

LITERACY

Partnering together to give the gift of literacy

Wycliffe®

Overview OVERVIEW



Wycliffe establishes literacy projects among the world's remotest people groups so that they can enjoy the wonder of reading and writing in their mother tongue.



LITERACY OPENS DOORS TO SCRIPTURE AND EDUCATION

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René Warakate, a farmer from Benin, had never been to school or learned to read.

“Whenever I wanted to write a letter, I had to ask a schoolboy to do it for me,” René said. “There was always the risk that he wouldn’t translate my meaning correctly, and I had no way to check.

The replies I got, when translated back into my language, were barely tolerable. It pushed me towards becoming literate, as I had suffered from too many mistakes in my correspondence. As soon as a literacy class was available in my village, I gave myself to it body and soul.

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“Now, when I’m in town or travelling and I see a sign, I can understand what it means. If I’m in the train and the train stops at a station, I know where I am.

“Knowing how to read and write also had a big impact on my Christian life. I used to go to church, where the Bible is read in French.

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**LITERACY OPENS DOORS TO
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When they read the Bible and interpreted it into my language, I listened attentively, but I had already forgotten it by the time I left the building. Now that we have the Bible in Waama, I can go over the passages read in church when I am at home. It's reading the Bible in my language that led me to turn to Christ and then get baptized. And it's thanks to learning to read that I finally understand the life, the teaching, the crucifixion, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus."

René's story is very common. Without being able to read, many people struggle to move beyond poverty and don't have access to God's Word or information that could change their lives and improve physical well-being for them and their families.


Mother-tongue literacy is one of the most concrete and exciting steps the members of a minority language community can take. Many people have never had the experience of discovering meaning from shapes on a page; others have been exposed to schooling in an unfamiliar language and have felt defeated by the challenge of understanding and

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keeping up. Whichever is the case, Wycliffe's literacy specialists have helped thousands of people around the world discover that they can indeed succeed in learning to read.

Along with setting up and staffing the literacy classes, Wycliffe publishes simple reading material for students to gain practical knowledge and practice their reading skills in order to become fluent enough to read texts such as the Bible in their language. They are also discovering how to prevent disease, protect themselves from fraud, farm more effectively, and manage small business enterprises.

Wycliffe personnel design programs to build capacity for local sustainability by training local speakers and developing partnerships with governments, community-based organizations, and other philanthropic organizations. In places where initial interest in Bible translation is low, the appeal of community development through literacy education often builds trust and paves the way for God's Word to be translated. Many of those empowered by such education are eager to help with the translation task and are among the first to experience and share the transforming power of Scripture.

Partnering with oppressed minority language groups produces powerful results. With changed lives surrendered to Christ as the ultimate goal of Scripture translation, graduates of literacy programs are essential to Wycliffe's translation movement as they become enthusiastic ambassadors of the Gospel message within and beyond their community. 



OPPORTUNITIES TO FUND LITERACY EFFORTS (999491)



