



**Wycliffe Today**

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## *Growing in grace - training future leaders*

**MARCH  
2019**

In this edition:

- » More than words
- » Tour guide to translator
- » New diploma for Indigenous translators
- » Communities of grace
- » Consultant training

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## Editorial from the CEO

*All the nations you made will come and bow before you, Lord; they will praise your holy name.*

Psalm 86:9 (NLT)



What a great day it will be when believers from all over the world gather as one people to worship God. The good news is that the Holy Spirit is in the business of calling people from every tribe and nation to translate and make his Word known to every tribe and nation. Over the years, much has been achieved through the hard work and dedication of individual Bible translators. Today, translation is mainly achieved through a community of people. It is more often the collaborative efforts of a multicultural team than it is the work of an individual or couple.

This edition of *Wycliffe Today* captures the passion and insight of national colleagues. At first, they dipped their toes almost fleetingly into translation. Now they have the passion, stories and experience to draw others from their countries into the Bible translation movement. It is our privilege at Wycliffe Australia to work alongside these people and their organisations. We pray that they will grow from strength to strength both personally and as partners in the gospel.

Barry Borneman

## Bible Banquet

Imagine you're at a banquet - a Bible banquet.

There are 7,099 guests representing each language of the world. At one end of the table

there is an abundance. At the other end: no single verse of Scripture.

How would you feel about a God who doesn't speak your language?

Check out the video: <https://youtu.be/MTqP0G0Sdcs>



## Bethel Funerals

Bethel Funerals is a not-for-profit funeral company in Melbourne and Brisbane which has invested over \$3,000,000 back into mission since it was established by Wycliffe Australia over 20 years ago. Its goal is to care for grieving families while raising funds for missions.

For more information, please call 1300 881 472  
or [www.bethelfunerals.com.au](http://www.bethelfunerals.com.au)



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# More than words

PHOTO: MARC EWELL

by Deb Fox

*But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body.* 1 Corinthians 12:18-20 (NLT)

In the corporate world, the term 'consultant' often has connotations of a role far removed from the rest of the team. But what about Bible translation advisors and consultants? Wycliffe Thai Foundation Director, Tharawat Suebthayat, suggests that Bible translation needs people trained in many different skills working together in order to effectively complete the task.

Tharawat has been Director of Wycliffe Thai Foundation since 2011. Over that time, he has developed a passion for seeing members grow not only in their knowledge of God and his Word but also in being disciplined to reflect God with their lives. Tharawat suggests that the work of Bible translation is about more than just the words:

*Translation advisors and consultants have to be part of the team from the beginning to the end of the project. Each person uses their own skills and experience to bless the work. They play a crucial role in teaching about God's Word and putting it into action. But we have to also consider the idea of discipleship when we start a translation project. Because of that, we will finally have [other people] who will become consultants too!*

## Training National Leaders

There are many advantages to training local Thais to go and serve neighbouring villages and nations. Tharawat shares:

*Many young people in our churches want to get involved in mission. But we need the training and resources so they can go and make a difference. I think the Thai people can adapt easily to the [different] cultures and learn the languages. They can also help the local people to improve their lives because they know the needs.*



THARAWAT LEADING DISCUSSIONS

## Meeting the Needs

Those needs extend far beyond literacy and translation. Tharawat says that an elder recently complained to him, 'Why are you people here? You're just focused on your work but you don't open your eyes to the people and our needs.' But Bible translators and literacy workers cannot fulfil all of those roles on their own. That's why Wycliffe Thailand is thinking about how to grow their Bible translation teams.

*We have people who can translate the Bible. They can focus on that work and we can add literacy workers to the team. We have workers who know the Bible and how to apply it, then we add people who know how to develop the community, and we add others who can strengthen relationships between the community and the team so that they can work towards a strong holistic ministry.*

## Champions in the Making

'We still have many needs in South-East Asia', Tharawat says.

