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Transitions

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Editorial from the CEO

Change can be overwhelming for some, but it is not normally the case for me. It stirs in me an anticipation of new possibilities that come simply because Jesus calls me his friend and he is a great companion. However, it also causes me to reflect on the core organisational values and directions I hope will outlast me and be developed and re-defined by the new CEO.



For Wycliffe Australia, I believe one of our core values is to work with our national colleagues as friends and brothers and sisters in Jesus. The central message of the gospel is that Jesus came to restore our relationship with God. This impacts everything we do, including mission. Bible translation is not done as a contract but through ongoing relationship with friends and colleagues with whom we pray, cry and laugh.

We must take the time to learn what it is that God is doing through his people in their culture rather than prioritise how we can apply our expertise. Once that relationship and trust is established, we may be invited to come alongside and support our friends and colleagues in the mission God has given them for Bible translation.

I am excited about the new friendships that God will send Max's way as he connects with other leaders in the Wycliffe Global Alliance. These friendships will bring new opportunities and multiply Wycliffe Australia's contribution to his Kingdom and to Bible translation. As I transition out as CEO, I am confident in Max's leadership and the place of Wycliffe Australia in the Bible translation movement.

Barry Borneman



Wycliffe Australia PrayerMate App

Did you know that you can now receive Wycliffe Australia Prayer Words direct to your phone? Download the PrayerMate app at: praynow4.org/wycliffeau



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TAKING THE NEXT STEP

The Wycliffe Australia outgoing and incoming CEOs have much in common: teachers by trade, not brought up in Christian homes but became followers of Christ as young men, keen sportsmen, both joined Wycliffe first as teachers in PNG then became involved in training and developing

local translators, and they say the best thing going for them is their wives. Now the baton will be passed from one CEO to the next. We caught up with Barry Borneman and his wife, Marg, and the incoming CEO Max Sahl and his wife, Helen, to get their views on the transition process.

Hang up the CEO boots: Barry and Marg Borneman

What have you most enjoyed during your time as Chief Executive Officer of Wycliffe Australia?

BARRY: I've loved seeing the people and national Wycliffe organisations we work with develop and grow. Building strong relationships and friendships based on trust is one of the most important things we can do to create an environment for growth and assist others personally or as organisations to take the next step towards their vision. Jesus asks his disciples to 'go and make disciples' and I think we have the same call to encourage other leaders we work alongside and to pray for their success.



What was it that first led you to Wycliffe?

MARG: We went to PNG for two years as school teachers 'to lend a mission a hand'. Although we didn't know much about it, while we were there we learnt a lot about the work of Bible translation and the place of literacy work. It then took another two years to shape and prepare us for what Barry later described as 'the ideal job' working as literacy specialists with the Kriol translation team in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

BARRY: While we were in PNG, we became aware of the hundreds of communities without Bible translations in their own languages. As teachers, and followers of Jesus our hearts went out to those many people unable to read and who often belonged to the most marginalised communities. This passion to serve the poor connected us strongly with Wycliffe and a two-year short-term assignment became a 40-year vocation.

Your 'retirement' was meant to take place a while ago. What convinced you to extend your time as CEO?

BARRY: In 2017, I had expected to hang up my CEO boots. But the Board asked me to stay on. When I prayed about it, God showed me that it was for a specific reason.

He wanted it to be a time of intentional prayer in the Prayer Chapel at our National Centre for Wycliffe Global Alliance leaders in nearby Asia and the Pacific. It has been a great final two years and God has done more through these friendships with my colleagues than I could have imagined.

What will your transition involve?

MARG: We've had an amazingly full 12 years, made richer by the people we have shared our journey with. Transition will certainly mean a slowing down of pace, which we're both looking forward to. This is the first time that transition doesn't involve a geographical move for us, at least that we know of! I anticipate having more flexibility in my roles in Wycliffe, with time to pursue interests such as TESOL (English teaching) locally as well as through Next Step Development.