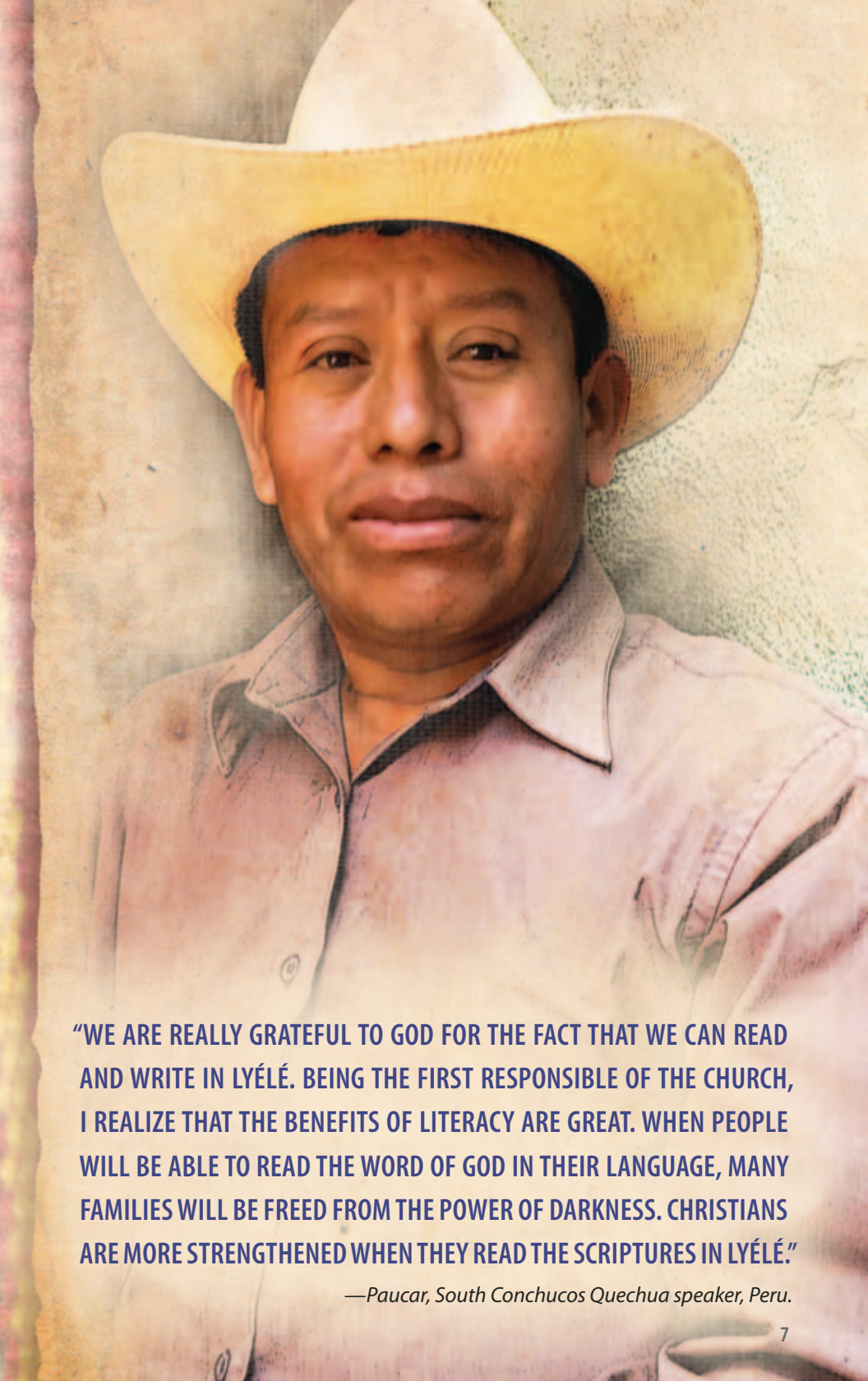
\$10,000 will help ensure that otherwise marginalized language communities are empowered and ready to read and understand God's printed Word, like in Papua New Guinea where nationals are setting up mother-tongue literacy programs in their villages.

\$50,000 will reach language groups in places like Senegal where vital programs promote the use of their translated Scriptures, paving the way for both social and spiritual development. In some places where we partner to equip people to read in their primary language, these funds are urgently needed to fulfill contractual obligations with the governments.

\$65,000 will cover literacy workshops, like those in Indonesia that specifically target women and children. Local educators will be equipped to implement effective mother-tongue literacy programs that can continue without ongoing supervision from the multilingual education and literacy teams.

