

# Wycliffe Today

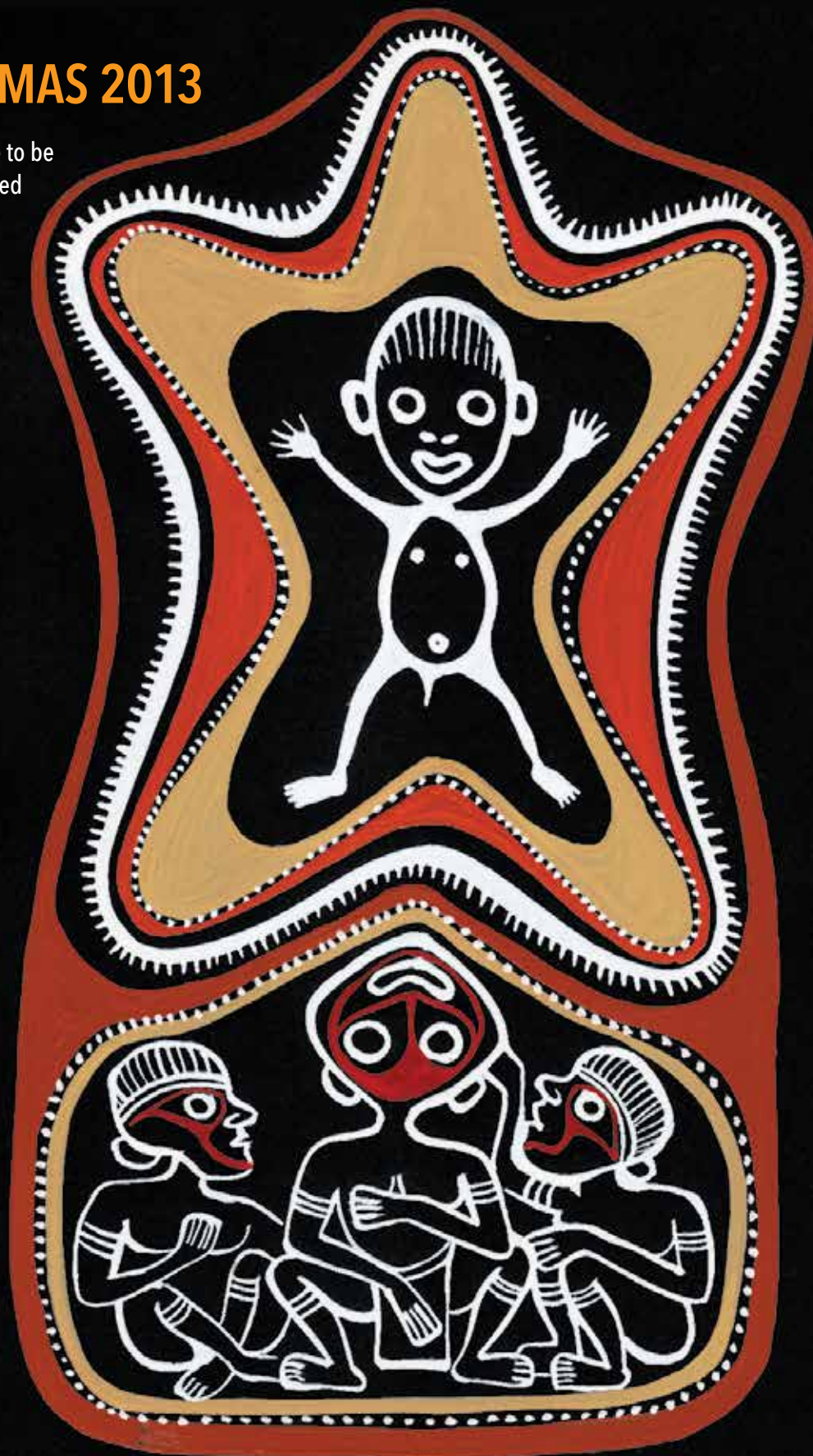


Incorporating *Beyond Words* and *Overseas Projects Newsletter* / NOVEMBER 2013 / VOL. 1 NO. 1 / ISSN 2202-9818

## CHRISTMAS 2013

So the Holy One to be  
born will be called  
the Son of God.

