



Year of the Bible *Fruit of perseverance*

**JUNE
2020**

Stories:

- » Fruit of perseverance
- » Eyes on the prize
- » Let us run, run, run the race
- » What motivates mother-tongue translators?
- » Bible engagement: immersed in Scripture
- » 40 years of Bible translation
- » Tools down for a 'Peter' of all trades

To receive *Wycliffe Today* electronically, email info@wycliffe.org.au

WYCLIFFE TODAY

June 2020, Vol. 8 / No. 2

Published by:

Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia

70 Graham Road

Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097

ABN 22 004 705 953



www.wycliffe.org.au

www.facebook.com/wycliffeaustralia

Enquiries: Editor, *Wycliffe Today*

Ph: (03) 9712 2777

E: communications@wycliffe.org.au

Contributors: Max Sahl, Lyn Wake,

Elly Sharp, Deb Fox, Josh Bartlett

Design: Peter Bergmeier

Print: Classic Press

Cover picture: Gary McMaster

Articles may be freely reproduced, but please acknowledge *Wycliffe Today* or its sources as indicated in this publication.



Missions Interlink

Member of Bible Agencies Australia

Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia

National Office

70 Graham Road

Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097

ABN 22 004 705 953

Ph: (03) 9712 2777

Fax: (03) 9712 2799

Email: info@wycliffe.org.au

www.wycliffe.org.au

Editorial from the CEO



When I think of the phrase 'fruit of perseverance' it is easy to remember translators like Warren and Jessie and others who have served in the work of Bible translation in multiple countries for over 50 years.

But what do you say to a group of young people who are just taking their first steps on the journey of Bible translation? This was the question on my mind as I prepared to speak to a gathering of young translators in South Asia recently. Just to get to their training, many of the students had already given up so much. One student had missed the birth of his first child, and another had cut short his honeymoon. All of them had left families and responsibilities and forsaken other opportunities to be there.

To encourage them in their ministry, I shared two stories about Jesus and perseverance from the Gospels. Firstly, in Matthew 4:8-10, the devil takes Jesus to a very high mountain and offers him all the kingdoms of the world. Yet Jesus understands that his earthly mission is to 'worship the Lord your God and serve him only'. Perseverance means understanding your mission and not getting distracted.

Secondly, in Mark 10:29-30, Jesus explains to his disciples that the fruit of perseverance is worth it. For the students in South Asia, Jesus had a special message: 'No one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age'. Eternal life awaits them in the age to come but the current road they walk will not be easy.

Let us also run the race with perseverance, throwing off distractions and fixing our eyes on Jesus and our eternal reward.

**See page five for stories from mother-tongue translators*

Max Sahl

Global Year of the Bible



2020 is the global Year of the Bible. Isolation does not have to be boring. This could be an opportunity to grow deeper in God's Word and inspire others to do the same.

To discover more go to www.bibleyear2020.com

Wycliffe
Bible Translators

NSW/ACT

Ph: (02) 8014 6487

E: nswro@wycliffe.org.au

QLD

Ph: (07) 3256 1803

E: qldro@wycliffe.org.au

TAS

Ph: 0455 476 292

E: tasro@wycliffe.org.au

VIC

Ph: (03) 9712 2720

E: vicro@wycliffe.org.au

WA

Ph: (08) 9243 0486

E: waro@wycliffe.org.au

SA/NT

E: saro@wycliffe.org.au

Transformed by the Word 'Eyes on the Prize!'



by Lyn Wake

What motivates and enables our members around the world to keep persevering through problems, pressures and yes, pandemics? The secret is out... *they have their eyes on 'the prize'!* When the Apostle Paul wrote to the early believers about running for the 'prize', what did he have in mind?

