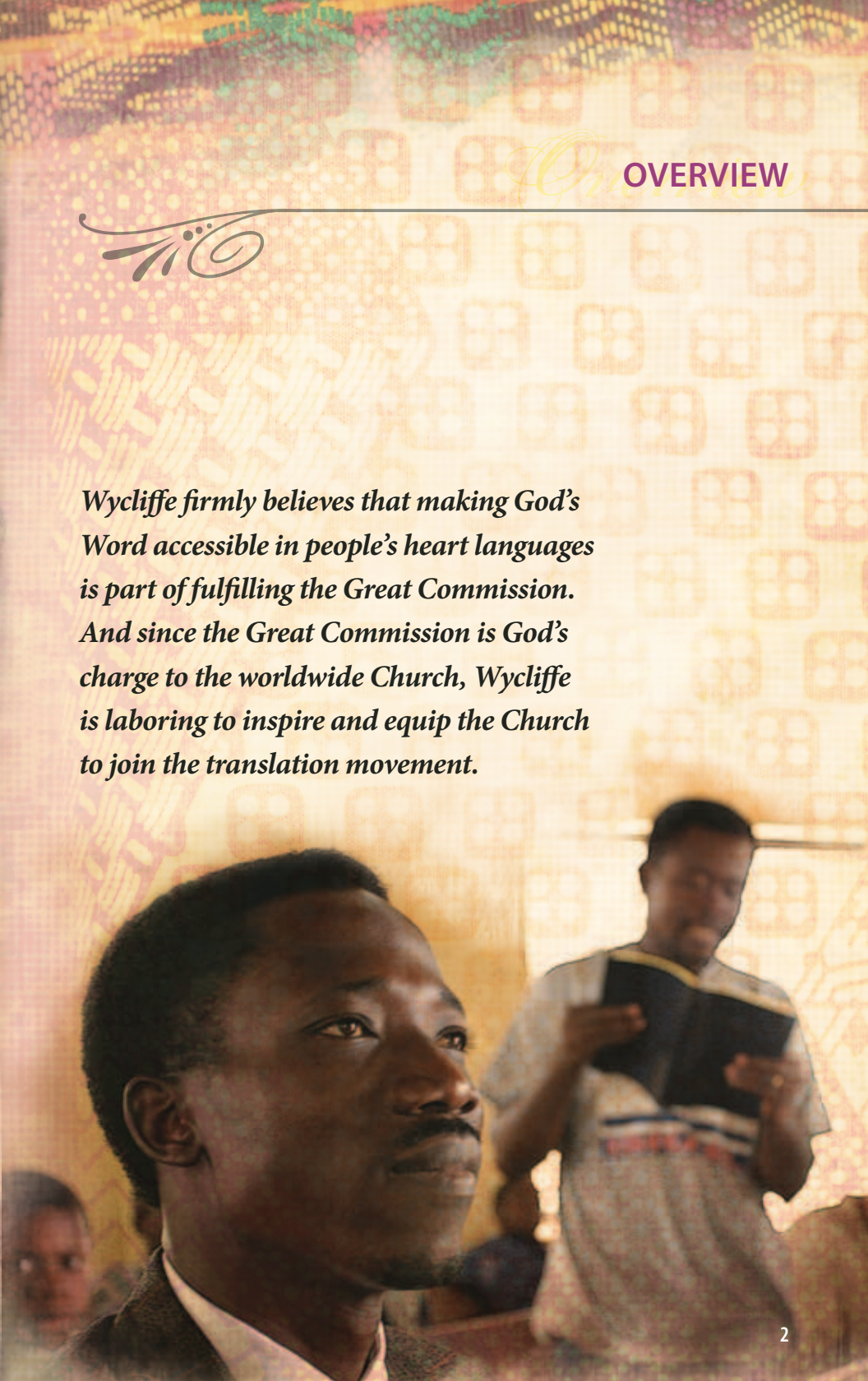



## LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

*Mobilizing the worldwide Church  
for the Bible translation task*

Wycliffe®

The background of the page features a collage of African-inspired patterns, including a repeating geometric motif and a larger, more complex design. In the lower half, a photograph shows a man in the foreground looking upwards with a contemplative expression, while another man in the background reads a book.

## *Overview* OVERVIEW

A decorative flourish consisting of a series of curved lines and dots, resembling a stylized leaf or a calligraphic element, is positioned to the left of the text.

