

Wycliffe today



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'Reading Scripture in
Manjak (rather than
French) is like seeing
by my own lamp now'
- Manjak speaker (Senegal)



SUMMER 2016

- › To be forever free
- the power of literacy
- › Real progress for women
- › Teaching - a noble profession
- › Project update:
Coming home to the Himba
- › New project:
K literacy & health training
- › Go MAD 2016!

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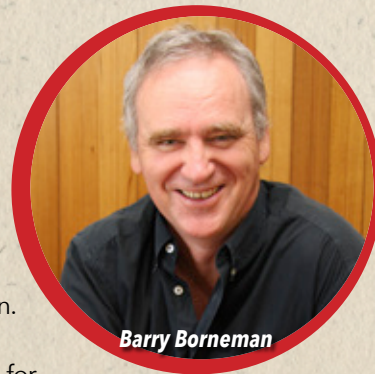
COVER PICTURE

Photo: Zeke du Plessis



EDITORIAL

People who read and write rarely give it a second thought, yet it is one of the most empowering skills for an individual, a family, a community, a nation. People in poverty characteristically have extremely limited choices in their lives when it comes to basic needs like food, housing, employment and education. Literacy and numeracy inherently bring greater and better choices for those who read, and even more so for those who learn to read the radical teachings and actions of Jesus in their own language. This edition of *Wycliffe Today* features the importance of literacy as part of the Bible translation movement and its impact on the individuals and communities with whom we partner. It is also an invitation to our readers especially those with a passion for education and for people, to consider prayerfully if they would want to serve with Wycliffe in the area of literacy. Enjoy the read.



Barry Borneman

Barry Borneman
Wycliffe Australia CEO

Great Response - Thank You!

We are very encouraged by the responses to two of our requests for help in the last *Wycliffe Today*.

- › David Cram, the Audit Coordinator for Wycliffe International, added 17 people to an annual mailing list for volunteers willing to conduct 1-3 week internal control reviews for Wycliffe's worldwide offices. It was an outstanding response. Our goal was for 10 auditor volunteers.
- › Thank you to all those who have contributed your pre-loved laptops to aid in translation and literacy for the Bible Translation Association of Papua New Guinea. A few more are still needed. If you would like to donate a laptop, please contact Peter Fidock at network-support@wycliffe.org.au.

The minimum specifications laptop are: Core 2 Duo Processor, 1GB RAM, 120GB Hard Drive

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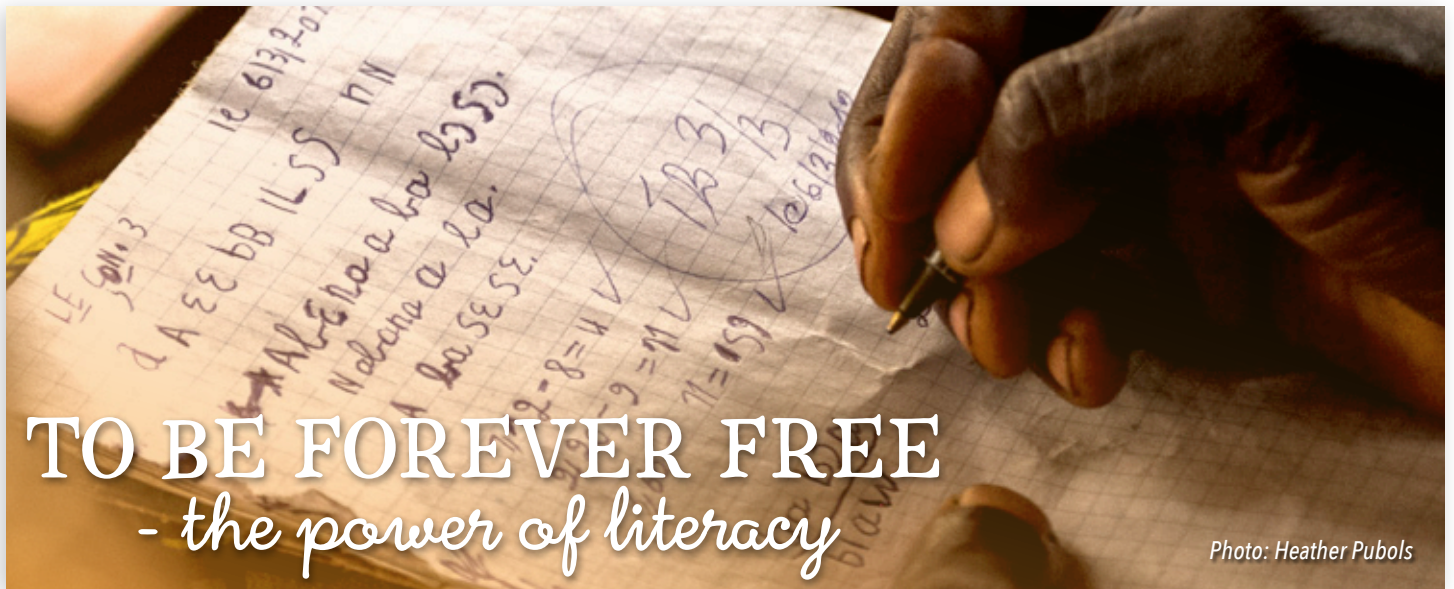
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TO BE FOREVER FREE