The prize is a place: Jesus promised to prepare a place for us in paradise. Then, after his return, he will create a whole new heaven and earth for us! (John 14:1-4; Luke 23:43 & Revelation 21:1)

A party: Jesus' wedding parable teaches us that everyone is invited to share in the Father's friendship, feasting and festivities forever! (Matthew 22:1-4 & Revelation 19:6-9)

A presence: the indwelling of the Holy Spirit now, and the not yet experienced promise of God dwelling in the midst of his people, is the glorious prize offered to all who believe! (John 14:15-17 & Revelation 21:3)

Eternal pleasure: I imagine the pleasure God will receive as he bestows the crown of life upon his beloved for their faithful perseverance. What great pleasure it will be for us when we are finally together as one family! (James 1:12 & Revelation 22:4)

A person: Jesus Christ himself! There may be many 'good' prizes to aim for in this life, but he alone is worth it all! (Colossians 1)

We need more perseverance than we naturally possess to win the prize.

Perseverance is an essential quality of faith and a gift from God. Paul and the New Testament writers used the Greek word *hupomeno* to convey what faith requires: steadfastly remaining when others have departed, boldly bearing up under pressure, patiently enduring through suffering, and continuing on with vibrant hope.

Friends, if there ever was a time we needed a good dose of *hupomeno*, it is now! Through every painful predicament life can bring, Jesus provides the model, motivation and means for us to persevere. So until he comes, *eyes on the prize!*

How can we fix our eyes more firmly on Jesus and experience God-given perseverance by the gift of his Spirit?

Be transformed by the Word by engaging with **Psalm 84** and **Hebrews 12:1-12**.

How the coronavirus restrictions have affected Wycliffe Australia:

- On 18 March, all of our members serving overseas were urged to return to Australia in accordance with recommendations from the Australian government.
- Seventeen Wycliffe Australia families are no longer in their host countries. They have either returned to Australia or are staying in another location. For some, this means functioning in multiple time zones—physically in one place but mentally and relationally in another.
- Twenty-two individual members or families remain working in their assigned locations. They have prayerfully considered this the better option, given their situations or the risks involved with leaving.
- Thirteen members with overseas assignments were already in Australia during the time the pandemic was announced, either preparing to leave or on home assignment. We are grateful to God for his timing and grace in keeping them safe.
- Our National Office has been closed to the general public but has remained operational during this time. We continue to receive donations and pass them on to support our members and their projects. Retreats, workshops, and some property related tasks have been postponed.

Thank you for standing with us practically and in prayer. For those who have lost jobs or businesses or even loved ones, we grieve with you and pray for you. We have a good Father who carries us in the difficult times and promises hope and a future for those who love him.

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.
James 1:12 (NIV)

Connecting with God's Word

Wycliffe Australia has put together a series of videos, kids' activities, encouraging stories, Scripture-based prayers and practical resources to use during this difficult time of isolation. We pray these will be a blessing to you and encourage you to share resources with others.



[wycliffe.org.au/connecting-with-gods-word](https://www.wycliffe.org.au/connecting-with-gods-word)





Let us run, run, run the race with perseverance

by Elly Sharp

When our kids were little, the 'greatest hits' in the Sharp family playlist were a series of cassette tapes called 'GT and the Halo Express'.

The best thing about them was that they included songs with Bible verses straight out of the NIV translation so we all memorised Scripture as the kids listened to them over and over.

One of the songs that stands out came from Hebrews:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

I have a lasting image of my daughter Aimée singing that song, bouncing up and down on a tree branch over the roof of our village house. In a sense, it has become the 'theme song' for our involvement with the translation of the Gergiko New Testament. But we didn't run; we *plodded*.

If you had told me, in 1992 when we relocated to the village of Mukulu in central Chad, that it was going to take us 27 years to finish the translation of the New Testament, I may not have been too surprised. We began at the same time as other language teams who finished in 20 years, and we were still trudging through it.

During the years we lived in the village, a young lady from the peace corps was assigned to Mukulu. She once asked us, 'What makes you stay?' I told her that it was the love of Christ, and the love for the people he called us to. It makes all the difference. Our aim was to put the Gergiko New Testament into the hands of the church, and that goal kept us going during very difficult times.