BARRY: I am not leaving Wycliffe but I am reducing my workload. There are still plenty of opportunities with Next Step Development for me to support the vision and mission of local leaders, and to promote community literacy through the Wycliffe Relief and Development Foundation. Those areas are my 'sweet spots' and I hope for some ongoing involvement over the next couple of years. But more importantly, I look forward to seeing Max thrive in the CEO role. This is the real focus of transition for Wycliffe Australia. I don't need to know the specifics of the next stage in my Wycliffe journey. Knowing Jesus and walking with him is more than enough.

PRAY

Pray for Barry as he continues his involvement in developing Wycliffe projects and systems to support ministry in the Asia-Pacific region

Pray for Marg in her member care role and for the TESOL training, as she supports some of our Asia-Pacific colleagues with their English needs



Leaning on God to light the way: introducing Max and Helen Sahl

Max and Helen have been on quite a journey since they first met. These Queensland teachers are Wycliffe members who have lived in Papua New Guinea for 20 years. Their adventures have included a short stint in professional rugby league, moving to a new country, raising a family, serving in a variety of roles, and establishing a new training program for local translators.

They recently moved back to Australia to begin a new chapter in their lives at the National Centre for Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia. Come and meet the Sahls..

What excites you about stepping into the position of CEO for Wycliffe Australia?

MAX: I'm looking forward to being a part of the Wycliffe Global Alliance - working to get God's Word into a language people understand best. I can't wait to see who God will bring into the organisation in coming years. It has already been a joy to meet with people working in Australia and around the world. I feel like I've stepped into a family here!

What was it that first inspired you to become involved with Wycliffe?

MAX: Before we went to PNG, we had no idea about Wycliffe or SIL. When we first heard about the need for teachers to educate missionary kids, we simply followed God's call. We thought we would only be there short-term. When we arrived, we didn't know much about Bible translation but it was almost impossible not to catch the vision. I went from being a PE teacher to Principal of the Primary School and High School to overseeing the training program for the Pacific Institute of Languages, Arts and Translation (PILAT) and now stepping into the role of

CEO for Wycliffe Australia. I would never have imagined that for myself but God obviously knew what he was doing!

HELEN: During our time in Ukarumpa, we saw people's lives changed, both at an individual and at a community level, through the power of the gospel. But the gospel is only effective when the people can understand it. Our eyes were opened to the physical, spiritual, educational and emotional needs surrounding us and we developed a heart for making God's Word clear for all people.

How did your sports career help in that transition?

MAX: Rugby League is the most followed sport in PNG so I had an instant connection with many of the people. There are also opportunities for physical adventure because of the remote locations where people live. I enjoyed hiking and staying overnight in villages to show the Jesus video.

HELEN: Teaching Missionary Kids was a big part of our lives as we worked in PNG and we loved the opportunities to input into their lives. It began with PE teaching but quickly branched into other teaching opportunities as needs arose. Being willing to be flexible with your role is a necessary survival skill on the mission field.

What was it like overseeing the training program for PILAT?

MAX: This was a real highlight of my time in PNG. PILAT was set up to train Papua New Guineans for Bible translation, literacy and other language development work. The program welcomes translators from all villages - the languages literally come to you! The people are hungry to learn but they are geographically isolated and educationally poor. They often make incredible sacrifices to get there, taking a boat, bus and plane. But we've found a real synergy in training local translators and that is gaining momentum with the local churches. Last year, nearly 500 people attended courses at PILAT.



What are some of the biggest adjustments you've had to make going to PNG and now coming back to Australia?

MAX: There is a major cultural shock when you first move into a developing country. It can be very difficult to know where to invest with your giving and your personal social justice program. There are just so many needs.

HELEN: It was hard being away from extended family and friends but transitioning back into your home country is challenging too. When you've been exposed to communities where daily life is a constant struggle it changes your perspective. We are so grateful for what God has taught us through the years in PNG.

Your journey has involved a great deal of change. What does this new transition mean to you?

