


A close-up portrait of a woman wearing traditional, multi-layered beaded jewelry. She has a headband with a wooden comb and large, ornate earrings. Her necklace is composed of numerous layers of colorful beads in red, yellow, blue, and black, with silver coins and charms hanging from it. She is looking off to the side with a slight smile. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a blue sky and some structures.

Sharpened Focus.
Refined Perspective.





“NGAT NA CUNG NA TĚK Ī
ATĚMATĚMA TYE KĪ GUM, PĪĚN
KA ĚN ÖLÖÖ ATĚMATĚMA, ĚN
BINO NWONGO TOK MĚ KWÖ
N’OBANGA ÖCĪKĚRĚ MĚ MĪÖ
BOTH JÖ NA MARÖ ĚN.”

— JAMES 1:12

(THUR LANGUAGE, UGANDA)

“BLESSED IS A MAN WHO
PERSEVERES UNDER TRIAL;
FOR ONCE HE HAS BEEN
APPROVED, HE WILL RECEIVE
THE CROWN OF LIFE WHICH
THE LORD HAS PROMISED
TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

— JAMES 1:12 (NASB)

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Seed Company Family,

Time is a gift, especially when it comes to clarifying and embracing a vision for the long haul. As I find myself serving in my eighth consecutive year on the board, I am realizing more and more the beauty of that perspective. It has given me the rare opportunity to see, through all of Seed Company's victories and challenges, a God who is unwavering in his faithfulness to this work of Bible translation, a work that will make Scripture available to every language group in the world.

Since I began serving on the board in 2012, the world has changed in many ways. Today, we find ourselves in the midst of significant financial shifts, challenges in the field, and a global health crisis. Nonetheless, this incredible work of eternal value goes forth. And God is continually providing us with ways to make that happen.

In February of 2020, we thanked Samuel Chiang as he closed a chapter on his dedicated service to Seed Company. During his five-year tenure, he led us through a dynamic season of growth, increasing our annual engagement with language groups by 32 percent. But with that growth came the need to restructure our financial framework. We needed a new, better way to remain viable as an organization while still faithfully stewarding our current project portfolio. Around that time, Samuel concluded that new leadership was needed, but his work here will long be remembered. We continue to pray for him and his family as they follow the Lord's call over their lives.

In the wake of Samuel's departure, the board continued to faithfully and prayerfully guide our organization—looking to God for his direction on a new financial framework, as well as his blessing on a new CEO. Then COVID-19 hit, and the translation work slowed. With travel bans in place, project costs were lower for the short term, but we still needed long-term direction. Those without a single verse of Scripture are still with us, and as always, we want to put an end to their waiting. But we knew the funds at hand would be needed for our current project portfolio once work resumed at its normal rate.

Indeed, this was a difficult time to navigate without leadership in place, so as we conducted a comprehensive search for our next president and CEO, we asked Dr. Larry Jones if he would step in and lead us for a time. But in that transition, God's plan for provision became clear, and the board made a unanimous decision. On Monday, September 28, we commissioned Larry to continue in his role as our president and chief executive officer.

Larry and his wife Linda have worked in Bible translation for more than 40 years. They served with SIL Indonesia as linguistics specialists, translation facilitators, and translation consultants for 12 years, after which Larry went on to serve as Indonesia branch director and Asia area director. He joined Seed Company in 2008 as senior vice president for field programs, and in 2011, he was appointed senior vice president for Bible translation—a role he faithfully served in until February 2020 when he transitioned to his current post.

Larry is a bedrock of stability, uniquely equipped to lead us in both humility and strength as we navigate these days of unparalleled challenge and hardship. But such difficulties provide equal opportunities for growth in perseverance. Under God's direction and Larry's leadership, we will continue to grow both *through* and *in* faith. And just as we always have, no matter the circumstance, Seed Company will continue to seek God for his vision and our role in Bible translation. That's a commitment that will *never* change, no matter how many hardships we face.

Please continue to pray for Seed Company and our partners around the globe as we pursue God's will in accelerating not only Bible translation but also access to his Word throughout the world.

Sincerely,



Jason Baker

Chairman of the Board



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



“We went through fire and flood,
but you brought us to a place
of great abundance.”

— Psalm 66:12b

These words of the psalmist resonate much with my heart as I look back over the first months of my tenure as Seed Company’s president and chief executive officer. I took the reins at a time when we faced serious challenges in our field operations and in the finances needed to support them. Those difficult circumstances required immediate and resolute action from our Seed Company leaders if we were going to remain financially viable and operationally successful, all while maintaining strong connections with our partners around the world.

Then, the COVID-19 tsunami hit.

It was a heavy time for our Seed Company team, like going through fire and flood. Yet today, I look back and can say with the psalmist, “You brought us to a place of great abundance!” God was moved by your prayers, and he used your generous gifts to reposition us, now poised for phenomenal kingdom impact as we move into 2021.

But as we do so, it’s important for us to remember our roots, the foundation that God laid when Seed Company first asked the question: how can we accelerate access to Scripture while maintaining our commitment to accurate, natural-sounding translations that are acceptable to the communities still waiting for God’s Word?

OUR HISTORY OF INNOVATION

Encouraging creativity and innovation has always been a core value of Seed Company. If it weren’t, we would never have pioneered new ways to approach Bible translation. We would never have started the process of identifying partners who were previously overlooked and underestimated. For example, in the 1980s and early 1990s, much of the Bible translation world assumed that faithful Bible translation for the world’s lesser-known languages could only be done under the close direction of highly trained missionary linguists. The speakers of the languages involved in the tasks were often called “language helpers,” “translation assistants,” or “informants.” But Seed Company knew they could do so much more; we valued them as *translators*. Our leaders weren’t the first or only proponents asserting this belief, but we were one of the first organizations to make it a priority. It is who we were and still are: we support our global partners so *they* can make significant contributions to Bible translation. Likewise, Seed Company was the first translation organization to call our giving partners *investors*, providing them a rightful and prominent place in our organizational identity. In both of these innovations—valuing local speakers as translators and prayer and financial partners as investors—we saw how a wider circle of God’s people could play increasingly significant roles in Bible translation. And in opening the way for that to happen, other translation organizations took notice and adopted these same practices.

OUR PRESENT REALITY

Today, we still have a predilection for seeing potential in an ever-widening circle of God’s people around the world—faithful servants who are ready to assume roles of increased responsibility in Bible translation. And by God’s grace, we are here to help them do so effectively. As they become more self-sufficient and the global Bible

translation workforce increases, our prayer now is what it always has been: acceleration toward the day when *all* people groups will have access to God's message in the languages they understand best.

We have already made a significant contribution toward fulfilling that vision, seeing all remaining people groups who need God's Word in their languages get started on that path by 2025. However, we begin the year 2021 with nearly 2,000 people groups still waiting for their first taste of Scripture. It has become painfully clear to us that no single organization—not even one that has experienced God's extraordinary favor like we have in Seed Company—will be able to grow quickly enough to realize that dream in a timely way.

This reality is calling us to look long and hard at what it means to be committed to Vision 2025 in this season. We absolutely will not surrender our passion for seeing all people groups have access to the transformational power of heart language Scripture sooner rather than later, but the impact of COVID-19 in 2020 has caused us to reflect on our methodology. Simply doing more won't enable us to reach our goal by 2025. The chasm is not crossable by our singular efforts, so we must find new ways to bridge that gap, looking creatively—and with eyes of faith—at what new doors God might be opening.

OUR PROMISING FUTURE

I believe we are in a *kairos* moment for the Bible translation cause. In the last 50 years, the global community of Christ followers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America has grown profoundly in number, spiritual maturity, and biblical knowledge. In God's providence, many of those believers have also prospered financially. In this way, God is raising up a fully orbed church around the world, capable of taking her rightful responsibility for all dimensions of Great Commission work, including Bible translation. Sisters and brothers, this means that the human and financial resources needed to address the world's remaining work in Bible translation already exist. And in God's providence, those resources are concentrated precisely in the places where Bible translation needs are greatest! The phenomenal rise of the global church in our lifetime represents the greatest potential for a timely solution on scale to address the remaining translation needs around the world.

Seed Company is leaning deliberately, aggressively, and strategically into this opportunity, an opportunity that

aligns with our historic ministry posture of fueling local partners to share increasing responsibility for the work. It's who we are, and it's who we will always be, but we are adjusting our scope—innovating around best practices in this ever-changing environment. From encouraging local translators, to training translation consultants through our Seed Company Internship Program, to building leaders through our Global Innovations Unit, we long to be God's instrument as we call his people around the world into a dynamic, fruitful collaboration for the Great Commission.

But this vision will not become a reality if the Lord of the harvest does not call many new laborers into the field. Please pray that he would raise up new battalions of Bible translation champions from among God's people around the world. This is not a Seed Company initiative—it is a kingdom effort! We are asking God to continue the good work he has started in building momentum toward greater ownership by our global colleagues, and we want to be good stewards of the increase he has provided. May he establish the work of our hands and allow us to see much lasting fruit from our labors, all for his glory. I am reminded of the powerful promise of Proverbs 16:3: "Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed." May it be so that as we focus our gaze on him, his plans will become increasingly clear and find their success in our obedience to his direction.

Thank you for your generous, prayerful partnership with us in God's great Bible translation cause. May the pages that follow deeply encourage you. In them, you will read stories and testimonies of how God's providence reveals what we have always known to be true: many of our greatest challenges become our greatest opportunities! May you find peace and joy in our Lord as we serve him in the days ahead.

Warmly in Christ,



Larry B. Jones, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer



Click to participate
in our three-minute
guided prayer.



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FISCAL YEAR 2020

(October 1, 2019, through
September 30, 2020)

1,747

CUMULATIVE LANGUAGES
ENGAGED



897

ACTIVE TRANSLATION
PROJECTS AT YEAR END



2,014

REMAINING LANGUAGES THAT
STILL NEED A TRANSLATION



132

ACTIVE QUALITY
ASSURANCE INTERNS



66

ACTIVE CAPACITY
BUILDING INTERNS



133

COUNTRIES



1,143

ACTIVE FIELD PARTNERS



52,993

ACTIVE PRAYER PARTNERS



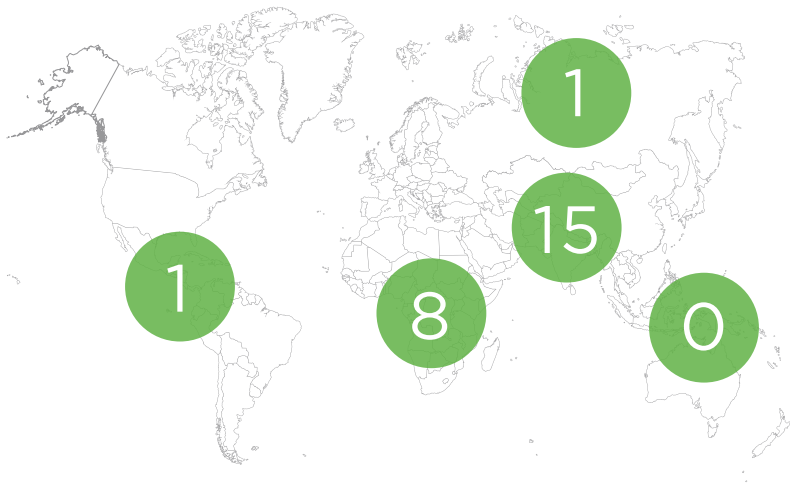
STRENGTHENED BY GRACE

Prayer Partners Stand in the Gap of a Difficult Season

God is indeed unwavering in his work of Bible translation, of spreading his life-giving Word throughout the world in his perfect timing. He graciously invites us to partner with him in that effort, and prayer is the most effective way we can fulfill that calling. **During the challenges of fiscal year 2020, we saw a 345-percent increase in active prayer partners!** As we at Seed Company deepened

our focus, people were praying, and God was moving. Thanks to the faithfulness of our investors, the unhampered vigor of our partners, and the growing commitment of the global church, we continue to see a reduction in the number of people groups waiting to hear God speak their language through his Word.