*We want to train the leaders in different skills so they can connect with the people they are called to work with. I want my people to be champions for Bible translation, literacy, and community development. They need to know how to help people read the Bible and how to apply its teaching in their daily lives. When consultants work side by side with the team, we don't just get the Bible, we also get disciples.*



# Communities of Grace

*Graham Scott is the Principal Executive Officer of the Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia (SILA). He and his wife, Ellie, have been members of Wycliffe since 2000.*

They met in the United States and have worked cross-culturally throughout the US, Indonesia and Australia. We caught up with Graham to discover what it means to be a 'community of grace' when training and equipping leaders.

**Thanks for sharing with us today, Graham. Could you tell us about the journey that led you to Wycliffe and your current role with SILA?**

Ellie and I were both students at SILA in 2003. We then followed God's call to serve him in West Papua. While we had been well prepared for the work we were involved with in Indonesia, we soon realised that many others had not been. Many more leaders were required to be trained in Australia to work alongside and partner with local leaders in translation projects in Papua and throughout the world. We first taught at SILA's Summer School in 2004, and since then we have been regular visitors to SILA to teach. In 2018 we relocated to Melbourne, so I could take up a leadership role with SILA.



GRAHAM (LEFT OF CENTRE) WITH INTERNATIONAL SIL LEADERS

**How does SILA's training program operate?**

SILA is able to offer graduates qualifications that meet international benchmarks for translation and literacy workers anywhere in the world. The studies are uniquely geared towards empowering students to partner with local organisations and communities. It is our mission to prepare people to take on roles as trainers and facilitators in language projects.

**You recently attended SIL's global leadership conference. Why is it important for leaders from different contexts and backgrounds to come together?**

I enjoyed connecting with SIL leaders from across the globe. There was a warm sense of fellowship and it provided a deeper appreciation for the diversity around us. The approach Wycliffe and SIL Australia have taken over recent years has been to increase our level of partnership with communities. We believe in working alongside what is already being done, partnering with local churches and ministries to achieve outcomes together.



**How would you describe positive leadership development within a community?**

Spiritual formation of leaders leads to the transformation of communities. That transformation leads to a healthier community. And being a healthy community means being a community of grace. In a more complex, challenging world, we need more grace. There will always be challenges working with different people from different backgrounds. We need to learn to be patient and gracious with one another as we come up with creative strategies for engaging in translation and creating new partnerships.

**How can we involve communities more in the work of translation?**

Communities play a key role in determining what happens in translation work. We need to come alongside them and continue asking questions about what they need and the outcomes they want to achieve. But that kind of contribution is only possible when the local communities have strong local leaders and we have learnt to listen well.



To learn more about SIL Australia or training opportunities, go to [www.sila.org.au/courses/](http://www.sila.org.au/courses/)

# Exciting development for Indigenous Australian translators

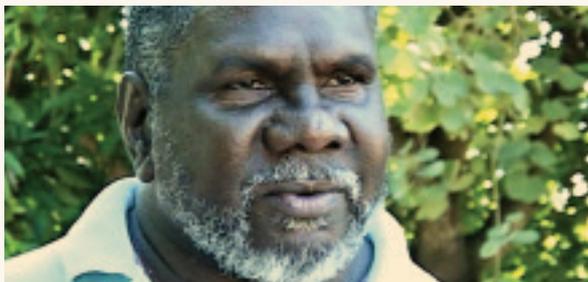
PHOTO: PETER BERGMEIER

by Barry Borneman

*In the 1990s, many Indigenous Australian translators benefitted from an accredited Certificate in Translating, specifically developed and delivered by SIL as a means of improving their translation skills.*

It also provided encouragement and fellowship as they gathered with others involved in the work of translation. Many of these graduates not only translated the Scriptures but became leaders in the Church and remain influential Christian elders today.

The certificate lapsed around 2002 as educational red tape and compliance in the TAFE sector made maintaining and delivering the course too difficult. For some time there have been growing voices to create the same opportunity for a new generation.