MAX: There are many transitions in life. It can feel a bit overwhelming - but you learn that God always turns up. You need him when you're stepping out of your comfort zone. You need to pray for supernatural wisdom. One of the most challenging things as I move into this role will be to also transition the organisation. We need to be looking for new ways to do the same job in a new world. I think we also need to be more respectful of the communities we are working with and to ensure that we are listening to the churches and working alongside them to be more involved.



Partnerships with other Global Alliance organisations will also be a big focus as we work with other agencies interested in Bible translation.

HELEN: I also love the idea of enthusing people in the task of Bible translation. But I know that this won't come without its own difficulties. This transition is exciting because we are relying on God to show us what he wants for the future of Wycliffe Australia. Proverbs 3:5-6 are verses we try to live by: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight* (NIV). When you surrender your will to him, trust and make yourself available, he lights the path ahead.



Since returning to Australia, the Sahl family has been scattered between Queensland and Victoria. Pray for their son Jeremy who has stayed behind in Hervey Bay that he will adjust well to his new location.

Pray for Max and Helen as they settle into their new roles.

Pray for Justin, their youngest child, as he resettles in Melbourne to complete his secondary schooling. Pray that he will adjust well to the new curriculum and make strong friendships.



Capacity building for PNG leaders

PHOTO: GARY MCMASTER

by Deb Fox

It's an overcast day in Kangaroo Ground but the warm smiles that greet me at the SIL Australia campus near the Wycliffe Australia National Centre are enough to light up the room.

Behind these smiles are two men from Papua New Guinea dedicating their lives to Bible translation. Stephen Moyaru and Kidu Magi are in Melbourne for one year to further their studies so they can contribute more to the work of PNG Bible Translation Association (BTA). Stephen is working as a Program Coordinator and Kidu has translated the New Testament into the Sinaugoro language and now contributes to a range of other projects as a Translation Consultant. Their schedule involves a full-time study load to complete a Diploma of Ministry with SIL Australia through Melbourne School of Theology (MST), including a couple of subjects at MST.



PNG is home to around 12 percent of the world's languages. There are 838 living languages in PNG and 462 of those languages are still without any Scripture of their own.* The needs are great but there is currently a worldwide shortage of translation consultants and checkers to continue the work. Stephen explains that more specialised local translators are required to help keep momentum going:

Our strategy for the next three years involves strengthening nine languages and publishing six completed Bible translations.

The only way we can do that is to have workers who understand the language and the culture - but they also need the right level of training. That is why we've come to Australia to be further trained in theological studies so that we can continue training future translation teams in PNG.

Kidu adds that there is also a need to increase the sense of ownership among the people to help move into the next phase of translation:

We not only have to increase our training - we also have to increase partnership with the communities and church leaders, as the people must own and invest in Bible translation and not think of it as white man's work. It's our language and we need to ensure that there will be more people to carry on the task for the future. We are praying for God to bring about this change.

Despite the long hours of study and challenges of Bible college, Stephen and Kidu are excited about what God will do through their time in Melbourne. They are trusting God to guide them but they have asked for prayer for the following:

PRAY

Pray for the Lord to help them to focus on their studies and manage their time well.

Pray that they will be able to communicate with their families and provide for the needs of their families while they are away.

Pray that Kidu's wife will soon be able to join him and that the visa paperwork and finances will soon be sorted.

GIVE

To help students like Stephen and Kidu in their studies, you can give to the Training National Leaders in PNG project 8833 wycliffe.org.au/projects/training-national-leaders-png/.

MORE

wycliffe.org.au/capacity-building-png/.

Where are they now?

Deb Tan



If you have had any connection to Wycliffe Australia over the past eight years, it is likely that you would know Deb Tan. Deb is a woman of many talents who wore many hats during her time at the National Centre in Kangaroo Ground. These roles included Personal Assistant to the CEO (2011-2013), Missional Management for youth and young adults (2015), Communications Manager (2016-2017) and other communications work. Where is she now? Deb is currently working part-time as a Communications Officer for a public health organisation located in Footscray and studying part-time at Whitley College. We are very thankful for Deb and the work she did to transition Wycliffe to a new era of communications.