FISCAL YEAR 2020: NEW ENGAGEMENTS BY REGION



FISCAL YEAR 2020: FIRST SCRIPTURE BY REGION

7 AFRICA	0 AMERICAS	1 EURASIA
5 Anglophone East		
0 Anglophone West	10 ASIA	0 PACIFIC
2 Congo Basin Area	1 Islands	
0 Sahel Area	9 Mainland	
0 Southern	0 South	

25 NEW ENGAGEMENTS **18** FIRST SCRIPTURE

Seed Company reached 25 New Engagement Translations, and of those, 18 were First Scripture Projects.

2021 PROGRESS TO DATE

We plan for 125 new language engagements in fiscal year 2021, and by God's grace, we are well on our way. As of January 1, we joyfully report:

45 NEW ENGAGEMENTS

36 FIRST SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENTS

137 PROJECT TRANSITIONS

42 PROJECT COMPLETIONS

28 QUALITY ASSURANCE INTERNS STARTED

25 CAPACITY BUILDING INTERNS STARTED



Adjusting Our Scope

The more intently we look, the more we see God's guidance in every detail of this great work of Bible translation.

لوين بهرب من روحك يا عليم
لوين بهرب من وجك الكريم

— PSALM 139:7 (LEBARA)

“WHERE CAN I FLEE FROM
YOUR SPIRIT, OH KNOWER!
WHERE CAN I FLEE FROM
YOUR NOBLE FACE!”

— PSALM 139:7

(ENGLISH BACK TRANSLATION)

*“I like this verse because it helps me
to be aware that God is everywhere,
and this fills me with contentment.”*

— MAY, LEBARA TRANSLATOR (EURASIA)

*Wori Haaggane
Yeesso Kiriisto Miinsan*

*Ayyinti Husube
Waakh Eneyet Igooche*



AN UPDATE FROM THE FIELD

Challenges Point to a Promising Future

Dear Seed Company Family,

What a year we have had! We launched into the 2020 fiscal year with a large portfolio of active translations in progress, ambitious goals, and a full pipeline of potential new languages to engage. But in March, we ran headlong into two large challenges in quick succession: first, a realization that our portfolio growth was outpacing our projected revenue, and second, the reality of a global pandemic. Like two massive waves washing over the bow of our ship, these obstacles demanded our immediate attention.

A careful look at our finances necessitated a temporary pause on new language engagements so we could attend to the needs of our ongoing translation projects. We worked with our partners to review our current portfolio and found creative ways to steer the vast majority of our projects to safe harbors. Translation teams could sustain the work on reduced budgets while waiting out the 2020 storm.

Even in the midst of this tumultuous season—and in large measure, *because* of it—we have seen the tremendous resilience of our partners, staff, and translation teams. US-based translation consultants who could not travel to draft-checking workshops pivoted to remote live sessions on Zoom, often working throughout the night to accommodate teams in different time zones on the other side of the globe. These teams also moved their work outside to maintain proper social distancing and mitigate the risks of coronavirus transmission. Even traditional Scripture-engagement activities took on a new form. Such activities are essential to testing the impact and clarity of a new translation, so teams invited community speakers to give their feedback through WhatsApp, another powerful virtual platform.

Ongoing translation projects have indeed found new ways to maintain progress in the face of travel bans, lockdowns, and curfews intended to slow the spread of the virus. If anything, the current challenges have *helped* to invigorate creative approaches aimed at reducing external dependencies and increasing local ownership of the translation task. Taking time to pause for most of fiscal year 2020—to evaluate both projects set to transition to new goals, as well as potential new

language engagements—we are now well positioned for expanded growth! We can focus in earnest on the large number of Bibleless language groups still lacking even a single verse of God’s transforming Word. We have a big faith goal of starting 125 new projects—75 traditionally planned and funded, and another 50 where we equip our global colleagues to take on increasing ownership of the work. By God’s grace, we prayerfully anticipate that up to 94 of these will be First Scripture projects!

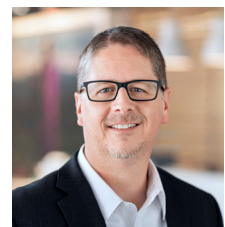
This refined perspective—seeing equal value and urgency in pursuing both traditionally funded projects and those in which mentoring is our greatest investment—necessitates a new direction for our field leadership. Mark Farr has faithfully served Seed Company for nine years, the last five of which have been as the vice president of our Global Innovations Unit (GIU). He knows what it will take to bring both of these field engagement aspects into full alignment. He is passionate about seeing an ever-expanding circle of God’s people taking greater responsibility for the work—especially now, since the resources of the global church are greater today than ever before. As we stand on the verge of these incredible opportunities, we appreciate your prayers as we transition to our new roles—Mark as the next chief field officer, and myself as the senior vice president of our prayer ministries.

Indeed, COVID-19 has helped all of us sharpen our focus, enabling us to envision the greater steps necessary for accelerating this important work. Ironically, this pandemic could “go viral” as the greatest motivator behind the global church growing in leadership and, ultimately, assuming greater ownership in launching its own localized translation efforts.

May it be so!



Bill McCoy
Chief Field Officer



PRESSING ON THROUGH ADVERSITY

Field Teams Around the World Exhibit Courage, Trust in God

From health and financial issues, to relational and faith challenges, to political unrest and natural disasters, our Bible translation colleagues around the world are well acquainted with the various faces of trial. Many live in areas where their beliefs and work are under constant scrutiny. But as 2020 unfolded, yet another challenge surfaced. A global pandemic, along with its associated restrictions and quarantines, confined many to their

homes or villages without the technology needed for continued progress. International travel was suspended, preventing consultants from meeting in person with translation teams. As people became ill or died from COVID-19, fear gripped entire countries, but individuals serving on the front lines of Bible translation braved the storm with relentless courage and eyes of faith. Here are just a few of their stories.



GOSPEL RADIO BREAKS HEARTS — AMERICAS

“In the beginning, our town’s authorities prohibited our congregations from meeting. Now the church has started having services, but with only about 30 people to avoid any conflict with nonbelievers—to prevent those opposed to God’s Word from spreading malicious comments or accusing us of spreading the disease,” explained

Emmanuel Martinez Hernandez, lead translator for the Ngiva people of Mexico. “When churches first closed down, we got a small FM radio transmitter that works well for us locally in our community of 3,000 people. We still use it to worship on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and to transmit what we have recorded: songs, Bible readings, and sermons, all in the Ngiva language.” Emmanuel said people who had stopped going to church listened to the broadcasts and gave their lives to Christ. “Today, they are telling us how the Word of God in their own language is breaking their hearts, and a desire arises in them to leave their bad paths and follow God again.”



| Emmanuel

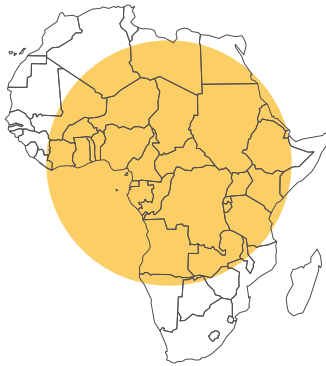


PARTNERING IN PRAYER

— AMERICAS

“In this time of pandemic, we cannot be discouraged, but we need to maintain our confidence and hope that we will return to the village and continue the task that God has entrusted to us,” said Odete Schmalz, translation consultant and project facilitator for the Goa language in Brazil. “It is always very good, very comforting, to know that someone prays for us. To know that there is someone who intercedes for us with the Father in the name of Jesus. This raises our spirits and disposition, and it gives us encouragement. While we wait, we are continuing the initial translation of planned

books, as well as working ahead on chapters in them. Few villages have their phones working, but the news we have received is that they continue to worship God and compose new songs to praise him.”



A FIELD PARTNER'S BLESSING — AFRICA

The three BaYaYa Cluster language teams in the Democratic Republic of the Congo successfully completed their stated goals; all planned work was consultant checked remotely, or with an in-country Congolese consultant, by the end of June. Two teams translated an additional New Testament book of at least 20 chapters, and the third translated an additional 25 chapters of Genesis to finish the book. “The whole world is only announcing bad news about



Dr. N'kwim and Nzita, project manager for the BaYaYa Cluster

the number of deaths related to coronavirus disease,” said Dr. Robert N'kwim, general director of Association Congolaise pour la Traduction de la Bible (ACTB). “Thank you for being, for us, the messenger of the good news of salvation ... through the work of translation. During this difficult time, we proclaim this word of God for you, your personal families, and the whole great family of Seed Company: ‘A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you’” (Psalm 91:7 ESV).



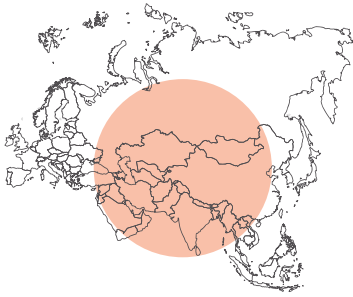
EASTER IN QUARANTINE — AFRICA

Those planning to attend the Sangha Cluster’s nine-language storytelling workshop, set for March in Ouesso, Republic of the Congo, faced many limitations when COVID-19 safety measures and travel restrictions were put in place. Many of the storytellers left early, but some chose to stay a few extra days. They had been preparing for two years and were eager to practice. They told stories on the radio, visited 203 homes, and



reached roughly 6,000 people! Three orality trainers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo were stranded when the borders closed. Then, when they finally made it to Kinshasa in their home country, they were quarantined for 10 days in a hotel with 17 other people who had been evacuated from Brazzaville. It just so happened that it was Easter weekend, so the storytellers held a service for the isolated travelers. The group, which included several government workers, heard the story of Jesus’ resurrection.





IN THE BOAT WITH JESUS
— MAINLAND ASIA

“Swine fever, COVID-19, drought, and flood. Our country has experienced many disasters since the end of last year. Our church, as well, has experienced many attacks,” wrote Paul, lead translator for the Elis people group in mainland Asia. “However, we can still continue our Bible translation work smoothly. We can even work by Zoom, which solves the problem that some translators have in being away from their families during workshops. More than that, we still have a salary—not a penny less—in a situation where many are unemployed. We are full of gratitude.” He then offered a word of encouragement for all believers: “God is the one who loves us to the end. No matter what happens beside us, we are still in the boat of Jesus Christ, with peace and safety.”

VIRTUAL CAPACITY BUILDING — EURASIA

The pandemic forced the cancellation of a large Scripture-engagement conference in Eurasia. How did this affect more than 800 expected attendees? “Several workshop facilitators adjusted their curricula and methods and are using the tools God has provided,” wrote Darcie Drymon, field technology specialist. Facilitators held virtual workshops on everything from oral Bible storytelling techniques to customized app building for Scripture-based products distributed through smartphones and tablets. In one workshop, 17 participants scattered over 11 time zones met two hours each day for four days and received activities for daily practice. Some commented that the format exceeded their expectations, and they hope for more virtual workshops like this in the future.

BLESSED ASSURANCE
— SOUTH ASIA

“When the COVID-19 pandemic started in our country, two of the translators got stranded in their village. Two of us were working from the office. We were in fear, hearing the news about the world situation. Our families and villagers, too, were gripped in fear,” said a Dakon team member in South Asia. “But the Word has encouraged us. We do have a living hope. Our security and strength lie in the Lord. No matter what happens, God is sovereign, everything is under his control, and we belong to him. This assurance has enabled us to move forward. When many people have lost their jobs and are without livelihood, we have work to do, and no one snatches God’s work from our hand. We are grateful to God for calling us into this Bible translation ministry. God is the faithful provider.”