- the power of literacy

Photo: Heather Pubols

By Belinda Fox

Right now you are doing something that almost one billion people in the world today cannot do. You do it every day without thinking twice. But imagine not being able to read price tags, instructions on medications, a letter, email, or text message. Imagine not being able to read even a single verse of Scripture. Sadly, that is the reality for millions of people - many of them among the poorest and most marginalised on earth.

So why is literacy so important, and what difference does it make to someone's life?

To read is... 'A bridge from misery to hope' (Kofi Annan)

Literacy skills are fundamental to daily life, and can even mean the difference between life and death.

Having learned to read and write in her native Moba language (Togo, Benin), Koutonlengue is now able to write letters to family members, take notes during meetings, write down advice from nurses, and read road signs. Most importantly, she says, 'Literacy has enlightened me because I read the New Testament and other books in Moba and I understand better'.

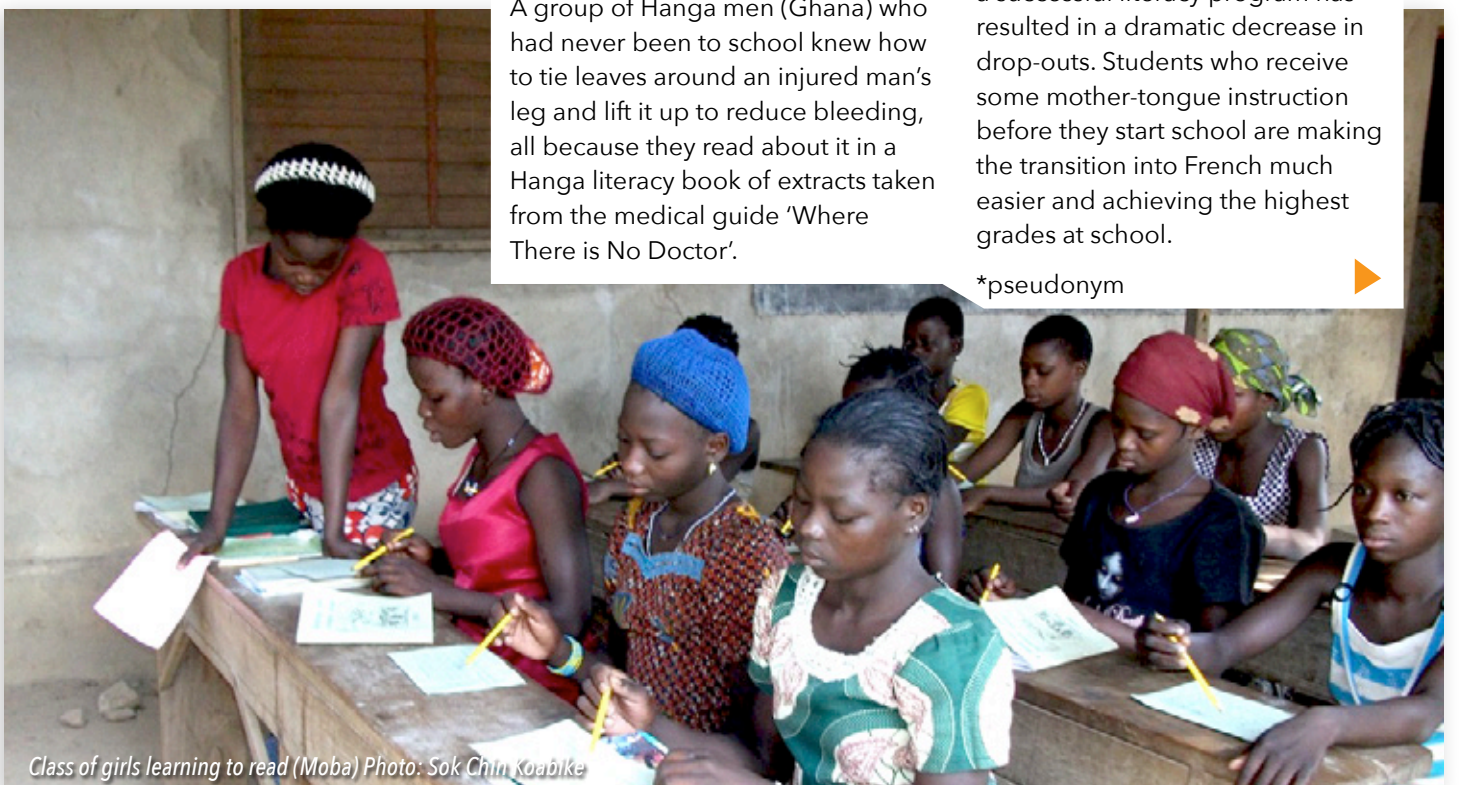
A group of Hanga men (Ghana) who had never been to school knew how to tie leaves around an injured man's leg and lift it up to reduce bleeding, all because they read about it in a Hanga literacy book of extracts taken from the medical guide 'Where There is No Doctor'.

To read is... 'To learn. The more you learn, the more places you will go!' (Dr Seuss)

Research has shown that those who first learn to read and write in their mother tongue before bridging to the national language have a much higher chance of success at school.

