

## MOTHER-TONGUE TRANSLATORS

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*Accelerating Scripture access by supporting  
mother-tongue translators*

Wycliffe®



*Training and supporting speakers of minority languages who can accomplish Bible translation is critical. Because they understand their own language and culture better than anyone else, they can accelerate Scripture translation for their communities.*





## PARTNERING WITH MOTHER-TONGUE TRANSLATORS



*“Access to Scripture can happen most rapidly when a few people from a community get involved in translating for their own language, so training and supporting local translators is critical.”*

The Maiadom people of Papua New Guinea prayed for fifteen years for a mission organization to translate the Scriptures into their mother tongue. The answer finally came through translation training workshops held in Milne Bay. The Maiadom people were able to send eager delegates to the workshops so that they could learn translation techniques and work together with Wycliffe consultants and other language groups who were also translating Scripture into their languages.

A Maiadom man named Eka Andrew attended a workshop that would enable him to create storybooks in Maiadom and to eventually translate Scripture. When his storybook was done, Karla, the language specialist who guided him through his project, asked Eka,

“Do you realize that you just made the first book ever in your language?” At first he looked at the floor and simply grinned. Then a wide smile spread across his face as the full impact of her question struck him. Perhaps he could be part of the answer to his own village’s prayers.

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## PARTNERING WITH MOTHER-TONGUE TRANSLATORS

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Emotion welling up inside her, Karla herself began to realize the implications of that moment. She and the other staff had just had a part in helping the Maiadom people translate Scripture in their own language. Today the Maiadom people have the book of Mark and portions of Genesis in their language. They hope to finish a “mini-Bible,” including Old Testament portions, Mark, and Acts, by 2014.

The road from initial survey to completed Scripture translation used to take decades to travel. But with the goal of seeing a Bible translation program started in every language that needs it by 2025, Wycliffe must implement strategies to dramatically speed up the process. Access to Scripture can happen most rapidly when a few people from a community get involved in translating for their own language, so training and supporting local translators is critical. These local men and women are also highly motivated to see God’s Word distributed and used by their community once the work is complete.

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Most remaining Bibleless communities are located in limited-access areas of the world where unpredictable social and political conditions require leaders to act quickly. For example, language work is often done outside of unstable regions with the help of refugees who speak that language. But refugees sometimes have to move quickly to ensure their family's safety, and without funding to engage them in translation right away, progress comes to a halt. Therefore, Wycliffe is committed to ensuring the financial support needed to involve mother-tongue translators when opportunities arise.

The last leg of the translation journey is often the most difficult, especially for these local translators who are working hard to bring God's Word to their communities. As they near the end of a translation project, they often find that spiritual opposition increases, with unexpected challenges and complications threatening to stop their progress. To see these translations through to completion, Wycliffe provides support ranging from providing equipment to covering their salaries without interruption during these challenging last stages. *SW*



## OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT MOTHER-TONGUE TRANSLATORS (996640)

**\$10,000** will support two mother-tongue translators for one year in places like Chad where they will help reach the five thousand Niellim people with the Good News while providing community development training for their local peers.

**\$25,000** will support up to six mother-tongue translators for one year in places like Burkina Faso where they are working toward completing two different New Testaments.

**\$50,000** will support a team of mother-tongue translators in places like Sudan, where they are providing the resources needed to bring the Word of God to three different language groups.

**\$1.3 million** Based on our current and past budgets, an estimated \$1.3 million is needed annually to fund nearly forty field programs where mother-tongue translators are accelerating work within their own language communities.