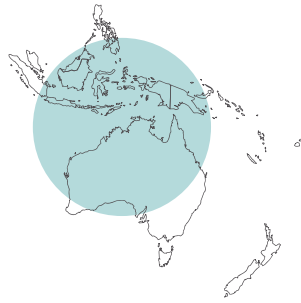


One participant remarked, “Thank God for the ability to receive this training in spite of global social distancing!” Since then, all conference activities have been hosted online, with close to 1,500 participants since last April!



LONGING FOR HEAVEN
— EURASIA

“When crisis compounds the effects of poverty, nomad believers have only the Lord and his promises to cling to. They long for Heaven in a way that few in the West can even begin to relate to,” wrote Alan, an SIL* representative working in Eurasia. In this mountain homeland of 2.5 million people, the ongoing COVID-19 crisis resulted in much illness, death, and financial ruin. “During the monsoon season, severe flooding and landslides destroyed many homes. Crops were wiped out and much livestock perished,” he explained. Translation team members maintained contact with believers by phone, encouraging them and praying for them. In late summer, they were finally able to visit several locations to share heart language Scripture. “Through these visits, a number of new people, including one religious teacher, professed faith, while several others were baptized,” Alan said.



**EQUIPPING THE SAINTS,
ONLINE — PACIFIC**

Deb Smucker, a project facilitator with the Sepik Partnership Engagement Strategy (SPES) team in Papua New Guinea, reports on behalf of the Lumi Oral Bible Storytelling Cluster. She wrote this prayer request: “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and various restrictions within the country,

workshops are currently on hold. Pray that the SPES team will know how to use this ‘extra’ time wisely to continue to develop the team as new members have recently arrived, as well as to prepare for upcoming programs when activities can resume.” And God answered! Later in the year, she reported, “Three of the newer team members have been able to take an **Oral Bible Translation (OBT)** online course from Dallas International University. They are learning lots about the whole OBT process, as well as ways they can integrate what they have learned into the Papua New Guinean setting. This has been an invaluable experience for all of them.”



**SIL is an international organization that partners with us in support of Bible translation for the world's lesser-known languages.*



VIRTUAL CONSULTANT CHECKING

The Work Continues in Southeast Asia

Translation consultant Roger Hanna has been faithfully working with cluster projects in Southeast Asia for the past 10 years. Every three months, he travels there for a three-week workshop, checking the translations of different teams within the cluster. The translators always look forward to this special time where multiple teams meet in one central location, where they can work collaboratively, compare notes, and enjoy fellowship with one another. Naturally, there are lots of moving parts to organizing such an event—arranging travel and lodging, juggling family and job commitments while away, and finalizing the workshop agenda itself. Even in the best of circumstances, planning can be a challenge.

No one ever expects a global pandemic to be thrown into the mix.

Last April, Roger was preparing to travel to a workshop with the Simar Cluster, a project that kicked off in March 2019 to represent seven people groups who are preparing the gospel of Luke, **the “JESUS” film**, and worship songs in their respective languages. These seven translation efforts have the potential to impact over 500,000 people, the majority of whom still adhere to traditional animistic practices and other major religions.

Unfortunately, two days before leaving, Roger learned that his trip would be canceled due to COVID-19. While unpacking his bags and preparing for what could have become a long project delay, he wondered if God would make a different way forward, just like he did with the apostle Paul—bound in prison, yet still inspired to write “the word of God cannot be chained” (2 Timothy 2:9). What a reminder of the freedom of God’s Word to go forth, even in the midst of a world pandemic.

God’s Word does not shelter in place, Roger thought, so what if we were to try doing this virtually?

USING TECHNOLOGY FOR WORKSHOPS

Roger shifted gears to set up a remote workshop, but it wasn’t without its fair share of challenges. What would have taken three weeks in person took six weeks virtually. Most of the seven language teams in the cluster had enough bandwidth to make Zoom video

conferencing and Paratext translation software work, but some of the teams didn’t. Sometimes, they resorted to using cell phones and WhatsApp audio. One translator rode her motorcycle 20 minutes out of the way, and several others hiked to the top of a hill, only to get a weak signal, or no signal at all. The translation facilitators on the two teams with which Roger specifically works (the Jia and the Atat) also struggled; they, too, were forced to use their phones to connect with the teams.

Clearly, no amount of technology can ever replace the benefits of face-to-face interaction. That’s why Roger was grateful that the Simar teams had received a full year of in-person trainings through quarterly workshops before the pandemic hit.

“Because we’d already had four face-to-face workshops—and a lot of the core training on translation principles—we were able to do this. We couldn’t have started virtually, but because the teams had a good foundation, God enabled us to keep going,” he said.

At first, Roger connected with his teams by Zoom while they still met together in their local villages, practicing social distancing and wearing face masks. But later, quarantining was mandated, and the translators had to “Zoom in” from their individual homes, increasing technical difficulties. Fear of the pandemic among local leadership, as well as among translators and their families, added another layer of struggle. But in all, these trials did not dampen their spirits or derail their commitment to the work. For the Simar Cluster, **new challenges simply became their springboard for greater opportunities to innovate and grow.**

By July, when the teams’ next workshop was scheduled to begin, they had learned how to work smarter, not harder, in this ever-changing global landscape. Since international travel was no longer an option, Seed Company’s field project manager was able to reallocate transportation funds toward much-needed technology enhancements that would increase internet bandwidth. Roger’s teams were able to meet together in one place again, along with the facilitators and Roger’s mentee, a consultant in training. Only a few couldn’t make it due to provincial travel restrictions. All the while, Roger selflessly persevered through middle-of-the-night sessions on Zoom with his friends halfway around the world.



And within three weeks—the *same* amount of time it would have taken for a normal face-to-face session—all seven teams had completed consultant checks, while three new consultants received mentoring.

“We were able to get it done! We encouraged people to set aside the time, just as if they were at a regular workshop,” Roger said, still marveling at the significance of this accomplishment. “The teams were so engaged and supportive, and Seed Company’s flexibility was so helpful. We are all learning, and things are improving. Many are looking at the bright side—being able to do the work from their home villages, where they have more time with their families, and more people can participate in comprehension testing. They miss being able to connect in person with all the other Simar Cluster teams, but they remain positive. Everyone wants to continue the work. It excites me to see what God wants to do now in this new environment.”

ENCOURAGING OUTCOMES IMPROVE MORALE

Roger is full of hope. Despite a pandemic that continues to linger in its potential to both threaten the work and squelch team spirit, **the Simar Cluster has stayed on course.** Larger church services in their villages have been canceled, but families meet together in small groups, studying first editions of Luke 4-9. In October, Roger completed another equally successful three-week virtual checking session of Luke 10-13; now, trial editions of the chapters are being printed and distributed. For the first time ever, seven people groups now have over half the gospel of Luke in their own languages.

For each checking session, Roger and his wife Leanne choose a theme verse. How fitting that the powerful message of October’s verse, Luke 9:23, speaks to their current reality.

“For Leanne and me, denying ourselves, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus means different things at different times,” Roger said. He explained that, normally, their “cross” is giving up the comforts of home to travel to Southeast Asia and work with their colleagues for a month at a time. Now, that cross is working a graveyard shift from 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. so they can sync up with the teams during their normal 8-to-5 workday.

Either way, the Hannas have learned what it means to faithfully follow Jesus in unprecedented, and unexpected, ways. As Roger has already started reviewing Luke 14-16 for the next workshop scheduled this month, he now knows, more than ever, that God is in the details—virtually and in person—sorting out how, when, and where he will accomplish his good work, in his perfect timing.

“Pade Yesus nanguli ka hira pura-pura,
 ‘T hema anu madota majadi topotintuniKu,
 ia inja mamala mombatintuni dotana mboto,
 ia kana mahadia nombahimbu salibnaa
 eo-eo ante nju-nju nombatintuni Yaku.”

— LUKE 9:23
 (JIA LANGUAGE)

“Then he said to the crowd, ‘If any of
 you wants to be my follower, you must
 give up your own way, take up your
 cross daily, and follow me.’”

— LUKE 9:23



TESTIMONIES FROM THE SIMAR CLUSTER

“ Before this workshop, I thought that, as a follower of Jesus, my life would be continuously happy. Now, I realize that following Jesus does not always go as smoothly as I had imagined. Because of our theme verse (Luke 9:23), my mind has been opened as to what it truly means to follow Jesus. It means that I will encounter trials, but that he will always strengthen me. Even though I now understand more about the costs of following Jesus, I still want to surrender my life to the Lord. Please pray for me. ”



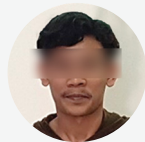
NOVI, MABETE TRANSLATION TEAM

“ When my wife was in the midst of a very difficult pregnancy, I pleaded to God for his help. He kept my wife safe and gave us a healthy child. After experiencing God’s love and grace in such a deep and personal way, I pledged to give my time to him, and I began training to become a pastor. Now my family and I have been given this opportunity to be part of the Liba Bible translation team. Although we now face this pandemic, our family is learning to take up our cross daily to follow him. We want to give our lives to him to use us however he pleases. ”



PASTOR NORMAN, LIBA TRANSLATION TEAM

“ I almost gave up being part of our translation team. I felt confused and worried about the concerns that I face in this world. So, I prayed to the Lord Jesus about it and asked him for an answer. Then I opened my hand phone and read some of the verses we had translated—that God cares for the birds of the air, and that he values me much more (Luke 12:22-24). I plan to remain on the team until our work is finished. Please pray for me. ”



ALNO, RUSINEKA TRANSLATION TEAM





INTERNS STEP UP

Obstacles Spark Renewed Vision and Responsibility in Bible Translation

During a normal workday, Seed Company interns closely follow their mentors—sitting beside them to study their exegesis, visiting their desks to receive spot checks for their work, or brainstorming strategies for engaging people with God’s Word. But 2020 changed “normal” for everyone.

When it felt like COVID-19 closed down the world, a whole new avenue of opportunity opened up for 198 currently active Seed Company interns. As they biked up dusty roads, drove many miles, and harnessed technology to receive and give training, they grew as Bible translation leaders in their communities. Here are just a few stories of how they rose to the occasion.

ZUBAIR: TRAVELING BY PHONES AND ROADS IN EURASIA

In 2018, Zubair graduated with a master of divinity from a theological college in his country. For the last two years, he has been serving as a Scripture-engagement intern in Eurasia. He’s less than one year away from becoming a Scripture-engagement specialist.

Zubair works with nine language teams, helping them think through ways for their communities to actively use Scripture in an Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS) context. Normally, Zubair hosts monthly meetings where multiple volunteers from neighboring villages come together to craft Bible passages into stories and then learn how to share them with others.

But when his country in Eurasia shut down, Zubair had to rethink how they should connect.

Although the locals weren’t allowed outside their villages, Zubair was still able to travel into theirs. But with public transportation halted, he had to ride his motorcycle for long hours on bumpy roads. It took a great deal of time to visit each village, one by one.

“It was very difficult for me,” remembers Zubair, “but one day, I was studying the Bible for a session, and I was encouraged by Philippians 4:13. I would say, ‘Zubair can do everything through Christ who gives him strength.’”

Many people have attended Zubair’s OBS meetings, sometimes more than they had before the pandemic! And they are taking what they learn home to their families.

“One OBS worker told me that, because of COVID-19, he was able to start family prayers in his home. This was very encouraging to me,” Zubair says.

OBS workers and volunteers are free to continue sharing Scripture within their own villages. And in between his monthly motorcycle visits to those residing in other villages, Zubair continues his duties, using his phone as a tool for mentoring and encouraging them.