MARATJA DHAMARRANDJI, BIBLE TRANSLATOR

Maratja Dhamarrandji, a Bible translator from Elcho Island and one of the first graduating students in the 90s, puts it this way:

*When a plant is in a pot, sometimes the roots don't go very deep. But when you take it out of the pot and put it into natural soil, it becomes a good tree with the best kind of fruit. That is like the translated Word of God - it bears a lot of fruit. When you think about it, that's powerful stuff! . . . It's like Jesus coming to be an Aboriginal person - knowing the people, feeling their hurts, their pain, their whole identity. The Creator God coming down and engaging with people, communicating to the people in the language that they can understand.*

Maratja's prayer and those of other Indigenous leaders has now been answered. A new Diploma of Translation starts this year at Nungalingya College, of which Maratja is a current Board member.

The initial impetus to restart a translation course came from translators in Arnhem Land and Coordinate - an indigenous Bible translation arm of the Uniting Church, Northern Territory. The Bible Society of Australia was quick to support this initiative and together with Nungalingya College, Wycliffe Australia, AuSIL, CMS and the NT Anglican Diocese, a partnership has been formed. It did not take long for us together to commit the funds and personnel needed to deliver this course for the next three years. It has been a great joint effort and we very much sense that this is a work of the Holy Spirit.



WOMEN READING THE KRIOL BIBLE

The initial enrolments have been very encouraging. Please be in prayer for the staff and the first cohort of students as they begin classes this term. Later in the year, we also want to run a couple of translation workshops in remote communities. These will not be accredited but they will be important in exposing a wider group of people to training in translation.

**GIVE**

*If you wish to be involved financially in supporting the Diploma in Translation, there are a number of ways you can do so. You can give directly to Wycliffe's Next Step Development project (NT) 8331.*

*However, if you already have connections with Nungalingya College, Coordinate, or the Bible Society, they are also receiving funds for this program. We are together looking to the Lord to provide.*

*To support this project, go to [wycliffe.org.au/projects/training-indigenous-translators-nt-australia/](http://wycliffe.org.au/projects/training-indigenous-translators-nt-australia/)*



# A good return for the labour

by Belinda Fox

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NIV)

Bible translation is a complex, multifaceted endeavour. It involves not only developing the technical skills required to draft and revise accurately, but also things like planning a translation program, creating an orthography, preparing for typesetting and printing, and making completed Scripture available through apps, audio recordings, songs and websites.

Imagine the work and resources it takes to equip a translation team with all of these skills! That is what makes the national training strategy for South Asia 1 such an effective one.

*We are very new believers with less than ten believers in our community. The fellowship we received here was beyond what we had ever imagined. Moreover, we have been equipped well enough to continue the translation in other less difficult books.*



STORY DRAFTING WORKSHOP



WEBSITE BUILDING WORKSHOP

Over a period of just six months last year, workshops were held in South Asia covering key aspects of Bible translation. The beauty of this approach is that translators from dozens of different language groups were able to benefit from the training provided.

A translator who participated for the first time in a three-week workshop with six language teams to draft the '5 Ts' (1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) said:

For one language team that took part in an orality workshop, this was the first time somebody from the community had ever travelled outside their language area. 'It was the hand of God that brought these brothers from the community', one participant said. 'By the end of the workshop, they were able to understand various biblical concepts and commit their lives to the creator of their souls.'

These workshops make good use of the time, personnel and training resources available so that language teams are well-equipped to carry on their task. Yet perhaps even more valuable is the atmosphere of collaboration, inspiration and camaraderie that builds vision and keeps teams running towards their goal.



For more on this training, read the report on South Asia 1 in the enclosed Project Updates brochure.

# International Year of Indigenous Languages



Wycliffe Australia has been celebrating indigenous languages for 65 years as part of a global movement that honours indigenous languages by producing alphabets, teaching literacy and making available in their language the greatest Book of all time.

The United Nations has declared 2019 as the *International Year of Indigenous Languages* and Wycliffe joins in celebrating these indigenous languages and cultures with the rest of the world.

**MORE**

Go to [www.sil.org](http://www.sil.org) to hear the Executive Director of SIL, Michel Kenmogne, share how his first language connects him to his heritage, culture, people and identity. Discover why, for him, reading *God's Word* in international languages such as English and French can be helpful but not as powerful as reading Scripture in the language that speaks to his heart.