In my mind, the culmination of our work would be the big 'D' day: Dedication day! I couldn't wait! But what if that day didn't come? What if we went to Chad for it, along with seven visitors from Australia and two from the USA, and the New Testaments didn't arrive in time? Well, the truth is that they didn't! We had a small celebration—happy as it was—but not at all what we had imagined.

All we and the Mukulu church can put it down to is that the battle is fierce because some amazing things are happening at a village level. The church has grown so much, even without the New Testament, that they've created three satellite congregations. Women in villages on the other side of the mountain have taken literacy classes so they can read the New Testament when it arrives. People one would never imagine are coming to the Lord through dreams. The Chief of the Mukulu people commented to our visitors that having mother-tongue literacy classes for pre-schoolers means that children who attend them are at the top of the class when they get to school.

When we first moved to the village in 1992, there was a group of elderly ladies at church who always sat at the same bench; leaning on their walking sticks, it appeared they'd gone to sleep. At that time, all the Scripture readings were in French. One Sunday when I was sitting right behind them, one of the translation team members read the reading from the Gospel of Mark in Gergiko. The ladies sat up and got really animated, chatting among themselves! **A lady sitting next to me laughed with me and said, 'They understood!' I was so glad I witnessed that because it gave me, well, perseverance to finish the task.** Those ladies have passed away, but at the celebration we had in January I got to dance with some of the new generation of elderly ladies, bringing it full circle.



Images: Gary McMaster

We could easily get discouraged because the second attempt at a dedication was postponed indefinitely by COVID-19. Our main regret is that the New Testaments aren't in the hands of the people yet. **But the Lord has had a plan for the Mukulu people all these years, and he's not finished yet. He is the author and finisher of our faith.**

MORE

www.wycliffe.org.au/let-us-run

Is it worth it?

What motivates mother-tongue translators?

Jacob* and his family moved to South Asia in 2015 to work on Bible translation projects with four different language groups.

Jacob says there have been a number of cultural challenges to overcome, as well as setbacks he did not see coming. He has spent many hours planning workshops and materials required for completing the New Testament but there are often events and circumstances that have

prevented timelines from being followed effectively—including the current COVID-19 lockdown. Despite the hardships, Jacob has been encouraged by the faith and perseverance he sees in the mother-tongue translators. Jacob says:

They have given up so much to do the work because they see the value of their people having God's Word in their own language. The work is hard and it's not always easy to see results. But they have their eyes on the prize.

.....

These are some of their stories:

AMIT

Amit is the youngest member of the translation team. He has been involved in his project since February 2017 ... despite the fact that he is only just finishing high school this year! Amit wants the Bible in his own language as it is easier for his people to understand than the national language. There is opposition to the project from followers of the majority religion in his village but Amit says it strengthens his own faith.

JAI

Jai is currently studying at university. He believes that Bible translation and literature available in the mother tongue will benefit his people. Jai's father is the head chief in their village and does not approve of Jai's Christian faith. Despite the risk of rejection, Jai continues working part-time as a teacher at a Christian mission close to his village and attending translation workshops when he can.

SAM

Sam left a secure job to work full-time in Bible translation and ministry. He has studied a Master of Theology and is passionate about bringing God's Word to his village. Sam lives with his widowed sister and her children in the family home. Sam firmly believes that only God can unite his people through the reading of the Scriptures in their own language. He says: 'I love my people. I want them to know more about Jesus.'

SUE

Sue loves God and his Word. But life has not been easy for her. As a poor widow living in a remote village, it takes two days for her to arrive at translation workshops. She travels with her six-year-old son by walking several hours across rugged mountains to get to the nearest bus stop. She then takes a 12-hour bus ride to the main town, another bus to the next city and then a taxi to reach the centre. Sue does this several times throughout the year because she has a desire to see God's Word transforming hearts and lives—just as it has done for her.

**All names have been changed for security purposes*



Inspired by the story of the Gergiko dedication on page 4?

Watch the video: wycliffe.org.au/gergiko-video

Bible Engagement: Immersed in Scripture

Josh Bartlett is a Wycliffe member encouraging people to engage with the Bible in Australia.

We recently asked Josh how we can stay connected to God and immersed in his Word during this time of isolation.