Read more of Deb's story online at wycliffe.org.au/watn-deb-tan/

Greg and Debbie Conwell



The Conwells have moved from roles with Wycliffe Australia and SIL Australia, based at the Wycliffe National Centre in Kangaroo Ground, to the Solomon Islands. Debbie will continue her work with several translation projects that currently have no advisor, to help with accuracy checking so that translation work can progress. Greg's main role will be volunteering with a social enterprise company that is supporting village livelihoods by helping local people produce and sell coconut oil and cocoa. He will also continue helping with the Wycliffe Foundation and funding of some translation work in Asia.



Read more of their story online at wycliffe.org.au/watn-conwells/

Stories: A common link

by Sharna Steinert

Sharna has recently joined the SIL Australia team. This is her story of transition.

I had no idea where the path would lead when I became a member of Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia. I wanted to be part of the work of Bible translation and thought I would most likely head to Papua New Guinea. I eventually accepted a role in Spain as a literacy specialist for an existing translation project. After a drawn-out visa process, God closed that door.

After a lot of prayer over a few possibilities, I accepted the role of Communications and Marketing Officer for SIL Australia. I have been around SIL Australia as a student and

as teaching staff for Launch and I am enjoying getting to know the team better as we share about the work of SIL Australia.

What do these turns in the path have in common? Stories. Translation work makes God's story available in a language. Literacy helps people share stories in their language in written form, and read God's story for themselves. Communications and marketing are about sharing the story of an organisation, its staff and the work they do.



Adjusting to constant change: *transition training*

By Margaret Thatcher, Wycliffe Regional Coordinator in WA



One thing all our members have in common is constant change. Giving up paid work, farewelling family, often moving states or countries to get the right training they need for future ministry. When they finally head out to a field, they face even more changes - learning new languages, working in a multicultural team, connecting with a new church or coming to terms with no access to a community of believers at all. Different weather, cultures and expectations. Meeting new friends and leaving old friends. Too many airports! There and back, there and back again.

Each one of these changes brings a period of transition, adjustment, letting go of the old and getting used to the new. It can often feel scary, overwhelming and lonely. But having a group of trusted friends makes a difference. In Perth, we have regular afternoon teas for the mission community to chat about what is working well or what they are finding difficult. It's a great opportunity to talk with people who understand because they have been, or are going through it all too.

A helpful way to prepare for any transition, or to support someone who is transitioning is to consider the acronym **RAFT**:

Reconciliation: Take time to do what you can to fix any damaged relationships

Affirmation: Tell friends and family how much you value their friendship and support

Farewells: Say goodbye to people and places that are meaningful to you to gain a sense of closure and make room for the new. This is also true for children - they need time to acknowledge favourite places, pets and people they will be leaving behind

Think Future: Start dreaming about what you are looking forward to in your new place and what you can do to make the transition easier

MORE

For more information see the Missions Interlink website missionsinterlink.org.au/tt and wycliffe.org.au/transition-workshops

MORE

wycliffe.org.au/adjusting-to-change

Wycliffe Flats

Woody and Beverly Baker have moved from the Wycliffe Australia National Centre in Victoria to live in Brisbane. Woody continues his roles with training and Next Step Development by distance and occasional trips to Kangaroo Ground. Bev is managing 'Somerset House', the Wycliffe flats in Kedron, after the long service of Liz Linden.

The flats primarily serve the Pacific Area and Australia assigned mission workers. They are conveniently located just minutes from Brisbane Domestic and International Airports. Three two-bedroom units and a Toyota Tarago are available for hire short or long term for holidays, medical care or while travelling. Woody and Bev look forward to welcoming and caring for Somerset House guests!



EMAIL

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Ministry Resourcing

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Wycliffe
Bible Translators 



What is Wycliffe Ministry Resourcing?