# Position Vacant (Overseas)

## Translation Specialist

### Long-term | Bible Translation | Pacific

Within the Carolinian Islands of Micronesia, a number of distinct languages are spoken and translation work is already underway in a number of them. But more work needs to be done. The Carolinian people are keen to translate the Scriptures into their own languages, but need assistance with resources and training. We need people who are flexible, motivated, resourceful and willing to work in remote locations.

Please contact us to discuss any training plans. Future training pathways will take into account any previous training and work experiences as well as your intended duration of service. Flexible options are available including online and on-field training.

### Training:

- A theological degree
- One year at SIL Australia
- Orientation workshops, held at our National Centre in Kangaroo Ground, Victoria

**Interested in something different?** Head to [wycliffe.org.au/positions/](http://wycliffe.org.au/positions/) or contact (03) 9712 2720.

# Retreats Update

Congratulations to **Emily Willetts** on the birth of her daughter **Adelyn**.

**Jenn Dobson** has moved into Emily's role as Retreats Manager. Jenn has taken language and culture training with SIL Australia and has recently visited translation projects in Asia.

**MORE**

You can read more about her experiences at [wycliffe.org.au/stories](http://wycliffe.org.au/stories)

**Kristen Hoglund** has been appointed as Retreats Assistant and Project Administrator. Kristen shares her excitement about her new position:

*God led me to take this role at Wycliffe. I am inspired and excited about working for a Christian organisation where I can grow in my faith and make a contribution to the work of Bible translation.*



JENN AND KRISTEN

## Give me a [retreat] among the gum trees ...

Wycliffe Retreats is blessed with a large number of bookings for the year ... but we are in desperate need of someone to help with cleaning! If you are looking for ad hoc cleaning work, we would love to hear from you!

**EMAIL**

[retreats@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:retreats@wycliffe.org.au)

# 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

*In the enclosed Wycliffe Today, you will see a focus on the amazing stories and vision of our colleagues in national translation organisations. Their enthusiasm and potential to achieve great things for God is inspiring. Yet we regularly hear of their need to train future leaders and provide holistic ministry. Perhaps God is trying to get our attention?*

*For this edition of the Projects update, we are also focussing on some of the Wycliffe Ministry Resourcing relationships and projects with indigenous organisations. We encourage you to come alongside these people and support their vision with your prayers and finances.*

## Consultant Development NSD (Project Code 8807)

NEXT STEP  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECT

Experienced trainers, exegetical advisors and translation consultants are critical to the translation process. Scripture translation is being conducted by local translators in more languages than ever before, with 2658 known translation and language projects currently in progress throughout the world.\* The need for an effective pathway to develop more trainers, advisors and consultants to support these translation projects has never been more urgent.

Developing consultants comes with significant financial costs. We have created a project for those who are interested in helping to raise up more consultants. We also need your prayers as we start this challenging venture into new territory.

**A\$20,000**

\*Wycliffe Global Alliance statistics current as at October 2018

[wycliffe.org.au/projects/consultant-development-nsd-2/](http://wycliffe.org.au/projects/consultant-development-nsd-2/)



### 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/](http://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](http://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/](http://wycliffe.org.au/projects/)

# Training National Leaders in Papua New Guinea (Project Code 8833)



Wycliffe Next Step Development partner, Bible Translation Association of Papua New Guinea (BTA), has reported encouraging results after reaching 2018 targets for training and consultant checking. The team created a range of printed materials and raised over K25,000 (A\$10,400) at regional events to support translation projects. They have also produced a promotional video and are expanding their online and digital presence.

In 2018, BTA visited two locations in PNG to start reactivating dormant translation projects, with plans to visit ten more locations in 2019. The desire to re-energise these projects is reinforcing the need that BTA is aware of, to expand the number and capacity of local leaders. How can we equip leaders to ensure the long-term sustainability of BTA? An exciting pilot program being trialed in Australia this year plans to address this need.

## Higher Level Training

Many of our partner organisations have been devoting thought and prayer to the issue of how to provide higher level training. Training needs to be culturally appropriate, pitched at the right level, and designed to provide appropriate tools for the future leaders of the translation movement in the Pacific. That's where the new training program comes in.