*Wycliffe firmly believes that making God's Word accessible in people's heart languages is part of fulfilling the Great Commission. And since the Great Commission is God's charge to the worldwide Church, Wycliffe is laboring to inspire and equip the Church to join the translation movement.*



## INVOLVING LOCAL CHURCHES

The Puguli people of Burkina Faso long to read God's Word in their own language, so they sent someone from their own community, Jacques Malo, to Bible school to become a Bible translator.

*"Churches and pastors  
need to be equipped to  
develop such resources  
in their own language  
so that the newly  
translated Scripture can  
be used effectively."*

"I was so challenged by the zeal and the motivation of the Christians for the translation of the New Testament," Jacques said. "One Sunday morning, while visiting the church in Bonzan, the Deacon of the church made a presentation to the congregation about what I am doing.... The Deacon emphasized that I am their representative in the field of Scripture translation. They are counting on me to win the battle. To show their encouragement, they clapped their hands and thundered

their songs and prayers before the Lord, so that He will give me the strength I need to overcome this immense challenge. The battle is arduous but the victory is certain. After that several people prayed for me, particularly for whatever academic, social, or economic difficulties I might face during my studies.

*Continued on the inside*





## INVOLVING LOCAL CHURCHES

continued from page 3

“The Puguli nourish their hope of being able one day to read the Word of God in our language. And they have not forgotten me, their instrument. How fragile and of little value I am on my own to ever see this dream come true. But we were encouraged together as we were reminded of the affirmation of Paul to the Philippians: ‘And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.’”\*

Those of us who have had the Scriptures in our language for centuries have a wealth of readily available resources that teach us how to use God’s Word for Bible study, pastoral teaching, theological education, and daily application. As new communities receive Scripture in their language for the first time, churches and pastors need to be equipped to develop such resources in their own language so that the newly translated Scripture can be used effectively.

Church engagement helps to inspire local Christian leaders

*\*Philippians 1:6, NLT*

Continued on the next panel

## INVOLVING LOCAL CHURCHES

continued from page 4

# Involving Churches

to join in Bible translation and literacy work as they recognize the power of mother-tongue Scriptures to change lives and to transform communities—starting with their congregations. Through workshops and conferences, local pastors and church members are being trained to use translated Scriptures in culturally appropriate ways, using tools like Bible storytelling, printed Sunday school materials, Scripture broadcasts, and listening groups. And as churches experience life transformation through God's Word in their own language, they will see Bible translation's role in the Great Commission and be motivated to send workers to other communities still waiting for Scripture. The trek from initial survey to final production of translated Scripture is one that most often depends upon the local church's involvement and leadership. Wycliffe is committed to instilling translation efforts with training for pastors, literacy education for congregations, ethnomusicology workshops for worship leaders, and joint strategies for using drafts of God's Word to transform lives as it is being translated. *W*





## OPPORTUNITIES TO FUND LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS (996639)

**\$10,000** will train rural pastors to use mother-tongue Scriptures in their churches and in community outreach. Pastors will be better equipped to disciple and counsel their people toward spiritual transformation.

**\$20,000** will help empower churches to inform, challenge, and inspire believers and seekers to become active partners in their country's Bible translation movement. For example, our partnership will help provide a resources department for Kenya's Bible Translation and Literacy ministry.

**\$35,000** will fund efforts like the Sa Bawat Wika, a strategic initiative in Asia and the Pacific to hasten the pace of Scripture translation by engaging the Philippine Church and mobilizing Filipinos for the work. Such collaborative efforts of churches, mission agencies, training institutions, and individuals will help Bible translation programs start in each language needing one by the year 2025.

**\$65,000** will help lay the foundation to reach non-Christians such as the remaining three hundred language communities of Papua New Guinea where our partnership is supporting ministry courses, denominational meetings, youth camps, pastor meetings, and Scripture engagement conferences.