The Ministry Resourcing department of Wycliffe Australia is about supporting our members on the field and our organisational partners to be as effective as possible, and inviting the Australian church to partner with us. Our three main objectives are to:

- work closely with national Bible translation organisations under the Next Step Development initiative
- support strategic partnerships with SIL International
- support our own Australian members on the field with their project needs

Building strong relationships with an emphasis on mutual respect, trust and collaboration is the focus in all of these ventures, as is the importance of undergirding it all with prayer.

Projects Update

It's that time of year again, when we must all begin to turn our minds to two small, yet significant words: 'tax return'. Giving to God's work is of course a privilege at any time of year, but for those who prefer tax-deductible donations, this edition of Ministry Resourcing is focussing on some of the projects of our partner organisation, the Wycliffe Relief and Development Foundation.

The Foundation sponsors a range of tax-deductible projects including: disaster relief, literacy and holistic development - particularly in minority language areas, and always where people are hurting. Your gifts enable the Foundation to demonstrate Christ's love in this practical manner.

We have also featured other projects, more in the Bible translation mainstream, or you may wish to just give 'where needed'. There are always plenty of opportunities to give . . . to be a blessing and to be blessed in return.

Greg Conwell, Wycliffe Relief and Development Foundation CEO

South Asia 1: Education and Healthcare (Project Code 8880)

WYCLIFFE
RELIEF AND
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION
PROJECT



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2 language communities
- 9 learning centres
- 171 children attending

The Wycliffe Foundation is supporting a range of activities in two language communities across broad categories of education, health and hygiene, livelihood development and leadership development. A total of 171 children are now attending classes at learning centres in nine different villages.

Health and hygiene awareness meetings have been held to train children and adults how to develop healthy habits as well as providing guidance on issues related to alcoholism.

Community development groups have also been formed to improve agricultural methods and consider new alternatives for generating income. These groups are mobilising local leaders and youth to become involved in learning centre activities. The plan is to replicate this model in more villages. We plan to continue our support of this valuable project.

Target: A\$17,000

wycliffefoundation.org.au/south-asia1-education

Next Step Development Projects

The mission of Next Step Development is to hear and understand what God has put on the hearts of our national colleagues, and through prayer to come alongside and support their vision and strategies for Bible translation. Next Step is currently working in close relationship with Wycliffe Global Alliance partners from PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Philippines and two countries in South Asia.

To see more Next Step projects, go to wycliffe.org.au/projects/

Wycliffe Relief and Development Foundation Projects

Wycliffe Relief and Development Foundation is a separate company owned by Wycliffe Australia, which works through local partners to improve the practical aspects of life in marginalised communities. We aim to demonstrate Christian compassion and provide practical assistance in literacy and education, disaster relief, medical and basic health support. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

For WRDF projects, visit the WRDF website wycliffefoundation.org.au

Australian Member and SIL Projects

Wycliffe Australia is committed to helping our field teams and the organisations they work with to thrive and serve effectively in their communities. Ministry Resourcing can help with providing funding for computers, village housing, travel costs, delivery of training, consultants and other services.

See more Australian Member and SIL projects at wycliffe.org.au/projects/

South Asia 2: Literacy (Project Code 8888)

WYCLIFFE
RELIEF AND
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION
PROJECT



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2 language communities
- adult literacy materials produced

Literacy work is being supported among two language communities as they eagerly anticipate the completion of their own alphabets. Further discussions and an orthography workshop were recently held for these groups to help them develop writing systems for language documentation.

Solid progress continues to be made on these projects, with a strong level of community engagement and enthusiasm among all ages. There has been a noticeable sense of hope in one of the communities, with the older generation mentoring and teaching their language and culture to the young people. This group has already progressed to the production of the first draft of written materials.

The other group is still trying to determine which writing script to use but they have been active in training adult literacy volunteers. The group has produced draft materials including an alphabet chart, topic primer, mathematics book and teachers' guide. We hope to continue our support for this project beyond 2019 to help ensure its effectiveness.