This year, two senior translation staff from BTA will study with SIL Australia and Melbourne School of Theology. They will undertake a diploma course which includes subjects developed specifically to train translators from non-English speaking backgrounds. SIL Australia is covering academic costs and Wycliffe Australia will provide for accommodation and living expenses of the students, plus one spouse.

For visa reasons, this is structured as a full-year, eight subject program, and these students have not studied at this level of intensity before. Please pray for the students and their families. We also encourage you to financially support the program by giving to this Next Step project.

**Total A\$66,000 annually for BTA**

[wycliffe.org.au/projects/training-national-leaders-png/](http://wycliffe.org.au/projects/training-national-leaders-png/)



# Translation Training: Update from South Asia 1 (Project Code 8821)



Next Step Development is assisting a Wycliffe Next Step partner in South Asia 1 with funding for a broad range of Bible translation training activities. What they have been able to achieve with these funds already is incredible! Training was held in 2018 to help improve translators' skills in the following areas:

**Finalising Translations:** 17 language teams learnt how to finalise New Testament translations, prepare for printing, conduct audio recordings and build Scripture apps

**Ethnomusicology:** a language group learnt how to craft their own worship songs

**Planning:** 12 language groups were trained in project planning

**Drafting:** 6 new teams helped to draft translations of Scripture for the first time

**Building Websites:** 15 communities received training to create websites for their own languages

**Linguistics Training:** 12 students took modules of a linguistics course; SIL Australia sent a senior trainer for part of this time, with the funds provided by Wycliffe Australia

**Orthography:** communities learnt how to resolve issues that will impact their translations (how to represent sounds, spelling, scripts, etc.)

**Orality:** one community received training to prepare stories in their own language

Next Step is excited to be supporting this foundational training program in South Asia. The program is well run, making the most of donor funds. Plans are already underway to continue the training throughout 2019.

**A\$40,000 annually**

[wycliffe.org.au/projects/south-asia-1-translation-training/](http://wycliffe.org.au/projects/south-asia-1-translation-training/)



ETHNOMUSICOLOGY WORKSHOP

# Kanite Literacy in Papua New Guinea (Project Code 8893)



Partner Wycliffe Relief and Development tax-deductible project

Kanite is a remote community in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea with a population of 9,300. It is located far from any other towns or aid posts. For the last four years, the community has been operating three local language literacy schools (two primary and one adult) and a literacy resource centre without any outside support. Locals have used funds from community coffee gardens and canteens to support the schools, and teachers have volunteered their time - receiving only food as salary.

The community has seen great results from the training so far. Students who have completed the vernacular training achieve better results in government schools, which in turn gives them greater opportunities in life. The local community sees this training as a building block for vocational training that will help individuals and the local community. However, there are some challenging circumstances which make teaching difficult so the community has asked for our help.

This project will provide modest salaries for teachers so they can support their families. It will also help with some basic repairs to the school buildings and provide the opportunity for teachers to complete training with SIL PNG. All this project needs to operate effectively is just A\$5,200 per year for two years. Local community leaders will manage delivery of the project with support from local SIL PNG staff.

**A\$5,200 per year for two years**

[wycliffe.org.au/projects/kanite-literacy-png/](http://wycliffe.org.au/projects/kanite-literacy-png/)



RECENT GRADUATES

# Wycliffe Member and Computer Subsidy Fund for Wycliffe Field Teams (Project Code 8410)

AUSTRALIAN  
MEMBER AND  
SIL PROJECT

Portable computers are essential tools for translators, literacy workers, consultants, language survey teams, and many of our members who are in teaching or administrative roles. We have established this fund to provide a subsidy for any of our field teams needing to replace their computers. This assistance goes a long way towards ensuring that those on the frontline in Bible translation have the tools they need to do their job well.

**A\$6000 annually  
(this provides a \$700 subsidy per computer)**

[wycliffe.org.au/projects/computer-subsidy-field-teams/](http://wycliffe.org.au/projects/computer-subsidy-field-teams/)



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

**Kristen Hoglund:** [field-support@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:field-support@wycliffe.org.au)

**Greg Conwell:** [greg\\_conwell@wycliffe.org.au](mailto:greg_conwell@wycliffe.org.au)

Or call (03) 9712 2777