JOSEMA: STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE IN LUQUE, PARAGUAY

After more than three years of hard work, Josema is only one year away from becoming a full-fledged Bible translation consultant. He also currently serves as a professor at the Universidad Evangélica del Paraguay (UEP).

Josema recently learned that pandemic delays can often have the opposite effect—in his case, *accelerating* his training. Chris, one of Josema’s translation consulting mentors, will soon be reassigned to another location. To be ready for that transition, Josema must keep up with his studies so he is ready to step into independent consulting when Chris moves on.

Using Zoom, Josema led his first translation checking session of Acts in the Mixe del Istmo Guichicovi language. He also continued gaining expertise in Paratext and Logos, two innovative translation software technologies. In fact, he learned them so well that he was able to lead a Zoom workshop in Paratext and solve issues within both systems.

When Josema isn’t consulting, he teaches Hebrew, Old Testament exegesis, and missiology at UEP. But even while teaching, Josema is working for the Bible translation cause. “My main goal in teaching is recruiting people from my classes to be part of the Bible translation movement,” Josema shares. This summer, he recruited two of his students to serve as exegetes,

checking the Ache and Nandeva translations against the original Hebrew and Greek texts.

Working steadily toward the mission of Bible translation requires patience and a vision for what the church can accomplish with time. When he began his consultancy training, Josema asked himself, “How can I fully enjoy being part of *missio Dei* [God’s mission]?” This year, he discovered his answer: “I have realized that dedicating your entire life to the mission is living one day at a time, enjoying every moment. That is my main prayer today: enjoy God’s mission every day.”

Since the earliest grants given in 1994 and the formalization of Seed Company’s Internship Program in 2006, Seed Company investors have helped 301 international interns cross the finish line. With the Lord’s provision, 84 percent of all graduates still work in the Bible translation movement today. *As of 5/14/20*



With over 8.5 million members, Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Ethiopia. They are currently responsible for the implementation of several Seed Company projects, including Aham, Arbore, and Me’en, as well as the Ezra and Nehemiah Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS) cluster projects.

Keleme Kana Bota has extensive theology training, and in 2012, he became a translation coordinator for EKHC. In 2017, he transitioned to his current position as their mission department head and became a capacity building intern through Seed Company’s Internship Program. With a focus on leadership development, he is currently pursuing a doctorate in ministry management from Dallas Theological Seminary and hopes to graduate this May. EKHC leadership has identified Keleme as the key person to move the EKHC translation program to the next level of complexity and impact.

“Above all, God is in control! Here at EKHC, we are praying for you all, your beloved family members, your ministry, the whole US, and other countries, so you are not alone. Please take just a few minutes to read and reflect on Psalm 46:1–11. This too shall pass!”

— **Keleme Kana Bota**, Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC) Mission Department Head



SEED COMPANY'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Our internships provide an opportunity for growth in various roles essential to Bible translation. Seed Company partners with local organizations around the world to offer study programs, training, and practicum for interns. The program offers two main tracks:

Quality Assurance: Interns in this track act as final advisors and checkers for translated manuscripts. They ensure effective communication of the text in four areas: accuracy, clarity, naturalness, and acceptability. Interns graduate as either consultants in training or exegetical facilitators.

Capacity Building: This track focuses on building strategies for Scripture engagement in local communities. Interns fill roles needed to build capacity in Bible translation worldwide in areas like leadership, operations, and field programs.

Once interns complete their programs, they will be able to train others—**amplifying a cycle of growth where native speakers empower community members to take the lead in Bible translation and engagement.**

OUR INTERNS AROUND THE WORLD

Africa

- Anglophone East (62)
- Anglophone West (64)
- Congo Basin (58)
- Sahel (44)
- Southern (30)

Americas (54)

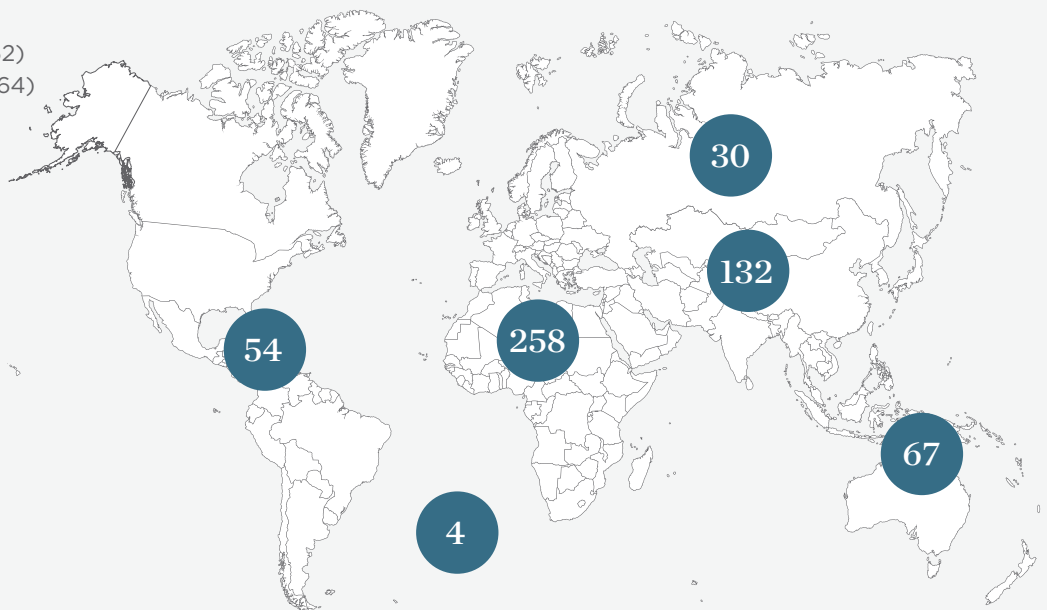
Asia

- Islands (54)
- Mainland (21)
- South (57)

Eurasia (30)

Pacific (67)

Unspecified (4)



CUMULATIVE TOTAL: 545 Quality Assurance and Capacity Building Interns (as of December 1, 2020)



Focusing the Light

As God equips us in every good way,
we give him all the glory—celebrating
the work he is doing in our midst.

—

“MANA NINAYIMANYA YO MIPANGO
NIMWAZIRAYO MWIMWI. YIYO NI
MIPANGO YA KUNG’ARIRWA NA WALA
TS’I YA MAI, NI MIPANGO YA KUMUP’A
KULUPHIRO RA TS’IKU ZIDZAZO.”

— JEREMIAH 29:11
(DURUMA LANGUAGE, AFRICA)

“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE
FOR YOU,” SAYS THE LORD. “THEY
ARE PLANS FOR GOOD AND NOT
FOR DISASTER, TO GIVE YOU
A FUTURE AND A HOPE.”

— JEREMIAH 29:11



LOCKING DOWN ON DEDICATIONS

God's Word Continues to Spread

In God's economy, a year of unprecedented challenges only serves to sweeten his provisions for victory. We joyfully commend our national colleagues for completing and formally dedicating 39 Bible translation products in 34 dedication ceremonies in fiscal year 2020.

Some language communities had to postpone events due to the pandemic, but they still managed to find appropriate ways to celebrate the completion of their translation goals. For example, the Idaasha of Benin received 8,000 New Testaments in April and held a

small consecration ceremony. Even without a formal dedication to encourage Scripture use, half of the copies sold within one month. Innocent, a translator, says, "You can't imagine my emotion every time I hold the Idaasha New Testament in my hand, and what it does to me when I read it. I'm happy, really happy, and there are no words."



Click to celebrate with those who have received Scripture for the very first time.

HEART LANGUAGE SCRIPTURE DEDICATIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

Africa (7)

- Aringa
- Kupsapiiny
- Mozambican Sign Language
- Nyungwe
- Ron
- South Sudanese Sign Language
- Samburu

Americas (2)

- Huamalies-Dos De Mayo Quechua
- Patpatar

Asia (20)

- Bagatur*
- Balir*
- Bijay*
- Charim*
- Duko*
- Godavari*
- Gurija*
- Hampuma*

- Himauri*
- Kaylar*
- Manavar*
- Mudaba*
- Napin*
- Pandan*
- Pandhi*
- Patap*
- Trabhat*
- Viku*
- Waru*
- Yok*

Eurasia (1)

- Briyani*

Pacific (4)

- Dela
- Gumawana
- Nukeria
- Rikou

**Indicates pseudonyms used for areas hostile to Christian activity*

PRODUCTS BY REGION

Africa (8)

- 4 New Testaments
- 1 Set of 5 Old Testament Books
- 1 Book of Psalms
- 2 Sets of 110 Sign Language Stories

Americas (2)

- 1 Full Bible
- 1 Book of Psalms

Eurasia (1)

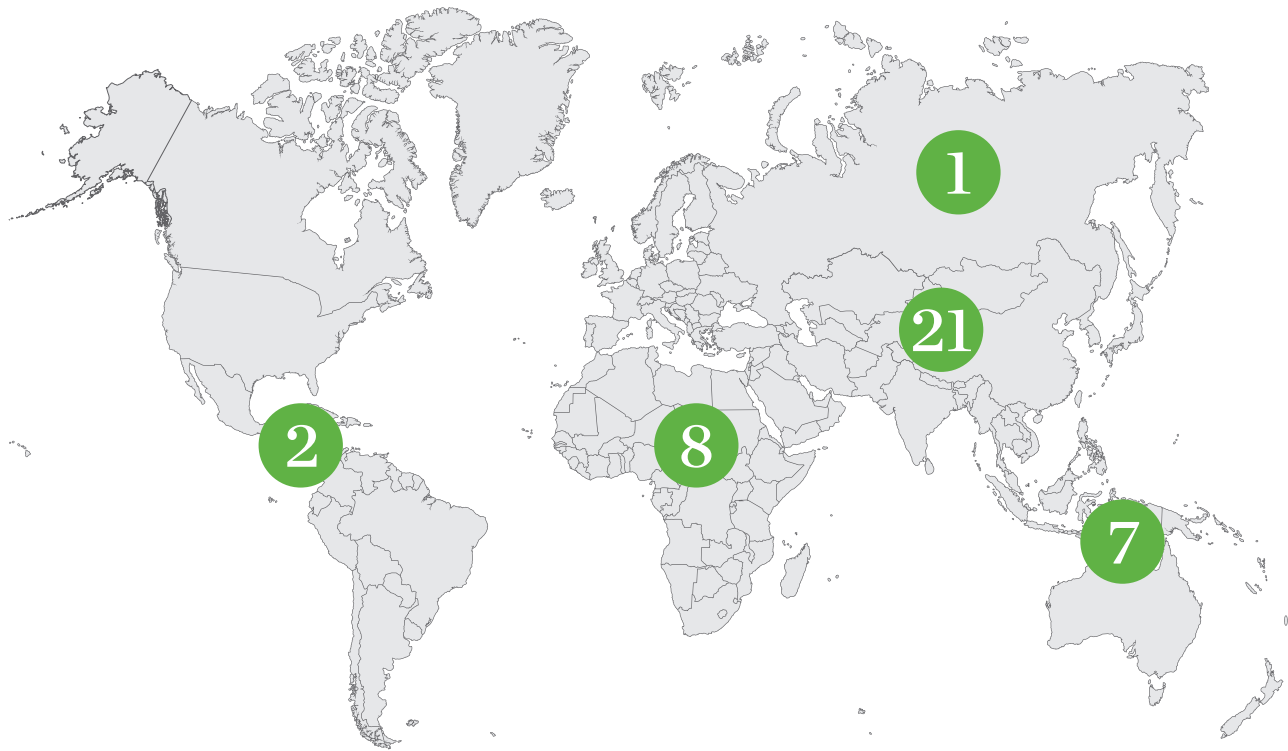
- 1 New Testament

Asia (21)

- 17 New Testaments
- 1 Set of Luke and James
- 1 Set of Selected Old Testament Books
- 2 Sets of Selected New Testament Books

Pacific (7)

- 4 New Testaments
- 2 Books of Genesis
- 1 Set of 4 Old Testament Books





THE LIVING WATER OF SCRIPTURE

Ongoing Sustenance in Oaxaca, Mexico

For days, the people of Santa Catarina Mechoacán prepared to celebrate. Women made hundreds of tortillas. Children gathered firewood. Men delivered a cow and a truckload of pineapples.