What is your role with Wycliffe?

I'm Wycliffe Australia's Bible Engagement Facilitator. That means I'm always looking for ways to help people 'get into' the Bible. 'Bible engagement' is a bit of a misnomer: the aim isn't to get people religiously reading the Bible but to see people engaging with the true God through his living Word.

How do you engage people in the Bible?

In addition to speaking at churches and camps, I facilitate and coordinate *Story the Bible* workshops. Jesus taught people using stories. Stories have a way of getting around people's defences and helping them discover the truth for themselves. More than half of the Bible is stories! *Story the Bible* workshops teach people to take a passage of Scripture and craft it into a form they could tell a friend in two minutes. We aim for a retelling that's **SAM**: simple, accurate and memorable. Of course, the current situation with COVID-19 makes it impossible to run these workshops in person.

MORE [STAY TUNED for information about the next ONLINE version of the *Story the Bible* workshop we are developing. Visit \[wycliffe.org.au/events\]\(http://wycliffe.org.au/events\)](#)

You've also been talking recently about something called *Immerse*. What is it, and what makes it special?

Immerse: The Reading Bible presents the Bible in a distraction-free, easy-to-read format. Narrative is formatted like narrative, poetry like poetry, and letters like letters. The Bible is divided into six volumes, and each book of the Bible has a brief introduction covering the book's context, purpose and genre to make it easier to understand. It also provides an opportunity for a church community to come together and, over the course of eight weeks, engage with a large section of the Bible.

Community sharing is a key part of Bible engagement that we don't give enough attention to in Western Christianity. I think it's really valuable to have things like this Immerse experience to bring us back to reading the Bible together.

MORE [Discover more about the Immerse experience at \[immersebible.com\]\(http://immersebible.com\)](#)

Reading the Bible can often be difficult. What would you say to anyone wanting to spend more time reading the Bible?

Australians, along with much of the world, are now largely confined to their homes to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Times of change are challenging but they also present a great opportunity to set new routines. If you want to spend more time in the Bible, start a new habit now.

TIME: If you can no longer travel to work or university, why not convert the time you've saved into Bible time? You may like to block out part of your day for reading the Bible and making this part of your new routine.

SUPPORT: Don't forget that Bible engagement isn't a solo sport. Tell someone about your goal to go deeper into God's Word. You might like to install a Bible app that lets you share your reflections or read Immerse together and schedule a weekly video call to talk about what you've read.

PERSEVERE: Keep at it! Remember: your goal isn't reading a certain amount of Scripture, or for a certain length of time. **Your real goal is to dive into God's living Word and allow it to transform you.**

MORE [For more information on Bible engagement in Australia, go to \[amyandjosh.org\]\(http://amyandjosh.org\)](#)

Stitches in time

by Deb Fox

Warren and Jessie have celebrated 45 years of highs and lows involved in translating the Godavari mini Bible.*

They say that, much like the journey of the translation itself, the dedication did not go according to plan. There were delays with the typesetting, transport issues and changes in travel plans. Warren and Jessie arrived at their destination just before the coronavirus pandemic was announced. Then another concern hit the team—how would their Australian visitors arrive when they had been told the airport had been closed? Thankfully, on the day of the dedication, 250 people had gathered, including their overseas guests. They were all able to witness the joy on the faces of the people who now have God's Word in their own language.

Following the dedication ceremony, Warren and Jessie had a chance to reminisce over fond family memories with their children, Mark and Merryn. They visited old family homes and then Merryn pulled something out of her bag. 'Close your eyes', she asked them. They tried to guess the mystery item. What was it? A blanket made from woollen squares they had knitted when Merryn was very young.

Jessie had backed the squares and given the dolly blanket to her as a Christmas present. She had kept it all this time as a reminder of the bonds they shared as a family and the bonds they all felt to the area they were re-visiting.

Merryn shares:

They say you can't go home, and we were all aware of the perils of nostalgia and the reality of change. But that journey was far more than a return to the past; it was an affirmation of a family's life together. It was a difficult life at times and we are no dream family, but it was a life fired by a purpose greater than itself. We were ordinary people in an extraordinary place and I am forever thankful. To be there again together, for the last time, was a gift.



