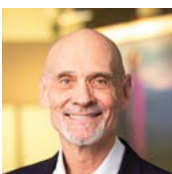


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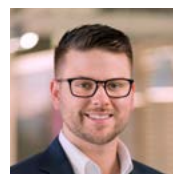


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Officer*

BUILT ON PRAYER:

Founder Bernie May Reflects on Seed Company's Foundation

“Okay, God. What’s the next step?”

It was January 1, 1993, and Bernie May had just launched Seed Company into existence from a converted broom closet in Wycliffe USA’s California headquarters.

“I spent the first day just talking to God,” he says. “I knew he wanted me to do this, but I didn’t know how to do it or where it would go.”

Bernie had no map or blueprint to follow. Seed Company was essentially an experiment. “But faith is exercised through prayer,” Bernie says, and for Seed Company to work, prayer needed to be the foundation upon which the ministry was built.

At the time, the Bible translation movement had hit a wall. Organizations had historically relied on Western missionaries to do the work of Bible translation. Yet projections indicated it would take nearly 150 years to reach every people group with God’s Word. Accelerating the process was necessary.

What would happen if translation projects were led by indigenous translators? Bernie wondered. And what if their projects were funded by individual investors?

As the concept of Seed Company began to form, Bernie took an eight-month sabbatical to pray and travel the country. He eventually felt the Lord prompting him to reach out to 10 investors and ask them to fund 10 translation projects.

“The first 10 people I asked said yes. That’s when I realized this is a God thing,” he says. “In fundraising, you never go 10 for 10.”

With that confirmation, Bernie decided to move forward with Seed Company.

“From then on, my prayer became, ‘God, give me the strength.’”

The next decade brought plenty of ups and downs, yet whatever the circumstance, Bernie never stopped praying.

“In any relationship, communication is critical,” he says. “And who is more important to talk to than the Creator—the one who made and sustains this whole planet, the one who loves us more than anyone will ever love us?”

Bernie retired from Seed Company in 2003, but as he says, “You can retire from your job, not your calling.”

Now 91, Bernie remains actively involved in the Bible translation movement by advocating for the Bibleless, helping raise funds, and connecting with national translators. But his communication with God, he says, looks different these days.

“My prayer life has developed more into listening mode than talking mode. When I’m talking, I’m not learning. So now I find myself asking God, ‘What do you want me to pray about? What do you want me to ask you?’ And then I listen.”

People have asked Bernie, “Did you ever think Seed Company would reach 2,000 languages?” His response? “No, I didn’t have that much faith.”

Thankfully, that didn’t limit God, and it never will, says Bernie. “God’s a creative guy; he can do the impossible. He’s already shown that he is able to do far more than we can ever imagine. We just need to keep asking him, ‘What’s the next step?’”

*“In any relationship,
communication is critical.
And who is more important
to talk to than the Creator—
the one who made and sustains
this whole planet, the one who
loves us more than anyone
will ever love us?”*

— BERNIE MAY,
SEED COMPANY FOUNDER



We are so grateful for the culture of prayer Bernie established as foundational to Seed Company's success. Watch this video to learn more about his earliest days in ministry and his lifelong passion for Bible translation.



A CLOSING PRAYER FROM FOUNDER BERNIE MAY

Dear Heavenly Father,

We stand in awe of who you are—our Maker, our Redeemer, our Friend. What a privilege it is to freely come into your presence despite our human frailties, to be welcomed into your family as your children. In a world that is rapidly changing, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Seed Company's past 30 years have been an incredible testament to your faithfulness. All that has been accomplished—more than 2,000 languages engaged and countless lives transformed—is because of you. You alone deserve all the honor and glory.

We praise you for sending your Word to the nations, and we rejoice in the work you continue to do. We pray for those who have received the Word—that they will apply it to their lives. We pray for those still waiting for Scripture in their language.

We also pray for our organizational leaders and our board, that they would know and hear your voice clearly. Give them the insight and understanding to follow your Son's example of servant leadership. Help them to work in a spirit of unity and collaboration, and equip them to lead us in faith, grace, and mercy.

And as we partner with others, help us to listen, learn, and love our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As Seed Company was birthed out of prayer, may our intercession continue to fuel our steps forward. You alone know what the future holds, and only you can give us the strength and courage to face the challenges ahead. May we be instruments of your will, walking in your wisdom and truth.

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20 NLT).

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

THE WYCLIFFE SEED COMPANY, INC. | STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended September 30, 2023
With comparative totals for the year ended September 30, 2022

	2023			2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
OPERATING						
Support and Revenue						
Contributions	\$7,201,361	\$60,972,679	\$68,174,040	\$2,866,068	\$77,132,985	\$79,999,053
Donated services	132,823	-	132,823	161,267	-	161,267
Member labor	1,236,066	-	1,236,066	1,007,694	-	1,007,694
Investment income (loss)	3,154,610	-	3,154,610	(2,060,273)	-	(2,060,273)
Other income	11,120	-	11,120	3,695	-	3,695
Net assets released from restrictions						
Field operations adjustments	15,247,385	(15,247,385)	-	19,299,328	(19,299,328)	-
Administrative assessments (19% administration and fundraising)	11,327,737	(11,327,737)	-	14,324,036	(14,324,036)	-
Satisfaction of program restrictions	37,555,482	(37,555,482)	-	24,113,958	(24,113,958)	-
Total Support and Revenue	75,866,584	(3,157,925)	72,708,659	59,715,773	19,395,663	79,111,436
Expenses						
Program services—Bible translation	62,442,698	-	62,442,698	44,320,469	-	44,320,469
General and administration services	4,098,737	-	4,098,737	3,314,747	-	3,314,747
Fundraising services	11,234,953	-	11,234,953	8,968,946	-	8,968,946
Total Expenses	77,776,388	-	77,776,388	56,604,162	-	56,604,162
Change in Net Assets from Operations	(1,909,804)	(3,157,925)	(5,067,729)	3,111,611	19,395,663	22,507,274
NON-OPERATING						
Change in value of beneficial interest in trusts	-	16,352	16,352	-	(388,821)	(388,821)
Equity transfer from Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.	3,721,594	56,944	3,778,538	3,876,912	399,109	4,276,021
Change in Net Assets	1,811,790	(3,084,629)	(1,272,839)	6,988,523	19,405,951	26,394,474
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	25,313,055	56,204,903	81,517,958	18,324,532	36,798,952	55,123,484
Net Assets, End of Year	\$27,124,845	\$53,120,274	\$80,245,119	\$25,313,055	\$56,204,903	\$81,517,958

All financial figures cited in this document for fiscal year 2023 are unaudited as of press time. Audited numbers will be available in early 2024 at seedcompany.com.



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



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 millions around the world who still wonder if God speaks their language.

SPECIAL NOTES

Approximately 1,300 language communities, representing approximately 50 million people, do not have a single verse of Scripture in their heart language. Seed Company exists to come alongside people groups like these and help resource and accelerate 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.

Data in this report reflects the 2023 fiscal year (10/1/22 through 9/30/23).

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