“What if it rains?” someone asked. Rain wasn’t likely; it was still dry season and hadn’t rained in months. But lead translator Arnulfo said with certainty, “It will rain when the dedication is over.” Considering this, someone volunteered to put up a large tent to protect the boxes of New Testaments, the display table, and the 500 chairs set up for guests. Some locals, who pride themselves on predicting the weather, laughed when they saw the tent go up. “Why put up a tent?” they scoffed. “It’s not going to rain.”

The celebration began on May 25, 2019. Men hefted boxes of New Testaments onto their shoulders. Smiling broadly, Arnulfo carried a basket of fresh tortillas symbolizing the Bread of Life.

“We paraded through the streets of Mechoacán until we reached the municipal esplanade,” UNTI* representative Mirel writes. “More than 500 people participated in the arrival of the New Testament, which was received in a moving way with songs, music, tears, applause, and cries of joy.”

As evening came, everyone gathered up their belongings to go home. Suddenly, with no warning, rain poured down “like a blessing,” Arnulfo says. People ran out to celebrate the first rain of the year. Those who had scoffed were amazed. “How did they know it was going to rain?” they asked. “They must truly know God!” The boxes of New Testaments stayed dry.

“Just as the rain came at the right time to satisfy and give life to the land of Mechoacán,” Mirel writes, “so did the Word of God come to sustain, heal, restore, and give life to the soul and heart of all people who are now satisfied, for the Word of Life remains forever.”

LIVING OUT LOUD

In many small, isolated towns, community announcements are read over a loudspeaker several times a day. In Santa Catarina, that loudspeaker happens to be in

“Kua’an ndo nikaka’nu nu ñu’un ñayivi,
ta ka’an ndo tu’un Nyoo
tsi’in tandiñ ñayivi.”

— MARK 16:15
(MIXTECO DE MECHOACÁN)

“And then he told them,
‘Go into all the world and preach the
Good News to everyone.’”

— MARK 16:15

Arnulfo’s home. When COVID-19 restrictions prevented church gatherings, his wife Alvina began reading the New Testament over it, along with the daily news.

Some townfolk protested the Scripture readings. Arnulfo thought about reminding them that he had official permission. Instead, he and Alvina tried to be considerate by reducing the number of readings. But others complained, “We want to hear more of the Bible in our language!”

Although grateful for the loudspeaker, Arnulfo wishes he was “a rich man” so he could buy an actual radio station, one fully dedicated to broadcasting live or prerecorded Scripture readings and discussions. He smiles and his eyes light up with mischief as he ponders the possibilities. “Everyone could play their radios so loudly that their neighbors could hear it too,” he winks.

Thankfully, the loudspeaker isn’t the only way Mixteco de Mechoacán people are hearing the Word. Just before COVID-19 restrictions were in place, **100 Mega-Voice players loaded with the New Testament arrived.** All 100 were snapped up—just in time for the quarantine. Men listen to them while working in their fields.

Women hear God's Word while they cook in their outdoor kitchens. Now, so many people are asking questions about Scripture that Arnulfo and Pedro, the local pastor, can't keep up with them all.

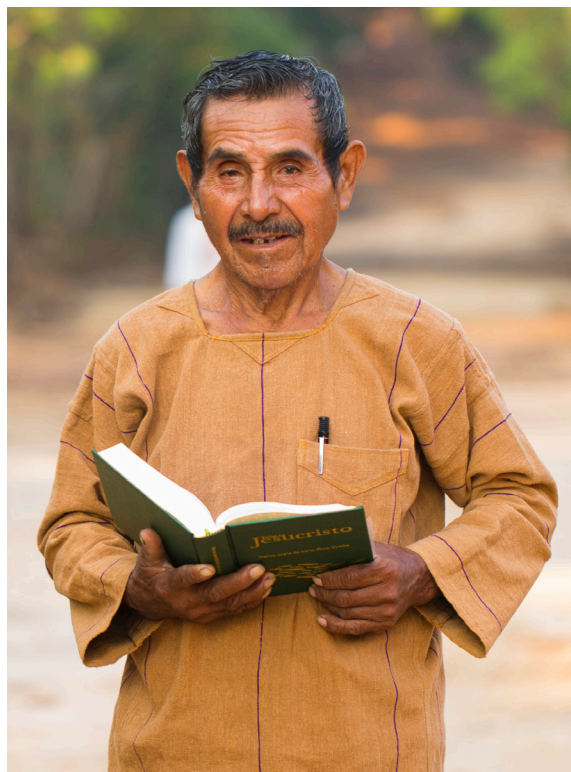
Sixty people are on the waiting list for a MegaVoice of their own, including one of Arnulfo and Alvina's neighbors. She reminds Alvina every day that she's on the list and asks when she'll get hers. One hundred more MegaVoice recorders were sent recently, but the post office can't deliver them because of the pandemic.

Although most adults still prefer the MegaVoice players and eagerly await receiving them, **young people are using the cell phone Scripture app that came out in early July.** They like to follow the written text as they listen to the audio New Testament.

CONTINUING THE WORK

Many years ago, Pastor Pedro was the one who challenged Arnulfo to translate the New Testament. "I am not going to die until you get it done," he told Arnulfo.

Pastor Pedro speaks enough Spanish to get by, but he isn't fluent; Mixteco de Mechoacán is his heart language. Arnulfo and Pastor Pedro joke that the



| Pastor Pedro

New Testament is done, but Pedro is still alive. "I think he's made up his mind not to die until I get the Old Testament done too!" Arnulfo laughs.

In appreciation for the New Testament in their language, town authorities gave Arnulfo an office to use for further Bible translation work. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the office was closed for two months, but in June, Arnulfo was able to work there again. Arnulfo is currently translating their first Old Testament book—Psalms—on his own initiative.

Why Psalms? **Arnulfo says the psalms inspire us to praise God and show gratitude.** "Psalms make you sing and smile," he says. "When I read the psalms in Spanish, they are just plain. But in my language, they are so beautiful—*con sabor* (with flavor/spice)!"

As he walks home from the office, Arnulfo often makes up tunes and sings the verses he translated that day. When people ask him if he's drunk, he joyfully responds, "I'm not drunk on alcohol. I'm drunk on God's Word!"

**UNTI (Union of National Indigenous Translators) is the local Seed Company partner providing management and support for the Mixteco de Mechoacán project.*





“IT’S MY FOOD.”

Recently, Arnulfo visited a town about three hours away. As he walked down the road, he overtook a man walking in front of him. Just making conversation, he pointed to the man’s *morral* (shoulder bag) and asked, “What are you carrying there?”

The man answered, “It’s my food.” Arnulfo asked what kind of food it was. To his surprise, the man pulled out the Mixteco de Mechoacán New Testament. He said a friend had given it to him. “This is my food,” he said. “And I am going to learn to read so I can eat it.”

| Arnulfo, Alvina, and their children





A TREK TO THE TOP

Perseverance in Translating the Complete Quechua Bible

“We hardly speak a word of Spanish in our homes,” a Quechua man said, “so why do we use it so much in church?”

Speakers of various Quechua dialects throughout the Peruvian Andes had asked that same question for years. Though congregants, and even pastors, have always had trouble understanding Spanish, they felt cultural pressure to use the language in church. **Quechua people use their heart language in everyday conversations**, but when it came to learning about God and relating to him, Spanish was all they heard—until recently.

In December 2019, Quechua speakers in the Huamalíes and Dos de Mayo provinces dedicated their complete Bible. But much like the effort it takes to enjoy the incredible views from their mountaintop home, the Quechua didn’t reach that peak without a climb.

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

In 1980, SIL* began work in the Huamalíes-Dos de Mayo dialect when linguists Bruce and Jan Benson began living in that area. In 1989, Mark Bean picked up the project, while his wife Patti oversaw logistics. And after 23 years of faithful service, Huamalíes-Dos de Mayo speakers dedicated their New Testament.

More than two decades of hard translation work seems like a lot, until you consider all the other important milestones that were accomplished in that time. Language learning, relationship building, literacy work, and pastoral training were all integral to the effort, but as the Quechua contemplated their next steps toward Old Testament translation, they couldn’t help but ask: *With almost three times as many verses as the New Testament, how much longer would it take?* Seed Company partnered with the cluster project of Quechua dialects from 2002 through 2015 to support and accelerate this culture-shaping effort.

Using translation software to expedite the process, team members adapted a completed Old Testament draft from a neighboring Quechua dialect into rough drafts for two more Quechua dialects: Huamalíes-Dos de Mayo and another closely related one.

Throughout the project’s duration, three local team members—Walter, Wilmer, and Leoncio—worked closely alongside Mark. With complementary skills and personalities, they helped lead cluster workshops and translate the Bible into Huamalíes-Dos de Mayo.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Wilmer made many treks through the mountains—sometimes on foot, and sometimes packed with other passengers into trucks or cars—to deliver translated Scriptures to isolated Quechua villages. He passed through bandit territories, walked for hours until his feet felt “like lead,” chased a runaway pack mule, and endured bitterly cold nights.

But villagers’ responses of both new and renewed faith made it all worthwhile. People joyfully shed tears when they heard Scripture in Quechua. They gratefully exclaimed, “God hasn’t forgotten us!”

Wilmer’s mountain expeditions mirrored what many on the translation team had experienced through the years. Technical difficulties, sickness, vehicle accidents, and the loss of loved ones were all too common. “We were constantly going through obstacles and difficulties,” Wilmer says, “but God always gave us his support.”

After the drafts of the two Quechua dialects were polished, Mark used translation software to adapt them to several other dialects. Native speakers worked with Mark to further improve the translation, ultimately ending up with six full Bibles, all published digitally with five in print as well.

Though New Testament revisions and Old Testament drafts were completed by April 2016, several important steps remained to fine-tune the translations. Finally, in August 2019, the Korean Bible Society printed the completed Bibles and packed them for their long journey—first, across the Pacific Ocean, and then, more than 11,000 feet high into the Andes Mountains.

**SIL is an international organization that partners with us in support of Bible translation for the world’s lesser-known languages.*



CELEBRATING IN UNITY

On December 8, the long-awaited celebration had finally arrived for people from the Huamalíes and Dos de Mayo provinces: it was time to dedicate their completed Bible! SIL and Seed Company representatives also joined in to give God the glory for what he had done through their partnership with the local team.

The evening before the official dedication, Christians representing all denominations packed into the biggest church in the town of Llata for a worship service. A Quechua pastor testified that when he began teaching from the translated Scriptures instead of Spanish, believers were empowered to begin worshiping in their heart language as well. “The Quechua translation is a unifier, drawing believers together in one common identity,” Mark says. “There’s a real spirit of cooperation, harmony, brotherhood, and rejoicing from all these disparate groups that normally might criticize each other.”

The next morning, with many more arriving from distant mountain villages, everyone gathered for a parade and the dedication service. Unlike most Scripture dedications where printed copies are presented to the community for the very first time, this celebration allowed for the purchase of Bibles prior to the event. Quechua speakers proudly held up their copies, praising God as they marched through the streets. The block-long parade wound its way through street after street, with the sounds of drums, trumpets, saxophones, clarinets, violins, and harps filling the air.

From the parade, attendees made their way to the community’s bullring and found their seats in the large stadium. During the service, Mark spoke from Psalm 19 about the goodness of God’s Word. Hundreds of attendees followed along in their Bibles, while those who hadn’t yet purchased copies peered over their shoulders to see the passage for themselves.