**Pseudonym*

Motivated by Pastor Korah and Grandma Sese

Ross and Lyndal Webb enjoy speaking to young people about the various ways God can use them in the Bible translation movement. They are now back in Australia but during the 1980s and 90s the Webbs served as Bible translation advisors in Papua New Guinea, then in the 2000s as Directors for SIL in Vanuatu. During that time, they supported projects involving a number of different language groups in the area. More recently, they have worked with a couple of those projects to get their translated New Testaments published. Last year, they returned to Vanuatu from home assignment in Australia to attend the dedication of the Baki New Testament.

While it was a wonderful celebration, Ross says the road to a finished translation does not always go as one would expect:

Pastor Korah was the second local translator assigned to the translation of the Baki New Testament, after the first one passed away. He was keen to see the translation finished so his community could connect to God in their own language. Sadly, before he could see his life's work completed, Pastor Korah also died.

'Pastor Korah's vision for his people kept us focused on keeping everyone united to get the job done', Lyndal adds. 'It's a shame he never got to see his vision come to life. He was missed greatly at the New Testament dedication celebration.'

Someone who did get to witness God's Word in her own language, however, was Grandma Sese. She has always wanted to see her community grow in faith. Lyndal explains:

Grandma Sese showed us what it means to be patient and reminded us how important it is to work together. Her encouragement motivated us to oversee the final stages of the project. Our time together reinforced that, rather than just being an intellectual, academic process, Bible translation also provides huge ministry opportunities for long-term discipleship with the translators and the wider community. Grandma Sese's good cooking and loving ways made all those opportunities so pleasurable!

A Peter of all trades

Tools down for this 'Peter' of all trades

Wycliffe Australia is grateful for the faithful service of Peter Tyson, who 'officially' retired in February after 25 years of faithful service with Wycliffe Australia. We are thankful for the many and varied roles Peter has filled both in field programs for Bible translation and helping support the work at the National Centre in Kangaroo Ground, Victoria.



Peter and his wife Sally joined Wycliffe Australia in 1994 after 30 plus years in the worldwide mining industry. After doing the year's Wycliffe and SIL training, they were assigned to SIL's Eurasia Group in 1995.

They started in Germany, supporting several translation teams with program planning and funding, while learning German in the government program for incomers. Peter recalls with a cheeky grin that, while Sally was already able to speak some German, he had to learn it from scratch because his only knowledge of the language came from the school of 'Hogan's Heroes'.

After 18 months or so, they were asked to join the Director and his wife in Switzerland to help the two of them run the group. The Tysons picked up responsibility for project funding, program planning, contingency planning for the whole group and assisting with personnel matters. They made a few trips around the group in a time of military tension.

The Tysons helped Wycliffe members amid the confusion and offered comfort, occasionally acting as a peacekeeper. They helped bring a number of New Testament translation projects to print.

A whole host of matters, including replacing the office computers, came their way, but the most significant and most satisfying was just being a support to our leaders, through their presence, prayer, coffee and laughter.

Peter thinks it was the best time of his life, better even than mining. Despite his fears, God always supplied for his needs.

When their time in Eurasia finished in 2000, Peter and Sally were asked to serve at the Wycliffe Australia National Centre. Peter was initially involved in project funding and training. In 2005, there was a need for someone to help manage insurance and Peter accepted the task. In 2014, his engineering skills helped with additional roles involving Finance and Personnel databases.

Peter and Sally's journey reads like an adventure novel, with many twists and turns along the way. Situations have not always gone according to plan and Peter's role has continually changed over the years but he has been open to being used by God whenever a situation or need has arisen. We are grateful for the perseverance and grace of our 'Peter of all trades'.

MORE

You can read more about Peter and Sally's story in Sally's autobiography, 'A Cord of Three Strands' www.amazon.com.au/Cord-Three-Strands-Autobiography-Sally/dp/1718810946 or by contacting Sally directly sallyg_tyson@bigpond.com

Crack the Code – Timor

Try your language analysis ability with this quiz!