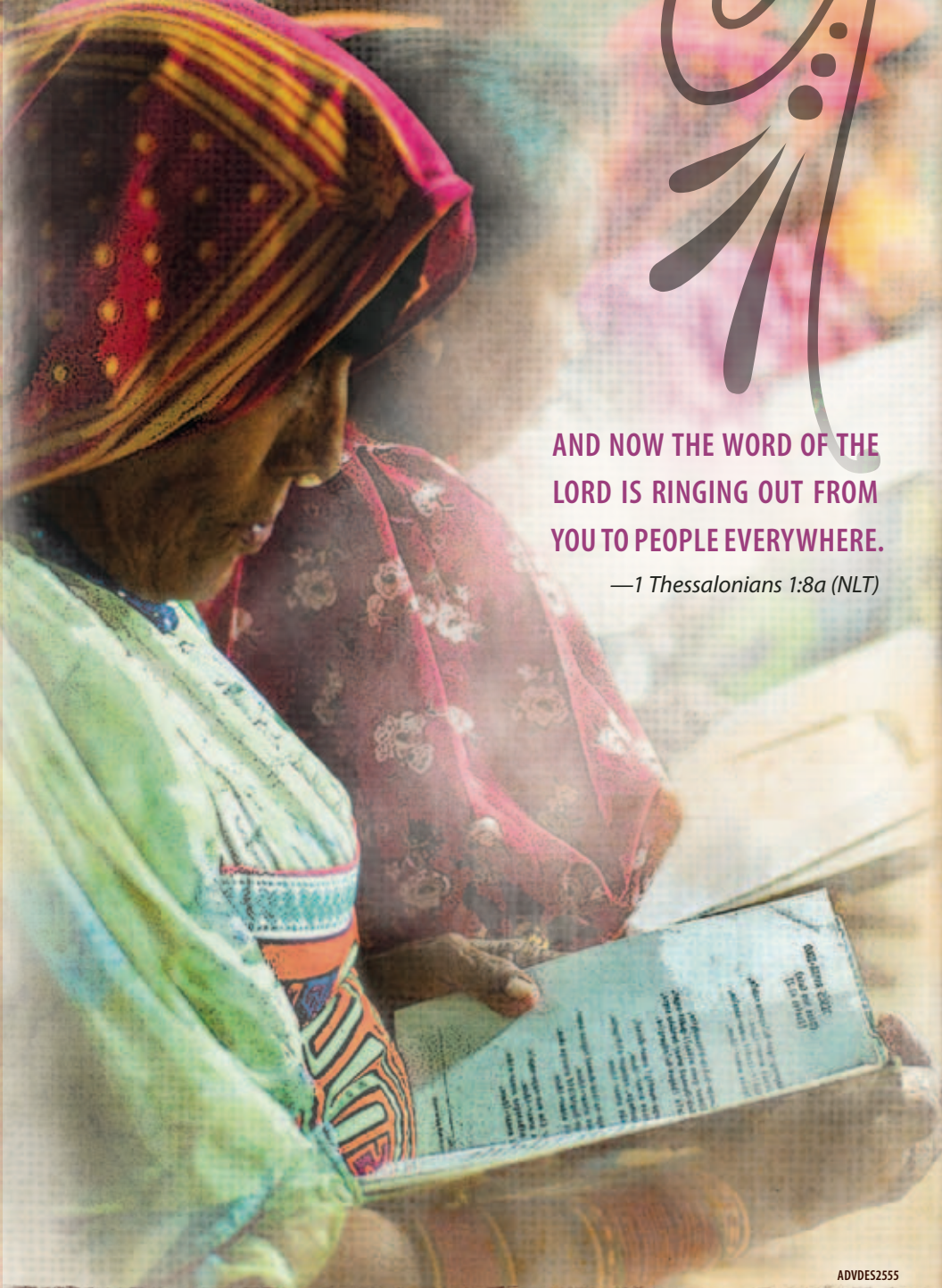
**\$3.5 million** Based on our current and past budgets, an estimated \$3.5 million is needed annually to fund field programs where our partnership with the local church benefits more than thirty language communities by engaging or mobilizing pastors, leaders, and congregants for the sake of Bible translation.



"I AM AN ELDER OF OUR CHURCH, AND FOR MANY YEARS NOW WE HAVE HAD TO STRUGGLE WITH THE FEELING OF MANY OF OUR MEMBERS THAT CHRISTIANITY BELONGS TO FOREIGN PEOPLE, AND WE AFRICANS ARE ONLY TRYING TO BE PART OF IT.... [MOTHER-TONGUE SCRIPTURE] HAS CHANGED THAT FOR US DRAMATICALLY.... MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF MY LISTENING GROUP ARE GOING THROUGH GENUINE REVIVAL AS THEY NOW REALIZE THAT WE CHUMBURUNGS FIT INTO GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION."

—Church elder from Ghana





AND NOW THE WORD OF THE  
LORD IS RINGING OUT FROM  
YOU TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

—1 Thessalonians 1:8a (NLT)

ADVDES2555

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Wycliffe Bible Translators  
PO Box 628200  
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

1-800-WYCLIFFE  
(1-800-992-5433)  
[www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org)