The event gave occasion for Huamalíes-Dos de Mayo speakers to look not only at how far they’d come, but also where they are now headed. Pastors publicly committed to teach using Quechua rather than Spanish in their churches, leaving behind what was expected and customary for what would be meaningful and clear.

LOOKING AHEAD

Throughout the years, God has opened doors for translators to pursue opportunities beyond the translation work, opportunities that allow them to continue using their gifts and passions for kingdom expansion. Leoncio now promotes the Quechua translation among his high school language arts students. Walter is the director of a local organization dedicated to the distribution and promotion of the Quechua Scriptures. Wilmer is a denominational leader and has started many mission classes in local churches. And Quechua speakers in Huamalíes and Dos de Mayo provinces continue to enjoy and share translated Scriptures in their churches, homes, and communities.

Without a doubt, the finished Bible was a milestone to commemorate, but it is also a responsibility to steward.

“The finished translation is the seed in the hands of the church’s leaders,” Wilmer says. “Now we have a lot of work: sowing, cultivating, and watering for a good harvest of the Quechuas for the kingdom of heaven. God’s eternity awaits all the Quechuas of Peru ... and the thousands of languages of the world.”



Click to watch God’s Word delivered after 23 years.

A QUECHUA TRANSLATOR'S JOURNEY TO FAITH



Wilmer, a young Quechua speaker from Dos de Mayo Province, was motivated to fight for the liberation of his people. His teachers emphasized that Peruvians were oppressed by foreign capitalistic countries. “The only way to achieve your freedom is when you fight for that fair cause yourselves,” they said.

Influenced and inspired by communist ideologies, Wilmer became a militant with the Shining Path, a revolutionary terrorist organization. He also became involved with cocaine production.

After five years in that lifestyle, Wilmer was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He underwent hospital treatments for 10 months and then spent four months in a private clinic. Medical workers from both places told him that his lungs were completely atrophied. They estimated he had six months to live, and they encouraged family members to prepare for his funeral. During that time, pastors befriended Wilmer and told him about Jesus’ good news, but he rejected them again and again.

Because of the pain in his lungs, Wilmer rarely left his house, and he had trouble sleeping. One restless evening, he happened to hear a Christian radio host speaking about the power of prayer. Worried not only about his own health but also his mother’s long-term illness, Wilmer decided to take his family to the city for an evangelistic campaign.

“That night, my whole family received the forgiveness of Jesus Christ and, in addition, divine healing for both my mother and my lungs,” Wilmer recalls. But leaving the Shining Path was not easy, and not without repercussions.

Six months after Wilmer’s conversion, they captured him. “They kept me three days and three nights on a mountain, and they tied my hands and feet, waiting to convict me in a popular trial and give me death,” Wilmer says, remembering the price he paid for leaving the terrorist organization.

But during his time as a prisoner of war, Wilmer held fast to the freedom he’d found in Christ. A Shining Path guerrilla went shopping in a nearby town and said to a woman at the store, “There is a prisoner who prays a lot, and they cannot kill him. When the chiefs enter, they must feel weakness.”

The woman immediately told her pastor, who told another pastor, and soon enough, **many believers who didn’t even know Wilmer fasted and prayed for his freedom.** “God [granted] me a miracle to be released on the third day,” Wilmer remembers with joy.

Still, Shining Path leaders feared that Wilmer would opt for the “law of repentance,” which meant handing over two or three communist leaders to the Peruvian government to obtain a personal pardon. They kept him under close watch until they realized that, on many occasions, Wilmer could easily have turned them in, but he didn’t. They began to trust him so much that they later invited him to preach at the funeral of the chief’s son. After the service, they confessed, through tears, of their plan to kill him. They even asked for his forgiveness. Wilmer knows what turned them away: “They realized that freedom in Christ was my best and truest freedom, and I didn’t need another one.”

Wilmer went on to study theology and preach in his language. SIL missionaries heard him preach, and one eventually invited him to join the translation team. He became a key team member and contributed greatly to the project’s success.

A word Wilmer came across often while translating was *shonqu*, the emotional equivalent of “heart.” Anatomically, *shonqu* literally means “the lungs.” And as Wilmer testifies that the Lord healed his atrophied physical lungs, the Scriptures testify that God gave Wilmer a new heart—or in Quechua, new lungs.

Now, Wilmer has found true freedom—not through an earthly ideology, but through a new heavenly heart focus: “lungs” set firmly on Christ.





Zooming In

As we thank God for the work,
we thank him for his provision through
generous investors who give sacrificially
and intentionally, even in this time
of uncertainty.

—

“MBUUR AFÀPÀ UN’KÖÖN IMBÈD
ANÀ MAMPÀ NTÒN UDYÀ ANDE,
ASÀLAPÀ SYE IMBÈD ANÀ ASÀBUUL
BYA MBÒÒN, NTÒN UKÄÄB ABÈÈ
BÀBÖR NDAÀ ADÀBWAD.”

— 2 CORINTHIANS 9:10 (IYANSI LANGUAGE)
BAYAYA CLUSTER (AFRICA)

“FOR GOD IS THE ONE WHO PROVIDES
SEED FOR THE FARMER AND THEN
BREAD TO EAT. IN THE SAME WAY,
HE WILL PROVIDE AND INCREASE YOUR
RESOURCES AND THEN PRODUCE A GREAT
HARVEST OF GENEROSITY IN YOU.”

— 2 CORINTHIANS 9:10

CONNECTING IN CRISIS

Investors and Seed Company Staff Find New Ways to Meet

The pandemic may have shut us in, but it hasn't kept us apart.

We at Seed Company are grateful for investors who still want to connect with us, and with each other, over our shared vision and passion: the translation of God's Word in every language, in every corner of the world still waiting. Phone calls, emails, and social media have all been vital links during this trying season, but Zoom technology has allowed us to go even further.

For example, on April 9, we hosted our first virtual gathering—*A Call to Faith*. This livestream event connected participants to the mission and heart of Bible translation with a 60-minute, behind-the-scenes look at how God has been moving, innovating, and accelerating the work through field teams, kingdom partners, and communities engaging with Scripture. Participants

heard from local translators, connected with stories of life transformation, and increased their kingdom impact through strategic partnerships. A recording of the event provided them with an easy avenue for advocacy, a way to share what they learned with friends and family.

In all, about 350 people joined this exciting celebration, and their positive feedback inspired us to produce a three-part online summer speaker series, *God's Word Changes Everything*. More than 500 people registered for this deeper dive into Bible translation, and after each video aired, **participants were invited to rewatch and share the event through a post on the "Stories" page** of seedcompany.com. Again, this allowed for a broader audience, another opportunity to communicate the great need for accessible heart language Scripture.

“2020 has forced us to dig deep and consider what really matters. Experiences of hurt, loss, and confusion have plagued many of our stories, and yet you have generously pursued those awaiting Scripture like never before. You have leaned into prayer, shared your thoughts, and given financially above and beyond what we could have imagined. We count it a privilege to steward your investments as we journey together toward the day when all will have heard or seen. From all of our Seed Company family and global partners, we thank you.”

— **Davis H. Powell**, Chief Advancement Officer

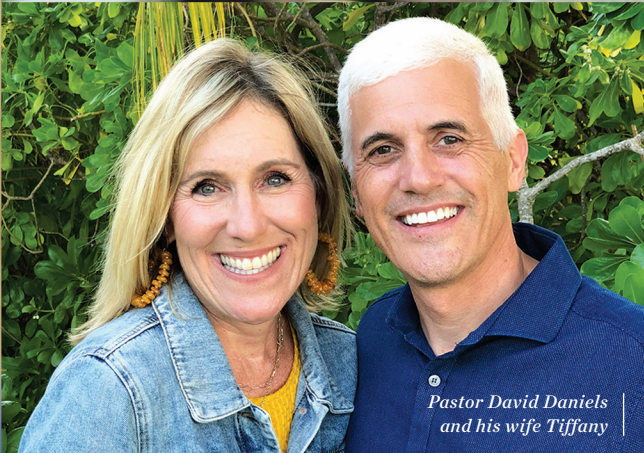
A young girl with short dark hair, smiling, is shown on a laptop screen. She is wearing a vibrant pink and teal sari with gold borders. The background on the screen shows a hilly, rural landscape. In the foreground, a person's hand is visible, interacting with the laptop trackpad.

SCRIPTURE SERIES

GOD'S WORD
CHANGES EVERYTHING



CENTRAL BIBLE CHURCH



Pastor David Daniels
and his wife Tiffany



TARGETING THE LAST NICKEL

Central Bible Church Makes an Eternal Investment in Bible Translation

Outside of supporting a handful of missionaries, very little was happening globally.

David Daniels remembers well the culture of his congregation back in 2005 when he first came on as lead pastor for Central Bible Church (formerly Pantego Bible Church). Most missional activity was through compassion-based ministries to the poor and marginalized in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, but David knew they needed to broaden their reach. Many years ago, he had learned that roughly 95 cents of every dollar raised in American churches stays in the United States. Four and a half cents of every dollar go to the mission field, but to *reached* peoples.

Only one half of one cent goes to unreached peoples.

“Inside of a couple of years, we began to put our hand back to the plow of what it means to take the gospel to every nation, tribe, and tongue, and we really began to develop a greater heart,” David said. “We began to have a burden for that five cents, that last nickel—the four and a half cents going to people everywhere outside the United States and, in particular, those served by the half cent.”

DEVELOPING A HEART FOR HEART LANGUAGE SCRIPTURE

In 2010, Central Bible Church (CBC) began to understand how **missional reach and Scripture translation go hand in hand with a Great Commission focus.** That vision gained momentum when one couple in the church shared their story.

Drs. Todd and Angela Moore have attended CBC since 1999, but their personal journey with Bible translation began in 2006. Todd has served numerous terms as an elder in the church, so it wasn't long before he and Angela introduced Bible translation to leadership and to the church community at large.

David began preaching about the importance of heart language Scripture, ending one particular sermon series with an opportunity to support Bible translation

for specific people groups through partnering with Seed Company. The response was overwhelming, and it whetted the church's appetite for more.

CHURCH-WIDE PARTNERSHIP: THE KOM CLUSTER AND THE IRAYAI

In 2011, when Todd and Angela told church leadership about the KOM Cluster in southwest Ethiopia, it wasn't long before the whole congregation eagerly embraced this project that would provide 758,000 people with access to a complete New Testament! Despite occasional delays due to political unrest, the project was completed at the end of 2019. The dedication scheduled for last June was postponed because of COVID-19, but CBC eagerly anticipates the day when Konta, Oyda, and Melo peoples can officially celebrate the arrival of God's Word in their languages.

In 2015, the Irayai—an unreached people group of only 15,000 in Eurasia—became the church's next area of focus. Three people from the congregation visited the project, and Roger Sappington, CBC's executive pastor, was one of them. He says their goal was to catch a vision for this people group—to bring photos, stories, and a greater passion back to the church so that they would continue to faithfully partner with this community halfway around the world. But it doesn't take much to inspire believers who are already committed to the importance of God's Word for *everyone, everywhere.*

“Our church loves to read and study Scripture,” Roger says. “They believe that when they read God's Word, it's a living, breathing document; they're communing with the living God as they experience it. So, because of that, they then have a deeper desire for other people to have what they have.”

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL: BIBLE TRANSLATION ADVOCACY AT HOME

When CBC finished supporting the KOM Cluster, and they were close to finishing their financial commitment to the Irayai, David was invited to speak at a Seed Company conference. Yet the words that stood out the

most were those the Lord spoke directly to *him*. He knew that he and his wife Tiffany were being called to pull together whatever it would take to help complete a project. After prayerfully considering their personal contribution, they went to their extended family for the rest. With the exception of David's children, none of the others had heard much about Bible translation, so it was truly an act of "casting vision," David says.