Sarce ada maen di ruma.
Sarce is playing at home.

Sarce su balanja di pasar.
Sarce shopped at the market.

Roni mau maen di sakola.
Roni is going to play at school.

Sarce su sambayang di gareja
Sarce has prayed at church.

Roni mau manyanyi di sakola
Roni is going to sing at school.

Roni ada sambayang di ruma.
Roni is praying at home.

What does the following mean?

Roni ada manyanyi di gareja

MORE

Discover more Crack the Code quizzes at wycliffe.org.au/serve/find-your-fit/language-learning-taster/

Answer: Roni is singing at church

Like you, we believe in Wycliffe's mission. For over 22 years, our pre-paid funerals have continued to create hope from sadness, because our profits are proudly re-invested back into Wycliffe's work. Find out more at bethelfunerals.com.au/wycliffe

Bethel Funerals

But wait... There's more!

We hope you have enjoyed reading the stories in this edition of Wycliffe Today. But wait ... there's more! Head to wycliffe.org.au/stories/extra to read more stories of perseverance.

Ministry Resourcing

JUNE 2020 / ISSN 2202-9818

Wycliffe
Bible Translators 



What is Wycliffe Ministry Resourcing?

Wycliffe Australia's Ministry Resourcing department seeks to support the work of our members and organisational partners on the field. We are committed to building strong relationships, with an emphasis on mutual respect, trust, collaboration and prayer.

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 Australian members on the field with their project needs

Wycliffe Relief and Development and COVID-19

Like virtually everyone else in the world, teams working among our current projects are being profoundly impacted by COVID-19. We have been in contact with project administrators and, where necessary, made arrangements for project timelines to be extended and to support key staff during this critical time.

We believe it is important to keep these projects open and ready to restart at the appropriate time but we also feel a responsibility to support vulnerable communities during the crisis. Our project partners have made us aware of urgent, life-threatening needs within their communities. The Wycliffe Relief and Development Foundation is not able to directly assist medical efforts to fight COVID-19 but we do see a role in facilitating the supply of food, water and other necessities to keep vulnerable minority groups alive and safe, in some cases literally to keep them from dying of hunger or thirst.

We have therefore created a separate project to bring relief to communities that have no other form of help in this time of particular vulnerability. This will be directed toward communities in our current projects but we are also trying to identify other communities linked to Wycliffe and SIL groups. The relationships we have with these groups will ensure that funds are well spent and accounted for.

We understand that many Australians are also facing challenging circumstances and financial resources may be under pressure at this time. However, if your circumstances allow, we encourage you to pray about supporting those who don't have the social safety nets that we do.

By Greg Conwell - WRDF CEO

COVID-19 Relief Project 8874 (WRDF)

WYCLIFFE RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION PROJECT



Many of the minority communities that WRDF supports through our aid projects are now in even more desperate need of help of a slightly different kind. At this time of pandemic, the challenge is often to simply keep people alive due to shortages of food or water, especially during lockdown.

Day labourer jobs have disappeared, physical movement has been restricted and food is scarce. People who were already vulnerable are now even more so, due to a lack of government social safety nets. Their needs are outside the scope of our existing projects.

In light of this, we have created the COVID-19 relief project that will address relief needs in multiple locations. Funds given to this project will be directed towards the communities served by our current projects and other groups with whom we have existing relationships. These organisations have people on the ground who are organised to deliver aid effectively and efficiently throughout this crisis.

Target: AU\$100,000

www.wycliffefoundation.org.au/global/covid-19-relief/

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

Wycliffe Field Support 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 projects at wycliffe.org.au/projects/

South East Asia Maternal Health Project 8887 (WRDF)



Training and equipping midwives

This is an ongoing program that addresses multiple aspects of maternal health needs in minority communities in this country. As part of the program, in late 2019, two clinical staff at an outreach crisis pregnancy centre had three days of training in 'comprehensive newborn physical examinations'. The workshop equipped them to screen for health issues, record stages of growth and development and refer for treatment when necessary. The health workers can now: recognise signs of birth defects, assess warning signs in consciousness, hydration, respiratory and cardiovascular health, and numerous other conditions. Feedback was enthusiastic. The midwife and social worker shared that the skills they learnt were very useful and will be immediately employed in their daily work to benefit over 40 mother-baby pairs in their program every year.