Target: A\$59,000

wycliffefoundation.org.au/south-asia2-literacy

South Asia 2: Primary School Education, Health and Social Support (Project Code 8886)

WYCLIFFE
RELIEF AND
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION
PROJECT



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- 185 students
- 85% attendance
- 33 villages impacted
- 3 schools participating in health awareness programs
- 4 primary/pre-primary schools
- 80% pass rate
- 5 village committees formed

Education and Healthcare

Our partners in South Asia 2 have initiated education programs to provide opportunities for children to learn and better their lives. The Wycliffe Foundation supports 185 students in four primary or pre-primary schools, with attendance an encouraging 85% and a pass rate of 80%. Project funding has helped establish health awareness programs and the construction of a schoolroom that doubles as a community centre.

Social Empowerment

In conjunction with local government and NGOs, the Foundation is also caring for marginalised people groups in the South Asia 2 area. A social awareness and land rights meeting was held for a disadvantaged community with no land of their own and little sense of identity. Village committees were formed in five areas to discuss initiatives for creating a deeper sense of purpose and hope for the future. Blankets were also purchased for the poorest individuals during winter.

Target: A\$19,000

wycliffefoundation.org.au/south-asia2-primary-school

SILA School Building Fund (Project Code 8946)

This project is tax-deductible

AUSTRALIAN
MEMBER AND
SIL PROJECT

SIL Australia provides training in language learning, linguistics, translation and literacy for intercultural workers. By giving to this tax-deductible project, you will be helping the SIL Australia school to renovate, update and maintain buildings and fixtures for use in training programs.

wycliffe.org.au/projects/sila-school-building-fund/



THESE ARE SOME OF THE RECENT GRADUATES AND TEACHERS FROM THE LAUNCH PROGRAM RUN THROUGH SIL AUSTRALIA

Papuan Malay Book Printing: Bible Overview (Project Code 8525)

AUSTRALIAN
MEMBER AND
SIL PROJECT

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- 26 oral Bible stories translated
- foundational stories to explain the gospel
- printed version helpful for sharing stories with the community

In association with a Wycliffe Global Alliance partner organisation, the Papuan Malay oral Bible storytelling team recently completed a three-year project to craft 26 oral Bible stories. This set of foundational stories covers the creation of the world in Genesis to the promises of a new heaven and a new earth in Revelation.

As well as outlining God's plan of salvation, each story in the set was chosen based on the theme of 'The Father Heart of God'. In addition to using these stories in audio form, the Papuan Malay team sees great benefit in making them available as a printed book.

While the Papuan Malay New Testament translation is still many years away from completion, small groups are being formed to use and share translated Bible stories with communities. This collection of Bible stories will provide a strong foundation for people to read about God's plan for humanity in the language they know best.

This project will enable the printing of this book of Bible stories with coloured pictures.

Target: A\$6000 (for 3000 books)

wycliffe.org.au/projects/papuan-malay-scripture-printing/



Solar Powered Audio Bibles for PNG (Project Code 8150)

AUSTRALIAN
MEMBER AND
SIL PROJECT

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Scripture recorded in highlands languages
- popular with the community
- devices need to be made affordable

Ian Hutchinson is working with a team in Papua New Guinea to record Scripture in a number of highlands languages. These recordings are uploaded to solar powered audio devices and sold to communities at a significantly discounted rate.

This is critical because at least 80% of the people in remote villages in PNG are illiterate. Many cannot access the Scriptures for themselves without an Audio Bible.

Last year, a lady came to Ian's office shortly after her house had burned down. All she owned had been destroyed in a fire. But what was the one thing she was the most desperate to receive? 'All I want', she said, 'is to have a new Audio Bible. I love God's Word and I want to keep listening to it!'

You can be a part of putting Audio Bibles into the hands of more people like this lady. The individual cost for one device is approximately \$40. In order to make them affordable, Ian is selling them to the people for \$10 each. All \$30 donations to this project will help cover the difference.

Target: A\$20,000 (subsidies for 500 units per year)

wycliffe.org.au/projects/audio-bibles/



Wycliffe
Bible Translators

If you would like to discuss any of the
Ministry Resourcing projects, please contact:

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