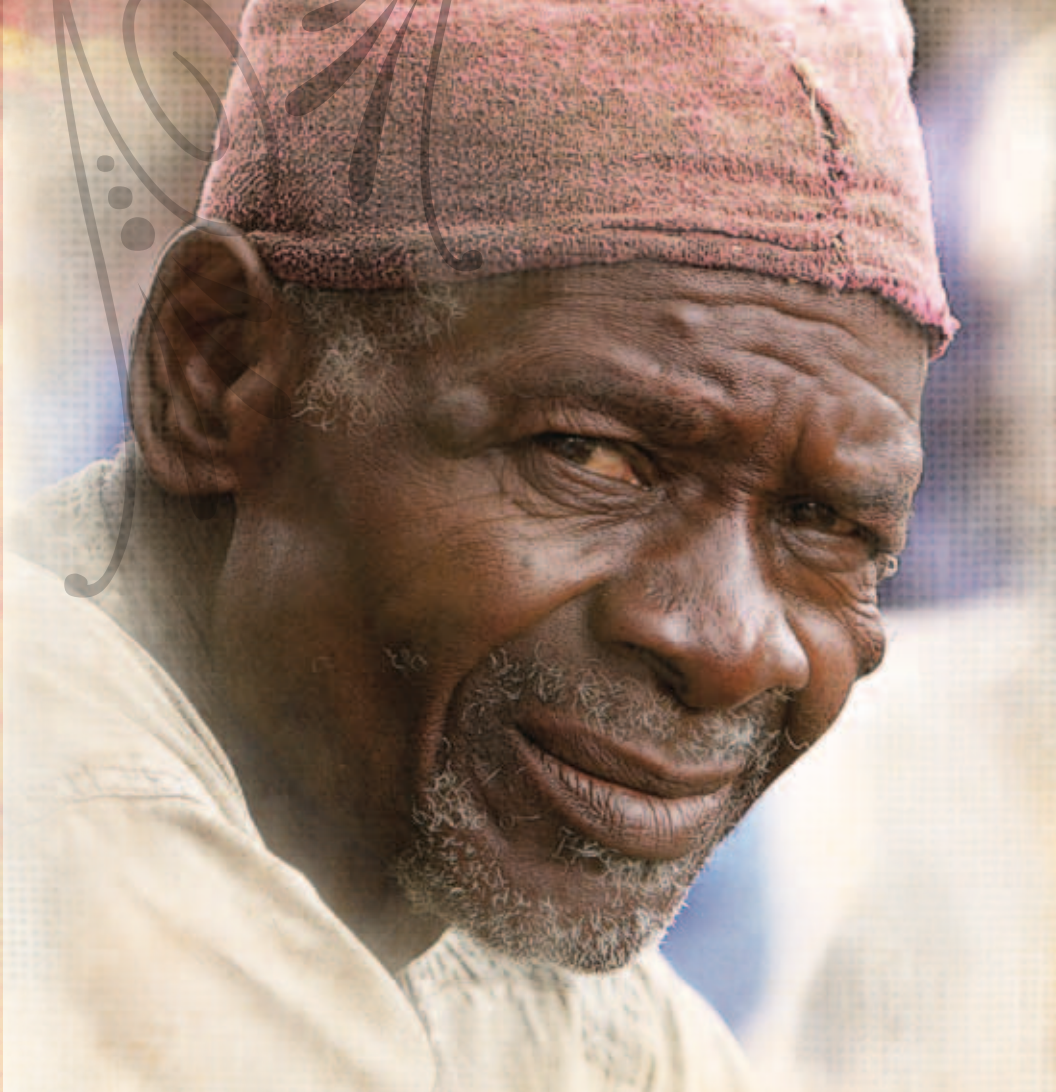
\$115,000 will benefit language groups like the six in a sensitive country of West Asia where our partnership with national community development organizations and individuals allows project personnel to conduct linguistic research, produce literature of social value, translate Scripture, produce literacy materials, and establish sustainable literacy and income-generating initiatives in villages.

\$1 million Based on our current and past budgets, approximately \$1 million is needed annually to fund literacy education programs in nearly thirty language communities where Wycliffe is at work.



"WE ARE REALLY GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR THE FACT THAT WE CAN READ AND WRITE IN LYÉLÉ. BEING THE FIRST RESPONSIBLE OF THE CHURCH, I REALIZE THAT THE BENEFITS OF LITERACY ARE GREAT. WHEN PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO READ THE WORD OF GOD IN THEIR LANGUAGE, MANY FAMILIES WILL BE FREED FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS. CHRISTIANS ARE MORE STRENGTHENED WHEN THEY READ THE SCRIPTURES IN LYÉLÉ."

—Paucar, South Conchucos Quechua speaker, Peru.



"RECENTLY MY LANGUAGE HAS BEEN WRITTEN DOWN, AND I WAS PRIVILEGED TO BE A PART OF THE VERY FIRST LITERACY CLASS IN MY CHURCH. I NOW USE MY OWN LANGUAGE FOR READING, SINGING, TEACHING, AND WRITING LETTERS AND OTHER STORIES. GLORY, GLORY, GLORY! AND PRAISE BE TO GOD!" —*Minyanka speaker, Mali*

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