



LIFE TRANSFORMATION

*Responding to tangible needs around the world
to open doors for Bible translation*

Wycliffe®

Many of the people Wycliffe serves are marginalized, with location, language, caste, or religion barring them from opportunities enjoyed by their neighbors. Often, as Wycliffe helps communities address tangible needs for development, they also become interested and open to a Bible translation project in their language.

GATEWAY TO BIBLE TRANSLATION

lation



The Ramuki area in Southeast Asia does not have electricity. A few years ago, the head of the Ramuki Bible translation committee learned how to produce electricity using small water-powered generators. He tried it in his village, and people now have electric power at night. The people of Lemako village heard about this and decided to install this system too. They asked the Ramuki literacy team to bring the generator with them when they came to conduct literacy training. They even sent some strong men to help carry it because it takes four days by foot to travel to the village. The steep mountain paths are difficult to walk even without luggage, but they had to carry the generator, literacy supplies, and food on their shoulders. They finally arrived and

the literacy team installed the generator in a place where water runs strong throughout the year. As the lights came on, people were both surprised and happy.

Electric lights, which now illuminate local homes, arrived in this village at the same time as literacy,

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GATEWAY TO BIBLE TRANSLATION

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which enlightens people's hearts. In a few years, as Bible translation progresses, they will have the true Light in their own language—the Light that has the power to change lives.

As Wycliffe linguists' respond to the language needs of communities like the Ramuki, they are often faced with a variety of other needs as well. Translation teams may partner with community development specialists to address specific community needs, such as health education, agricultural improvement, and income generation. Developing local skills in small industry, such as sewing, animal husbandry, and candle-making, brings new sources of income, and perhaps most importantly, gives a fresh infusion of hope for the future.

But one of the most important ways Wycliffe helps communities is by facilitating mother-tongue based multilingual education (MLE)—a teaching method that begins formal education in the mother tongue and then bridges students over to the majority language later on. MLE also gives rural communities the opportunity to break out of

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Gateway to Translation

poverty caused by acute dependency on the goodwill of landlords and on abundant crop yields. In the process of setting up model MLE programs, language development occurs as translation teams produce literacy primers and other reading material.

One government official who later became the U.N. ambassador for his country wrote about Wycliffe staff in Togo: “I saw how simply they lived; how they helped my people to write their language and taught farmers how to read. It is wonderful what you are doing for my country.”

Many of the last languages still without Scripture are spoken by communities that are the hardest to reach. Access to them in order to translate God’s Word into their languages is difficult, if not impossible, without a gateway strategy that benefits the community by meeting tangible needs. Such efforts earn the credibility and build the trusted relationships needed to gain access where the government or majority religion is opposed to Bible translation.



OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE LIFE TRANSFORMATION (996638)