Until recently, the majority of Guergu* children (Chad) who attended school would drop out before the end of primary school because they found it too difficult to learn French at the same time as learning to read and write. But a successful literacy program has resulted in a dramatic decrease in drop-outs. Students who receive some mother-tongue instruction before they start school are making the transition into French much easier and achieving the highest grades at school.

*pseudonym



Class of girls learning to read (Moba) Photo: Sok Chin Koabike



Guergu* preschool children learning to write on blackboard tablets (Chad).
Photo: Caroline Tyler

To read is... 'to be forever free' (Frederick Douglass, African American freed slave)

Those who learn to read and write are given the opportunity to interact with the world in new ways. The Lamari Literacy School (Obura, PNG) is having a significant impact on the lives of many young people - particularly those with drug addictions. They attend the literacy classes to learn how to read and write in their own language, but at the same time learn God's Word. Many come to know Christ as a result.

To read is... 'a community resource' (Glenys Waters)

For many parts of the world, education and literacy abilities

are seen as community resources not just something for individuals. Many of the community leaders in Bougainville (PNG) see positive impact from their literacy program. 'People's ways of doing things in the community are changing for the better - the ways they interrelate with people. The women are now able to support the people at home and help with trade stores in the community. The men are happy and are now realising the importance of being educated and that education is for everyone, not just children and youth.'

To read is... 'A lamp to my feet, a light for my path' (Psalm 119:105)

The ability to read Scripture opens up the way to Christ.