"We want to get the Bible in the hands of people who don't have it. We're making an investment, and we want you to do it with us!" he remembers telling them excitedly. "You know, a lot of the time, people want to *start* a project, but we know there are projects out there that just need *finishing*."

With a combined contribution of \$42,000, the Daniels family helped roughly 950,000 Chuwabu speakers of Mozambique receive Genesis and portions of the New Testament in their heart language.

INSPIRED TO FINISH

Tiffany and David were so inspired by the joy of seeing a project cross the finish line that they endeavored to help their church experience the same. So in 2019, they asked Seed Company to identify 25 projects that needed help completing their translation goals. When those needs were presented to the congregation, individuals and home groups raised \$25,837 on that first Sunday alone, making it possible for six more people groups to receive God's Word in their heart languages.

Now CBC has either completed, or is nearing the completion of, commitments on projects they've supported, but they know there's still much to do. They've asked Seed Company to recommend the next unreached people group for them to support **so they can continue prioritizing Bible translation as a central pillar to Great Commission living.**

"We are to make disciples, but if those individuals don't have God's Word in their heart language, you can't truly disciple them, or at least not to the extent that I think Jesus wants us to," Roger says. "Our modern understanding of what it means to be a steward of the Great Commission has expanded to include Bible translation, but this isn't brand new! William Carey, the father of the modern mission movement, was translating Scripture when he was in India. It was a key part of his strategy. So, in some ways, we're just reclaiming the *best* missional strategies."

For Central Bible Church, that means going after that "last nickel" with what they know will reap the greatest return on their investment: Scripture that speaks to the heart.

"We want to get the Bible in the hands of people who don't have it. We're making an investment, and we want you to do it with us!"





GOD'S SETUP FOR A GREATER VISION: GLOBAL OUTREACH IN CBC'S BACKYARD

After each worship service, Pastor David spends time shaking hands and greeting people. It's a regular part of his day. But one particular Sunday in 2009 was anything but that. Who would have guessed that a simple conversation in the foyer would so dramatically impact the culture of Central Bible Church?

An African pastor and his interpreter, Method Bigirimana, asked David if he could provide them with a space for their worship service. They had been to several churches in the greater Fort Worth area, but no one really understood the nature of their need. At each place they visited, they were welcomed to join the *existing* congregation—to learn, worship, and pray—but in a way that was foreign to them.

"We appreciate churches inviting us to be folded into their congregation, but they don't speak our language. And they don't worship the same way. It's just different, and our people—at least for a time—need a place where they can celebrate their Burundian or Rwandan or Congolese heritage," they explained to David.

David also learned that this group of African refugees was so large that they were meeting in smaller groups at different times and places; they had no place large enough to come together as one unified worship community.

The solution was immediately obvious. God had recently blessed CBC with renovated facilities for their own expansion, and there was plenty of room to share, so ReGenesis Bible Church soon began meeting on CBC's campus every Sunday for their three-hour, joy-filled worship services.

"The greatest way we can love and respect our African brothers and sisters is to celebrate and encourage them, making it possible for them to worship in their heart culture—whether that's language, or that's dress, or that's worship style. Whatever that is, that's the best thing that we can do," David remembers telling his congregation.

Today, 11 years later, ReGenesis Bible Church is thriving. Because the children and youth speak fluent English, they enjoy participating in many of CBC's Sunday school classes and programs, but they still attend worship services with their parents. CBC mentored Method and provided him with access to theological training. He is now the lead pastor for ReGenesis and preaches in both Kirundi and Swahili to accommodate the various language groups represented at each worship gathering.

David smiles and shakes his head, remembering God's goodness that came to them in a most unexpected way. Who would have thought two men with a simple request would enlarge CBC's perspective in a way that not only changed their view of missions in the traditional sense, but also their heart for translation as an integral part of it?

"The arrival of ReGenesis was a gift. As we were wrapping our minds around heart culture, perhaps we became more sensitive to heart language as well," David says. "If we are a church that truly believes Scripture is the Word of God, not the word of man, and it's at work in us who believe, **then it just makes sense that we would want to have that Word in the heart language of people everywhere.**"



FAITH THAT ADDS UP

One Investor's Journey Toward Bold Generosity

Gary Rosenblatt knows his numbers. But even with a degree in quantitative finance, he still can't make sense of his bank account. Although this 27-year-old is fairly new to the workforce and recently moved to New York City—where the cost of living is more than double the US average—he still manages to give away close to 50 percent of his annual income.

"If you really look at my finances, just from a purely mathematical standpoint, they shouldn't add up. I should be in debt. But no matter how much I give, [the bank account] doesn't get lower," Gary says. "God is faithful when he says that if you give, he will replenish. I've also seen that the more you give, the more generous you become, and the more you enjoy being generous."

That generosity spills over into every area of Gary's life. He is always on the lookout—passionately supporting mission work, his local church, and the individuals around him that need help. But lately, Gary is riveted with a new passion. He loves God's Word, and he longs to see it in the hands of all people groups still waiting to receive it. One of those groups is in East Asia.

THE BIRTH OF A CALLING

Gary's passion for the people of East Asia began with his exposure to authentic Christian faith at a Chinese church. As a sophomore in high school, he connected with a group of Chinese friends who invited him to their youth group. He grew to love not only them but also their culture and, more importantly, the Word of God. For the next three years, teachers, pastors, and mentors poured biblical truth into him, and he became a believer the same month he graduated. **His new identity in Christ gave him a new sense of purpose—but not without questions.**

"I asked myself, *Well, what about people who have never heard about Jesus? What about people who have never heard the gospel?*"

As a new believer, Gary felt his next steps were obvious. If, apart from the gospel, people had no hope of salvation, he'd be the one to get the word out. He contemplated becoming a missionary, but at the time, he had already committed to pursuing a bachelor's degree, so he used



those college years to continue growing in faith. He pored over Scripture and sought out biblical community, finding genuine connections through both a local church and a college fellowship. Gary

had no money to give at that point, but God continued to fill him with an even greater vision of *how* and *where* he would become a kingdom investor once he started earning an income.

Soon after graduating, Gary began mapping out his plan for giving. He knew "taking care of his backyard" by supporting the local church would be his first priority toward biblical stewardship. And when his youth pastor from that Chinese church became a missionary and moved to Thailand with his family, Gary's second giving opportunity—investing in global missions—became obvious.

But God's revelation of a *third* area of need surprised Gary. Learning that many of the world's languages were still without a Bible shook him to the core.

A PASSION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION

In addition to working full time in risk management for a Japanese investment bank, Gary is also the associate pastor of a church in Manhattan where he spends up to 20 hours a week taking care of administrative tasks, as well as preaching, teaching, and counseling. Every week, he uses Joshua Project's yearly calendar theme as a jumping-off point for their liturgy. Joshua Project is a nonprofit Christian ministry focused on gathering and distributing information about the world's least-reached ethnic people groups. **When Gary learned that several of those people groups are without a single verse of heart language Scripture,** he knew it was time to act.

"It made sense that if I supported missions and evangelism, I should also support the first step, the foundation—Bible translation," Gary remembers.

A PARTNERSHIP WITH SEED COMPANY

Gary wasn't sure where to begin investing in Bible translation, but he trusted God would lead him to a place where investors, as well as their gifts, were valued and stewarded wisely. He sought a translation organization that was smaller, with lower overhead costs and a personal tie with investors. He found that connection with Seed Company.

"I don't want to just throw my money at the problem, let other people take care of it, and just clean my hands and say, 'I did my job.' I want to see how things are, to see how the projects are progressing—not just for due diligence's sake, but also for the sake of knowing that my prayers [for translators and the translations] are being answered every month," Gary says.

Gary appreciates the consistent updates he receives on the projects he supports, but what he never expected was a translation organization interested in *him* too—not just as an investor, but as an *individual*.

"I receive phone calls from other places and other people—emails that say, 'I'll pray for you.' But a lot of the time, it's just not true. Seed Company is different. They'll ask me how they can pray for me, and I know they care because they follow up with me the next month. They mean what they say."

A HEART FOR GENEROSITY

It's been two years since Gary began supporting Bible translation through Seed Company, and he is continually amazed at God's provision that enables him to give extravagantly, even when the bank account says otherwise.

"There have been months where I've barely had what I needed to cover my own expenses. [But] I have been giving for so long that I have no doubt that God will give me the funds needed to support the ministry, missions, and brothers and sisters in the church, or even just pay for food," Gary marvels. He remembers numerous times where he had freely given money to friends with no expectation of repayment, even when his giving had drained his savings. Nonetheless, a check would show up in his mailbox, sometimes years later, from someone with whom he had lost contact. He remembers one large check he received just last year—reimbursement for the rent he had paid in full for a friend's living arrangements during his last year of college.

*"Wherever your treasure is,
there the desires of your
heart will also be."*

— Matthew 6:21

Gary may be a risk manager for a living, but he knows that giving your life away is the best form of security there is. He still supports his youth pastor in Thailand and even visited him and his family. He invests in missions in areas of the world where the gospel is least prominent—specifically, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He partners with a church-planting organization in East Asia, where he still hopes to be a missionary someday. And he still passionately pursues Bible translation—ensuring accessible heart language Scripture for people who eventually become so transformed by God's Word that they continue the work for other Bibleless language groups around the world.

Not surprisingly, Gary's bank accounts still don't make sense.

With giving statements disproportionately higher than his income bracket, Gary was recently audited by the IRS. Because he lived with his parents for a year after graduating from college, he had to call them to retrieve a few receipts from his room.

"My parents started adding things up. And they were saying, 'Is this the right number?'"

Gary says they weren't particularly happy. Actually, since they are not believers, they seemed quite bothered by it. But it has certainly given them something to think about.

"Maybe I'll get audited every year," Gary says with a smile.





Seeing Clearly

We look beyond 2020 to a future where *all* people have heart language Scripture, and we are grateful for God's leadership and direction to take us there.

—

“VUZISHILE MBULI ZINO, NYONA NZOZI IYAGWE, NA HAJA KUULONGOZI WANGU KUKALA NA DALE KULU DA WANHU AWO HADUHU MUNHU YADAHILE KUWAPETA. WANHU KULAWA ISI ZOSE, MITALA YOSE, WANHU WOSE, NA LONZI ZOSE, WEMA HAULONGOZI WA IKIGODA CHA UNDEWA NA HAULONGOZI WA MWANA NG'HONDOLO. WAKALA WAVALILE NG'HANZU NZELU NA KUGOGA MITAMBI YA MITENDE MMAKONO GAO.”

— REVELATION 7:9

(OMARAZ LANGUAGE, AFRICA)

“AFTER THIS I SAW A VAST CROWD, TOO GREAT TO COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION AND TRIBE AND PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE, STANDING IN FRONT OF THE THRONE AND BEFORE THE LAMB. THEY WERE CLOTHED IN WHITE ROBES AND HELD PALM BRANCHES IN THEIR HANDS.”

— REVELATION 7:9

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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MICHEL KENMOGNE
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JILL ANSCHUTZ
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CHRIS ORDWAY
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STEVEN GANSS
Board Member



AMANDA GEORGE
Board Member

Seed Company's Board of Directors represents business knowledge from many vocational fields. Along with a passion for God's Word, each member brings a unique, God-imparted vision for accelerating global Bible translation. Their collective experience, dedication, and insight allow this governance board to assess the best direction for Seed Company.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



LARRY B. JONES, PhD
President and Chief
Executive Officer



LORI MILLER
Chief Administration
Officer



DAVIS POWELL
Chief Advancement
Officer



**CHAD ALLEN,
MBA, CPA**
Chief Financial Officer



MATT KNISELY
Chief Digital Officer



BILL McCOY
Chief Field Officer

The members of Seed Company's Executive Leadership Team are stewards of God's provision. They lead their teams in the global work of Bible translation with prayer, wisdom, and humility. President and Chief Executive Officer Larry B. Jones determines Seed Company's corporate strategies, oversees organizational initiatives, and steers the team in executive-level decisions.