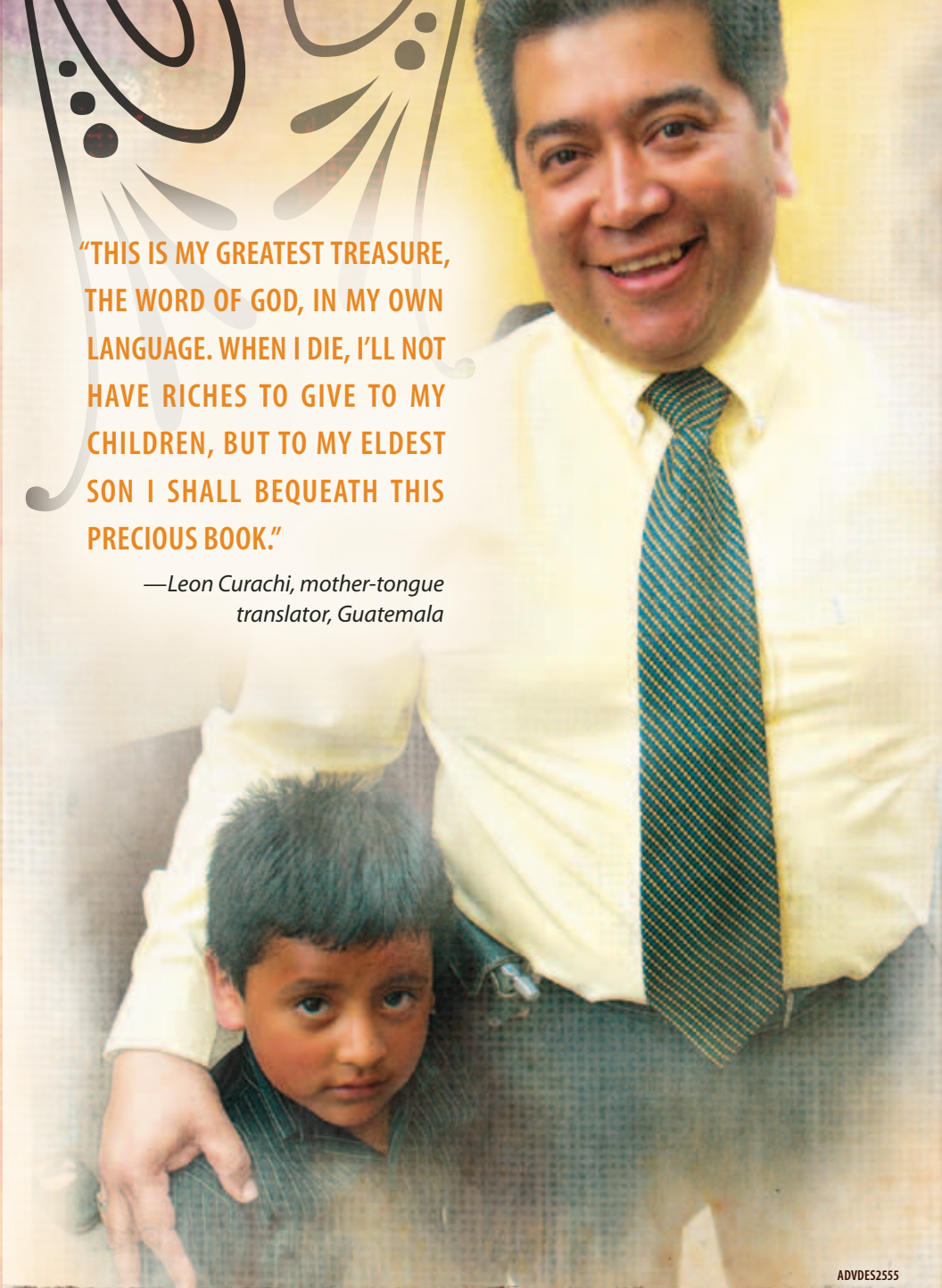






**“WE HAVE EDUCATED, MULTILINGUAL PEOPLE WHO ARE CHRISTIANS THAT GOD IS CALLING TO TRANSLATE HIS WORD INTO THEIR OWN MOTHER-TONGUE. ONCE THEY ARE TRAINED IN BIBLE TRANSLATION PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES, FUNDED BY SPONSORS, AND SURROUNDED BY EXPERIENCED CONSULTANTS, THEY ARE ON THE FAST TRACK TO PRODUCE HIGH-QUALITY BIBLE TRANSLATIONS.”**

*—Jack Popjes, former president of Wycliffe Canada*



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LANGUAGE. WHEN I DIE, I'LL NOT  
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CHILDREN, BUT TO MY ELDEST  
SON I SHALL BEQUEATH THIS  
PRECIOUS BOOK."

—Leon Curachi, mother-tongue  
translator, Guatemala

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