The Obura (PNG) New Testament was completed and dedicated in 1994, but only a handful of people actually used it. The printed Bibles were stored away, gathering dust, until a literacy program began in

2013. Obura New Testaments are now not only out of storage, but sold out! People are reading them in their homes and excitedly carrying them to church.

A woman who had never learned to read in her language (Oku, Cameroon) was given her first literacy lesson outside the mortuary where the body of her friend lay. As she read the words of 1 Corinthians 15:20 and Revelation 7:17 for the first time ever, she said 'Reading this book took away my tears'.

Literacy is a crucial part of the Bible translation ministry. It helps members of minority language communities embrace and use their language. It gives people access to information and opportunities. It offers hope and changes lives. And it unlocks the benefits of Bible translation so that people can read and be transformed by the life-giving words God always intended for them.

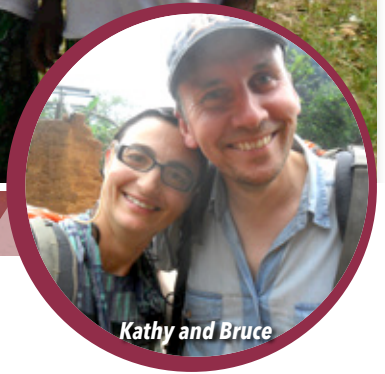


Two ladies from Bougainville (PNG) share what it meant to become literate. Lady on the far left: 'I feel good. Before I felt like a wild dog but now I am standing in a good place.' Lady second from left: 'Now that I can read, write and calculate, my husband leaves me in charge of the canteen. Now I know how much to charge and how much money to give in change. My husband is very proud of me and when he comes back from his business to take over the canteen, he tells me to hurry and wash and get ready for [literacy] class.'



Kathy, the five Iceve-speaking women and Alum, their teacher on Women's Day

By Kathy Cummins



Kathy and Bruce

LITERACY WORK: *real progress for women!*

The sun beat down as we sat in the back and waited for our chance to march. It was Women's Day 2014 and we were in Akwaya, a remote area of Cameroon where women's literacy is very low. Speeches dragged on, full of rhetoric about the theme of Women's Day this year: Equality for Women is Progress for All. There was much talk of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). I wondered whether most of the people present had even heard the term MDGs, let alone knew what they were.

Finally, our turn came. Our little group of five Iceve-speaking women,

Alum their Iceve literacy teacher and me, an Australian, marched up to face the important people in the grandstand. The women confidently read the Iceve alphabet, written down for the first time a year previously, and then a book which they had authored themselves about the uses of water. THIS was the real proof of progress - women who had worked so hard through 100 lessons over more than a year to inch from total illiteracy to beginning to read and write in their own language. All their lessons had taken place in the late afternoon, after a full day's manual work on their farms, when there were meals to cook

and children to bathe. The women are not 'literate' yet, much less 'equal', but we will continue inching forward and one day they even hope to be able to read Scripture in Iceve. (Translation is yet to begin.)

Glory was given to the Source of these new skills, this new hope, as we marched away singing, *Wefo me, eziave, na me otave.* (You're stronger than me, Father, give me strength) Whatever is said about the Millennium Development Goals, in Akwaya there is progress!

Read more about Anita, one of the five women, at wycliffe.org.au/meet-anita

Interested in literacy?

Yes!

Someone who works in literacy needs to be able to motivate, mobilise and train others in literacy and curriculum development. As a team player you should possess a heart to see people succeed; and - crucially - be prepared to learn from those you serve.

Qualifications:

- › A degree or similar level qualification. A teaching degree, whilst not necessary, is extremely useful
- › A committed Christian and part of an active Christian fellowship
- › Open to working with Wycliffe for two years or more

Training required:

- (Depending on previous background and training. Flexible training options available including on-field training)
- › One year program through SILA Training at Kangaroo Ground, Victoria
 - › A minimum of two years (or equivalent) at Bible college

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT wycliffe.org.au/literacy OR EMAIL literacy@wycliffe.org.au

TEACHING – a noble profession

‘**N**othing is more rewarding than being a source of inspiration to others.