“And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

— ROMANS 8:27-28

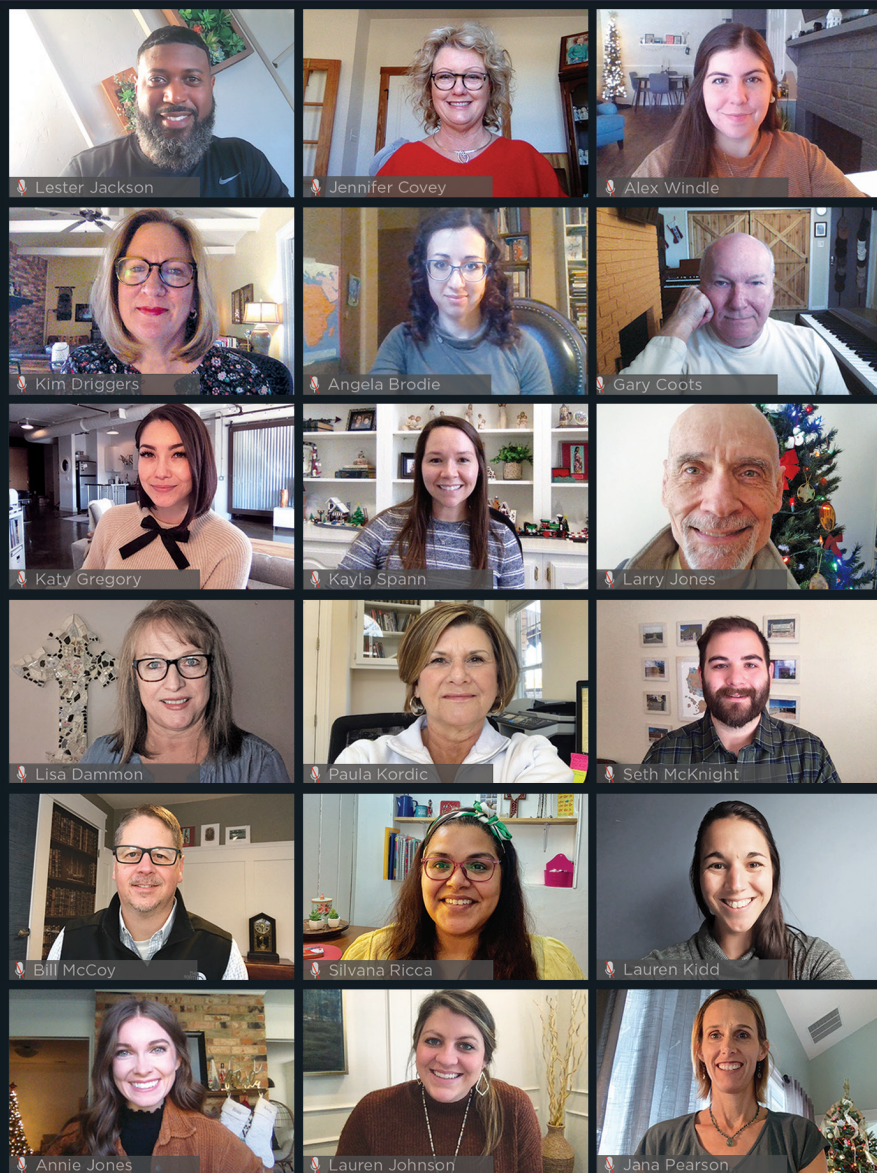
ESSENTIAL WORK

Seed Company Staff Answers the Call to Prayer

Since our inception, Seed Company staff members have enjoyed a time of daily morning prayer, and thanks to Zoom technology, we have been able to maintain this vital connection even in the midst of a pandemic lockdown. What normally only happened in a conference room among Arlington, Texas, staff is now a *global* gathering with our colleagues from around the world—all coming together to pray for projects, translators, partners, and interns *by name*. During this foundational

time of pausing and reflecting on the sacrificial work of Bible translation, we pray for every project and every intern at least once a year. Brief devotionals, worship songs, and personal intercession for one another round out our brief 30 minutes together in a special way that has only gained momentum in this challenging time.

“The prioritization of prayer is deeply embedded in our organizational culture, and the challenges of a pandemic only serve to increase our resolve. I am reminded that prayer is not the *last* thing we should do, but the *very first*. Over the last 27 years of our journey together, the ways in which we have been able to meet





participants indicator early in the day and saw 153 [were online]. And such a diverse group! In addition to North America, Mexico, and Central America, we had folks from England, Southern Africa, and Indonesia on the call.” Slack technology was also used to create a makeshift “prayer wall” that day. Individuals posted prayer requests, responses, encouraging Bible verses, and links to meaningful songs—all “acts of worship, exhortation, and petition that have drawn us together,” Jim adds.

have changed thanks to technology, but the priority of speaking with the Lord about the work he has called us to has not,” Lori Miller, chief administrative officer, writes.

Additionally, we gather on November 11 each year to observe the Wycliffe Day of Prayer. The office closes and work ceases as we focus on

God’s faithful provision for us and his Great Commission work of Bible translation. This year was a first: no in-person gatherings. But again, it was a rich time with even greater participation.

Jim Akovenko, staff chaplain, writes: “I’m still smiling at how we came together. I peeked at the Zoom

As we seek to live out our **first core value of honoring God in all we do,** we remember through prayer that this work belongs to *him*, not to us. Together, we acknowledge our dependence on him as he sends out his Word and accelerates the advancement of his kingdom in every nation, tribe, and tongue, in every corner of the world. To him be the glory!



AN UPDATE FROM FINANCE

God's Provision Leads the Way

Dear Seed Company Family,

Most of us would agree that nothing helps you pinpoint your priorities and your focus like a challenge—especially a challenge to your finances.

For Seed Company, 2020 has been the year to directly address our struggles in this area. Because of our unwavering commitment to Bible translation, we have consistently striven to maintain a growing project portfolio. But even with the faithful generosity of our investors, we continued to face a recurring challenge with our cash flow. Our disbursements to support projects went out throughout the fiscal year (October through September), but most of our revenue came in from September to January. As a result, a “trough” in our cash reserves always emerged over that eight-month period from January to August, and it became more pronounced each year as an increase in disbursed funds grew to support a larger number of projects. Add to that a worldwide pandemic and its negative impact on our global economy, and it’s easy to see that a deeper look at our financial structure became all the more vital for our long-term health as an organization.

We knew that our current pace was not sustainable, so beginning in January of 2020, we hit the pause button. For nine long months, we did not start new projects, nor did we transition current projects looking to begin a new set of translation goals. We simply maintained the projects we had (with their current goals) while simultaneously looking toward our projected next steps. We studied past giving trends and anticipated how best to sustain our large portfolio of 897 active languages. And with COVID-19 arriving on the heels of our first steps in that evaluative process, we knew being conservative in our estimates was both prudent and wise.

But God loves lavishly, and his solutions are far greater than our balance sheets.

What we hadn’t accounted for was the bold, courageous, Spirit-led generosity of our investors! And because of the pandemic, travel bans and the resulting delays in translation work have *decreased* some of our costs. Thus, the “problems” have become blessings

in disguise: we are shoring up our finances, saving in unexpected ways, and preparing for a season of even greater momentum.

2020 has indeed been a banner year of giving, but we are being careful to steward these gifts wisely. We are adjusting our emphasis to not only prioritize funding translation projects from annual contributions, but also greater equipping of our partners so that they become more self-sufficient. As they eventually lead and fund their own translation efforts, Seed Company will have an even greater capacity for starting projects in language groups still waiting for their very first taste of God’s Word. In 2021, we have a big faith goal of starting 125 new projects—75 that will be traditionally planned and funded, and 50 that will rely more on our investment as a catalytic partner to our global colleagues ready for greater ownership of the work. Through these 125 new engagements, we have the potential to take on or directly influence 94 First Scripture projects!

I have only been with our organization for a little over a year, but in that brief amount of time, I am grateful for what our vision is *not*—the “bottom line” of a spreadsheet. Seed Company values *relationships*—with our generous investors, with our partners who so selflessly do the work, and ultimately, with our brothers and sisters in Christ who become part of the family of God through the heart language Scripture they receive.

In closing, I am reminded of the great encouragement of Ephesians 3:20: “Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” God has provided abundantly more than we have asked. Please join us in praying that we will be faithful stewards of his great gifts as we move past the “pause” of 2020 and continue the work!

Sincerely,



Chad Allen, MBA, CPA
Chief Financial Officer





THE WYCLIFFE SEED COMPANY, INC. | STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended September 30, 2019

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2020	Total 2019
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Contributions	\$ 8,646,748	\$ 46,832,790	\$ 55,479,538*	\$ 42,583,030
Support from affiliates				
Wycliffe contributions	37,563	-	37,563	545,250
Member support	759,819	-	759,819	787,285**
Service income	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Investment income	603,716	-	603,716	474,158
Other Loss	(172,633)	-	(172,633)	9,414
Net assets released from restrictions				
Field operations adjustments	9,329,919	(9,329,919)	-	-
Administrative adjustments			-	-
(19% administrative & fundraising)	8,906,537	(8,906,537)	-	-
Satisfaction of program restrictions	22,047,507	(22,047,507)	-	-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	50,174,176	6,548,827	56,723,003	44,414,137**
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Program services—Bible translation	39,233,925	-	39,233,925	43,327,238
General and administration services	3,377,520	-	3,377,520	3,356,719
Fundraising services				
(Includes communications, marketing)	5,516,203	-	5,516,203	7,241,331
TOTAL EXPENSES	48,127,648	-	48,127,648	53,925,288
Change in Net Assets before				
Equity Transfer	2,046,528	6,548,827	8,595,355	(9,511,151)**
Equity Transfer from				
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.	3,861,475	-	3,861,475	3,972,456**
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	5,908,003	6,548,827	12,456,830	(5,538,695)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	8,091,458	19,127,719	27,219,177	32,757,872
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 13,999,461	\$ 25,676,546	\$ 39,676,007	\$ 27,219,177

*Contributions for the year ending September 30, 2020, are higher than anticipated by \$6.1M as a result of receiving a fiscal year 2021 pledged contribution earlier than anticipated and the accrual of grants receivable as a result of adopting ASU No. 2018-08.

NOTE: All financial figures cited in this document for FY20 are unaudited and unconsolidated as of press time. Audited numbers will be available in early 2021 and can be viewed at seedcompany.com.



The Seed Company is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and complies fully with its rules for Christian ministries, including an annual independent financial audit.

**Effective September 30, 2020, the increase in net assets associated with services rendered from personnel from an affiliate entity is being reported as an equity transfer rather than member support in accordance with ASU 2016-14. For the sake of consistency, Seed Company has also adjusted the 2019 financial presentation in accordance with ASU 2016-04.

SPECIAL NOTES

Approximately 2,000 people groups, representing hundreds of millions of people, do not have a single verse of Scripture in their heart language. Seed Company exists to come alongside these people groups, to help resource the Bible translation process. We invite families and churches to partner with us through prayer and financial investments.

Seed Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a vision to accelerate Scripture translation and impact for people without God's Word through Great Commission partnerships.

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Pseudonyms have been used throughout this report to protect the identities of individuals in regions hostile to Christians.

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Quechua speakers gather in a bullring for a monumental event: the dedication of the full Huamalíes-Dos de Mayo Quechua Bible.





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220 Westway Place, Suite 100
Arlington, TX 76018
seedcompany.com

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