Luke 2:35 NIV



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Member of Bible Agencies Australia

**COVER PICTURE**

'Ner Wijnmai' - Portrayal of the Star of  
Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, and the  
Magi in the Kwoma visual language of PNG.  
Artist: Nianas Maira; Photo: Peter Brook.

See article on pages 6-7



## EDITORIAL

# Wycliffe Today

Welcome to *Wycliffe Today* - our new and expanded newsletter. Our previous two newsletters - *Beyond Words* and *Overseas Project Newsletter* - have been incorporated into this new and expanded publication.

*Wycliffe Today* brings you news of Wycliffe activities both within Australia and abroad. We'll also introduce you to Wycliffe's vast online resources and promote our social media presence to help you keep in touch with developments in the world of Bible Translation.

We foresee three issues per year. Every second year one issue will incorporate a **Biennial Corporate Report** giving you a financial and operational overview of Wycliffe Australia. Our next corporate report is scheduled for May 2015. Printed copies of our 2013 corporate report are available from our National Office, or a PDF can be downloaded from [www.wycliffe.org.au](http://www.wycliffe.org.au).

We trust that you will enjoy reading this issue of *Wycliffe Today*. Comments, questions and contributions are welcome. Please write to the Editor at: [communications\\_australia@wycliffe.org](mailto:communications_australia@wycliffe.org).

## Thank You, Val

Val Dunstan is a great story of how to combine dedication, an artistic style and an eye for detail. Val of course would not say that, but as someone who has worked alongside her on *Beyond Words* for the last 6 years I would and can say that. Val is one very talented lady. Her contribution started back in 1986 as a member of the editorial board of the new *Beyond Words* - 'The Official Bulletin of Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia'. Val has worked on *Beyond Words* on and off ever since, and in 2003 became Editor. With an eye for good layout and writing style, *Beyond Words* was always a much improved publication by the time it made its way to the reader, because of Val's input. While I have seen firsthand Val's professional motivation there has always been a deeper motivation that stands out. Val has always remained inspired by the Bible translation movement and simply delights in being a part of it. As Val embraces the call of the grandchildren and retirement I know this passion will not diminish, and news of progress in Bible translation and subsequent transformation will be treasured. Thank you, Val.

Barry Borneman, CEO

### Wish to pray for the work of Bible Translation?

Please subscribe to our monthly bulletin *Prayer Words*.  
Email [prayer-notes\\_australia@wycliffe.org](mailto:prayer-notes_australia@wycliffe.org)



# Curious about the birth of Jesus? It's all there...in English!



Barry Borneman, CEO

I already knew a lot about the Christmas story before I became a Christian as a 17 year old. I had not gone to church but I knew a baby called Jesus was born, and there were a few sheep, a donkey, stars, and a Christmas

**tree, and that people brought presents. Or something like that.**

We had some Religious Instruction in school, nativity scenes, Santa, and a Gideon's New Testament to fill out the picture...

Today is no different for most of us living in Australia. *And if we want to know more about Christmas, and this Jesus..?*