Teaching is not a job - it is a profession and a vocation.'

John Parisella, Campus Montreal blog, University of Montreal.

Imagine the significance of contributing your experience and passionate love of teaching to the lives of missionary kids. These children are far from their passport countries, straddling two or more cultures and trying to find their identity in ambiguity and unfamiliarity. Their challenge is the teacher's privilege.

Andrew and Denielle Walsh recently joined Wycliffe Australia and are preparing for roles at Faith International Academy in Davao, the Philippines. Andrew, who has a background in ministry and pastoral care, has been invited to be a chaplain at the school. Denielle, who has pastoral and teacher training, will work as a music and drama teacher, but as she says, 'I also have a real heart to care for kids and families in transition'.

They visited the school four years ago and saw that there were staffing needs, particularly for a chaplain.



Photo: Jenwa Photography

By Jenny Austin

They saw how important it was for children to be educated so that missionary parents could stay on the field longer. When the job vacancies were posted online some time later, they believed the Lord was leading them to apply, so they did and were accepted. Andrew adds, 'I might be the school chaplain but I will be ministering to the whole Faith community, parents and students as well as staff.'

Andrew, Denielle, Michael and Timothy hope to head to the Philippines by mid to late 2016. Faith International Academy does not offer a salary so they are now looking for financial and prayer partners.

To give a gift, go to wycliffe.org.au/donate, choose your preferred method of giving and mention their names 'Andrew & Denielle Walsh'.

Up to 24 months Locum Teachers Wanted!

Are you a trained teacher and able to serve in a different location for a minimum of one year?

There are limitless volunteer opportunities for teachers in Wycliffe, ranging from:

› Classroom teaching

e.g. Urgent need for a teacher in South Asia as part of a team of 3 teachers for 13 children aged 6 - 12. Time frame: August 2016 to June 2017.

e.g. Ukarumpa International

School in Papua New Guinea currently has 32 vacancies for teachers

› One-on-one tutoring

› Itinerant teaching of missionary kids who live in remote villages

And more!

GO TO wycliffe.org.au/positions-vacant/teacher OR REGISTER YOUR INTEREST WITH teaching@wycliffe.org.au TO FIND OUT MORE

PROJECT UPDATE: *Coming Home to the Himba*

2016 Target: \$12,500 - 38% funded
(as of 21 Jan 2016)

As the Boeing touched down at Hosea Kutako airport, Windhoek, I had a strange sensation of coming home. A trip to the nomadic Himba in far Northern Namibia would be my first exposure to Scripture projects in the country where I was born, but left at the age of five.

The Himba Oral Bible project will bring God's Word to a largely illiterate, semi-nomadic people group, who survive in one of the harshest climates on earth. The project launch in November 2015 was attended by pastors from no less than 17 churches in and around Opuwo (population 5,500).

I was touched by the Pastors Forum's unity of purpose and their enthusiasm to develop dramatised, authentic audio material that would connect intimately with the 50 000 Himba living up to 400 km around Opuwo.



Outreach to Himba village. Photo: Kobus Conradie

By Kobus Conradie

Wycliffe organisations sometimes grapple with lack of ownership of Scripture projects by local churches, but not here!

The five-day training went exceptionally well, and over the weekend I was privileged to accompany a youth group from the local Christian school on an outreach to a Himba village. Seeing how keenly the Himba ladies and children participated and subsequently desired prayer confirmed again the real need in the hearts of people to encounter the living God. (No men attended as they were too busy

salvaging bits from a wrecked Hilux, which could be sold in Opuwo.)

Since November, translation facilitators have been working with Himba story crafters. Four stories have so far been translated from the book of Luke. The goal for the first phase of the project (2016-18) is 60 oral stories and the complete written gospel of Mark.