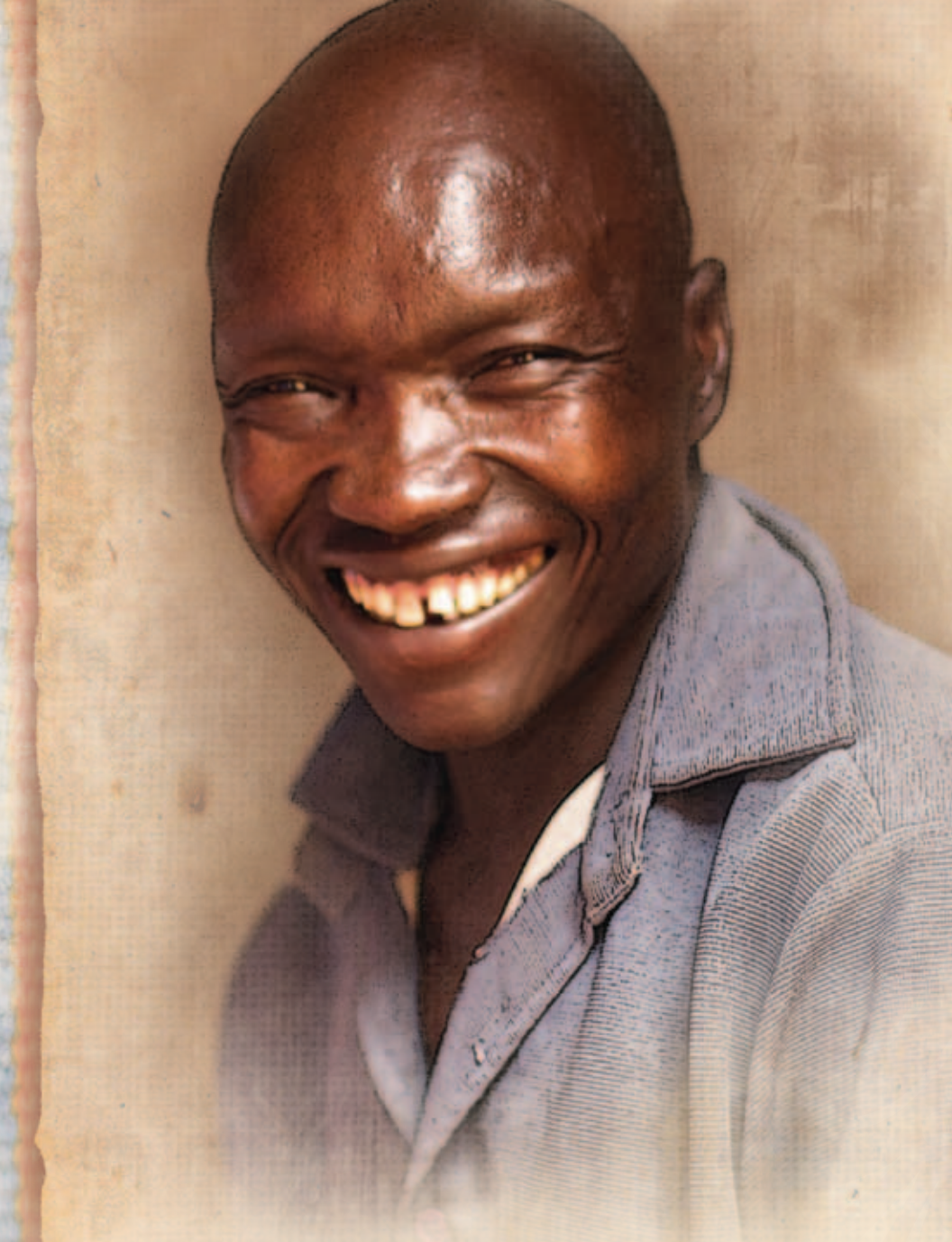
\$15,000 will enable linguistic development for several languages at a time, like in the Democratic Republic of Congo where alphabet charts, orthography statements, picture dictionaries, thesauruses, and preliminary folk literature are being produced for six language communities. The ultimate goal is language viability as a stepping stone to the Scriptures transforming each language community.

\$20,000 will produce educational resources, build vision for multilingual education, encourage families and communities to set higher educational goals for themselves, and build capacity and vision within the community for developing solutions to overcome language-based obstacles.

\$50,000 will send teams into remote communities like those in Indonesia, where community development projects help the poverty stricken see how using their mother tongue can lead to broader local understanding and success in transforming their lives.