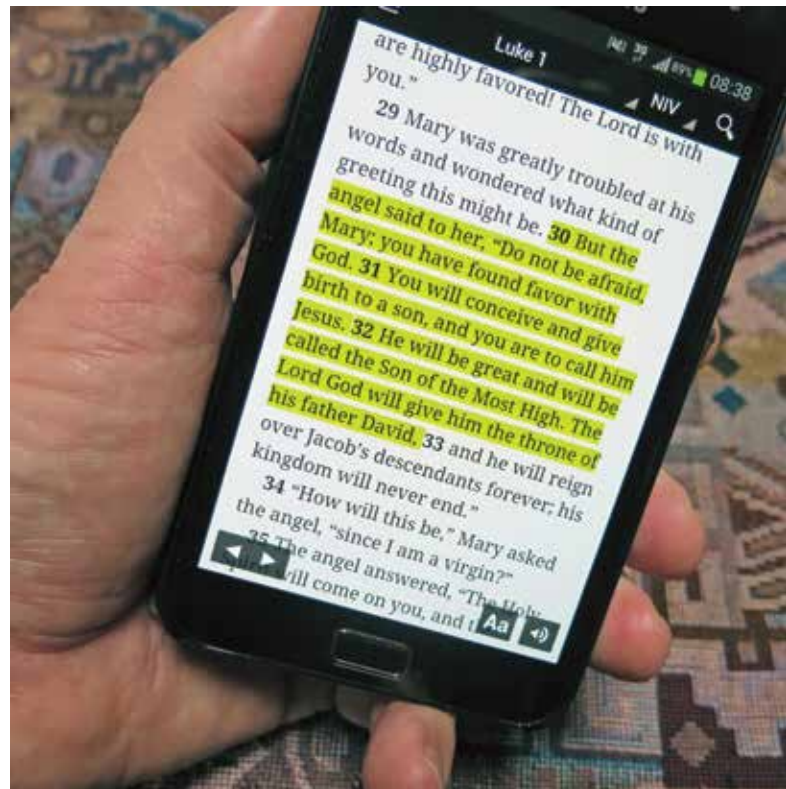
Well, we can ask a Christian to tell us the story of Jesus. There's no danger in that. It's not against the law. Or we can read what it says in the Bible. Printed copies are freely available in Australia, or we can download the Bible on our iPad, tablet or smartphone (and we have at least one of those). Or we can Google 'Christmas'.

And surely we'll understand it all because we understand English. English is our Mother Tongue, our Heart Language. And the Bible is written in English, and so is the Internet!

We'll also understand because someone taught us to read. And we learned to read because we're not blind. And if we don't like to read we can simply listen to an audio... And we can hear and understand because we are not deaf.

So really, most of the 23 million people in Australia can find out more about Jesus if they wanted to...it's all there, in English!

**But there is another world out there - a world of many millions who do not understand English, people whose Heart Language may not even be written down yet, let alone have a Bible.**



*The Bible App* from YouVersion.com offers no less than 39 versions of the Bible in English alone! Total installs to date exceeds 113 million in over 100 languages, but almost 2,000 languages still have no Scripture.

**People who may not be able to read because they were never taught, or because they cannot see. People who would greatly desire an audio bible, or to be told a Bible story in their Heart Language. Or deaf people who need a visual Bible ... And so it goes on.**

**This is the world of Wycliffe, and this is the world we're asking you to keep in your prayers. Our desire is that more and more Aussies will develop a passion to support the work done around the world in Bible translation, Literacy and Scripture Use.**

May Christmas 2013 be a rich time for you as you encounter more and more of God through the privilege of having his Word available in your own Heart Language.

# Come celebrate in 2014!

**Calling Churches and Home Groups – next year marks a special year for Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia – our 60th anniversary!**

Wycliffe looks back at the faithfulness and greatness of God as we celebrate our 60 years of service. Our celebration focuses on the partnership between us and our supporters, without whom none of the work of 60 years could have been accomplished.

We invite churches and small groups to join in our celebrations by featuring our special anniversary on one of the Sundays in March 2014. The theme will be **“Celebrating 60 years - 1,967 languages to go!”**

Wycliffe will provide resources for this event, including print and audio-visual material. You can choose from a range of options from a one minute slot to a full Wycliffe-themed

Sunday (including children’s and youth programs). We want to make this as easy as possible for all to join in and celebrate.

If you want to celebrate with us, please

- › Set a date in your church calendar for this (If March does not suit, another time in the year is okay)
- › Send an email to Deb Tan at [events\\_australia@wycliffe.org](mailto:events_australia@wycliffe.org) to let us know (so that we can send you the resources at the right time), or phone us at 03 9712 2777.

We look forward to celebrating together.

*Celebrating*  
**60 YEARS.**  
**1,967**  
**LANGUAGES**  
**TO GO!**

## What is planned?

*We are planning a program with a church service in mind. Based on a specific theme, we will provide material for a sermon outline, illustrations and stories, video clips, and written prayer. For the children’s service, using the same theme, we will provide suggestions of games, children’s activities and stories. Churches can choose to use elements of the program as it suits them. Of course each element will have a focus on the work of Wycliffe and the Bibleless peoples.*

## Applications still accepted for EQUIP Summer School APPLY ONLINE TODAY

‘There is still time to enrol for our six-week Summer School of January and February 2014,’ says Joan Finlay, Principal of EQUIP Training at Kangaroo Ground. ‘We’ll accept enrolments until mid-November, but we have limited places, so people should apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.’