Women's Health Education Day

There was also a Women's Health Education Day held for young mothers. The topics covered sexual health, nutrition in pregnancy, breastfeeding, mental health and warning signs in pregnancy. Through discussions about their personal health, mothers learned about treatments for infections and how to seek help. Medical staff in attendance said that they also gained useful knowledge. A second regional Women's Health Day was held with 26 women attending. The facilitator shared:

'It was a privilege to introduce the women to how their bodies work. They were excited to learn about it!'

We plan to repeat the workshop with key women from other villages in 2020 to carry the information back to their communities.

2020 Target: AU\$10,000

www.wycliffefoundation.org.au/asia/south-asia/south-asia-education-basic-health-care-clean-water-technical-training/

Education and Healthcare in South Asia 1 Project 8880 (WRDF)



This project is currently operating five learning centres for two communities in South Asia that have previously been without access to doctors or medical facilities. Last year, 83 children received schooling from the learning centres and 20 adults are now able to read and write in their mother tongue. Increased education and literacy skills are helping build personal confidence and greater community collaboration.

Social action groups are also able to access funds for food subsidies, clean water projects, road improvements and health and hygiene initiatives. Many benefit from the wages they earn through these community development projects. Locals report they are also more confident in the marketplace and their fear of being deceived or exploited is decreasing.

As literacy and confidence rise, community leaders hope to access other initiatives including Medical Check-up Camps and Livelihood Development training. These will hopefully be held later in the year, once social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

Our partners in South Asia have also indicated a further two communities in the area experiencing challenging circumstances. If resources allow, we would also like to assist these communities with education and healthcare programs of their own.

2020 Target: AU\$17,000

www.wycliffefoundation.org.au/asia/south-asia/s-e-asia-womens-nursing-support/



Moba Literacy Project

Project 8310 (Field Project)



Power in the Word: Moba literacy classes

Djadame is an apprentice seamstress. She comes from a poor family in Ghana and was only able to attend school in French for two years. Djadame explains how an opportunity to attend a Moba literacy class in her village has brought enlightenment and transformation to her life:

I am very happy to share my joy with you over the benefits obtained from literacy. Given my very low level of French, I could neither read nor write, though my profession demands it for note measurements and writing the names of my clients. I was worried about how I would be able to accomplish my job as a seamstress if I was unable to read or write. God heard me and a Moba literacy class was opened in my church last year. After only four months of classes, I can now take my clients' measurements and also write down their names. I also read with ease and understand the word of God in Moba, to name just a few blessings. I sincerely want to thank those who have allowed me to benefit from these blessings. May the Lord continue to support you so that others may also benefit through literacy like me.

Are these classes affected by COVID-19 social distancing?

There are plans to teach a new group of literacy students this June, although the new restrictions may stop them from meeting in person. Thankfully, Moba classes from last year were almost completed and leaders were trained to teach a new group of students. There have also been lessons recorded on SD cards which means that materials can be copied onto individual mobile phones and students can be trained outside a classroom context.



What are the current needs for the project?

This literacy project has a profound impact on communities, enabling men and women who have never had a chance to go to school to read the Bible and other books fluently, to help their children in their studies and get paid professions with their new reading and writing skills. Despite the possible restrictions, literacy classes will still be going ahead, albeit possibly in a different format. This may mean that running costs may be reduced so any additional funds raised will go towards next year's budget.

2020 Target: AU\$27,000

wycliffe.org.au/projects/moba-literacy-africa/



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

Kristen Hoglund: field-support@wycliffe.org.au

Greg Conwell: ceo@wycliffefoundation.org.au

Or call (03) 9712 2777