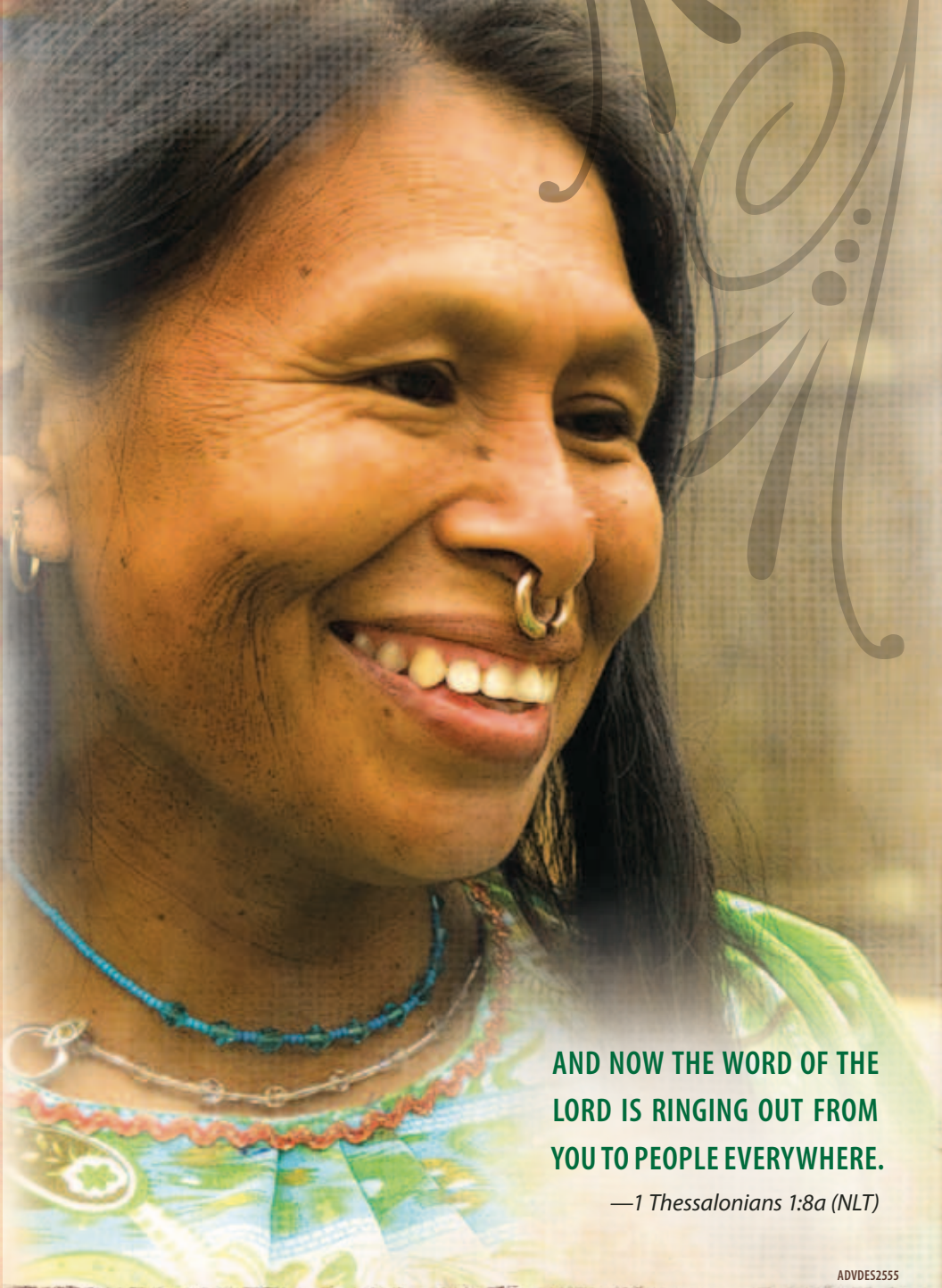
\$75,000 will help train the faculty in local schools. For example, two minority groups numbering nearly 1.2 million people in East Asia will benefit from multilingual education techniques taught to local faculty where children simply do not know the majority language.

\$850,000 Based on our current and past budgets, approximately \$850,000 is needed annually to fund field programs with strategies focused on life transformation in nearly fifteen language communities where Wycliffe is at work.



“WHEN YOU CAN’T READ, YOU’RE LIKE THE BLIND MAN BEFORE JESUS GAVE HIM SIGHT. THOSE LEARNING TO READ CAN SEE JESUS IN A DIFFERENT WAY—THROUGH HIS WORD.”

—Ngbaka pastor, Democratic Republic of the Congo



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

—1 Thessalonians 1:8a (NLT)

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