Thank you to those who have generously supported the Himba project thus far. To support the project, please go to <http://projects.wycliffe.org.au/projects/africa>

NEW PROJECT: *K Literacy & Health Training* (South Asia)

2016 Target: \$5,600

Just imagine living with the fear that your people group will soon disappear. The authorities say that the hills and valleys where your ancestors have grown their food for centuries is all government land. Squatters are moving in and taking over your traditional lands, and you have no redress.

The K people share their lot with many other ethnic minorities: few villages have roads, clinics,

electricity, running water or schools. Their children don't speak the national language but that is the only language spoken by the school teacher! So only one in 100 K children graduates from high school, compared to a national average of 30-40%.

They believe they are facing ethnic extinction. To forestall this, a team of 6-8 K people come together three times each year to do all they can to preserve their language, culture and way of life. The community is asking for training in literacy, community health and community development.

This project will cover the costs of training two K students who, as a part of their studies in Community Based Literacy and Community Health, will be attending workshops where they write multi-language literature for distribution among their own people. The cost of their

ongoing literature production is included.

Will you join with us to enable two students develop these practical skills to help their own communities?

The name of this people group has been omitted for security reasons.



A medium sized K village

To support a project

Go to projects.wycliffe.org.au or Email projects@wycliffe.org.au or
Fill out and mail the enclosed form in the addressed envelope

INTERESTED IN OTHER TYPES OF PROJECTS AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD?
GO TO projects.wycliffe.org.au

Projects (continued)

PROJECT NO. 8310

MOBA LITERACY - TOGO, BENIN

2016 Target: \$27,800

People's lives are often radically changed and empowered when they are able to read and write, particularly villagers who have never had any formal schooling. Such is the case with those participating in the Moba literacy classes (see article 'To be forever free' on page 3).

Our aim this year is to raise \$27,800 to make sure that even more Moba have the opportunity to learn to read and thus become empowered to be of greater help to their families and community. Thank you for considering this need - and as one grateful student last year said, 'May God bless all our benefactors'.

PROJECT NO. 8321

KON* BIBLE TRANSLATION - EAST ASIA

2016 Target: \$27,400

Completing the translation of the New Testament and parts of the Old for a language group of half a million speakers is no mean task. Such a large group, spread over such a large area makes it even more difficult, thus this project in providing for the means of closer consultation between expatriates and local Christians, is vital.

*pseudonym.

PROJECT NO. 8337

SCRIPTURE USE - SOLOMON ISLANDS

2016 Target: \$13,350

Encouraging local people to study the translated Scriptures in their own language and apply them to their daily life is a major goal of our work. And what better way to achieve this than to train local people to create their own culturally appropriate resources, such as Sunday School and Bible study materials, etc.

This is happening in the Solomon Islands and your willingness to fund this project will ensure that the local Scripture Use workers can continue to provide the impetus for their own people and local churches to feed on God's Word and grow in their faith.

Gain a taste of Wycliffe's work ON THE MAD OZ



Intrigued by the stories you've heard about Wycliffe's work? Gain a first-hand experience in an indigenous Australian setting on one of our short-term opportunities, MAD Oz, this year!

Trip Option 1: **Fri 24 Jun - Thu 7 Jul** (14 days)

Trip Option 2: **Thu 7 Jul - Sat 23 Jul** (17 days)

Costs: **Each trip is \$1,500** (airfares to and from Darwin not included)

Applications close: **13 May 2016**

FOR MORE INFO GO TO: wycliffe.org.au/event/mad-short-term-trip/
Or email Jeannie Bowen at vicro@wycliffe.org.au

'MAD Oz aims to offer ministry, adventure and discovery - of self and God, and I came away with fresh insight, enthusiasm and interest in God's Word, His people and His message.' Louise Bettison



**READ LOUISE'S REMINISCENCES OF HER
2015 MAD ADVENTURE AT
wycliffe.org.au/MAD**

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The BOOK TREE

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By Rex Hayward

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Enter the promo code WYCLIFFE when purchasing the series from the EverytownDownunder.com website. This will support Wycliffe and Steve Grace Ministries.

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