**In six weeks EQUIP Summer School will help you understand, appreciate and adjust to other languages and cultures.**

- Become a proactive language learner.
- Explore the amazing complexity of human cultures.
- Learn to hear and say a variety of sounds used in languages of the world.



**To apply or for further information:**

Visit: [www.equip.edu.au](http://www.equip.edu.au)  
Email: [info\\_equip@sil.org](mailto:info_equip@sil.org)  
Phone: +61 3 9712 2601  
70 Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground  
Victoria 3097 Australia

Learning to Communicate in Anyone’s Language **equip** TRAINING

Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia trading as EQUIP Training.  
CRICOS Overseas Student Provider Code 012398

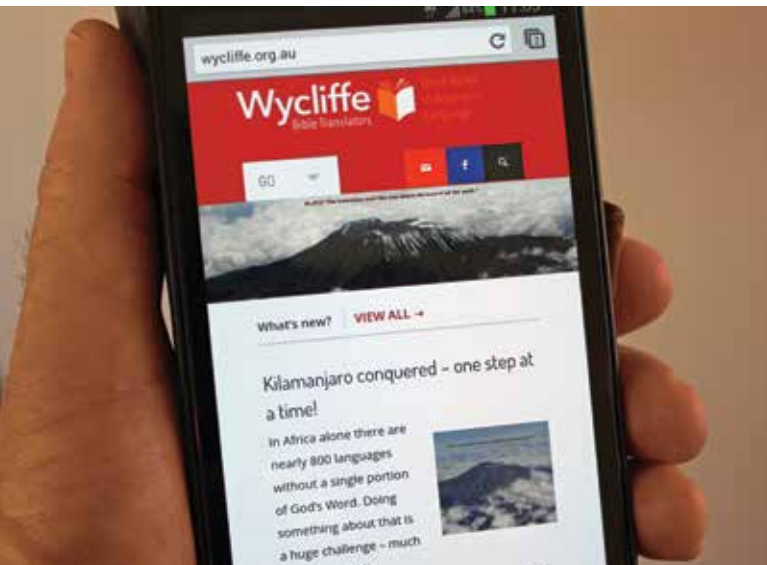


‘Living and working cross-culturally and learning another language is a difficult task for most of us. Our EQUIP Summer School will dramatically improve your ability to succeed,’ says Joan. ‘Summer School builds skills and confidence in language acquisition, phonetics, how language is organised, and understanding cultures.’

‘Subjects taught during Summer School are accredited and are the core subjects of the yearlong Diploma and the Graduate Diploma courses.’

**Applications can be done online by visiting [www.equip.edu.au](http://www.equip.edu.au).**

# Wycliffe on the Web



## WEBSITE 'SELF-ADAPTS' FOR SCREEN SIZE

Wycliffe Australia's new website features an 'optimised' design, which means its content resizes and repositions to fill all screen sizes. This feature makes it easy to read on any size screen, including smartphones, tablets and notebooks. Visit [www.wycliffe.org.au](http://www.wycliffe.org.au) to see how it works for your device - and keep up with news from the world of Bible translation!



By 'liking' our Facebook page you'll regularly receive new posts from us and other organisations working in Bible translation, mission and ministry. See [www.facebook.com/wycliffeaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/wycliffeaustralia)

## WEALTH OF VIDEO CLIPS IS JUST A FEW CLICKS AWAY

Do you prefer watching video clips to reading?

- › You can access Wycliffe Global's comprehensive article library via [wycliffe.net](http://wycliffe.net) > [articles](#) > [article library](#). By filtering 'media type' and selecting 'video' you will find 85 different clips, which you can filter again by continent, country or topic.



**YouTube** - Wycliffe Global Alliance also features 42 video clips on a range of topics related to Bible Translation, including how the work of different Wycliffe organisations impact communities and individuals.

- › To view, go to [www.wycliffe.net](http://www.wycliffe.net) and click on the **YouTube** icon.
- › To subscribe and receive new video posts simply click 'subscribe' and follow the prompts.

## FEATURED RESOURCE

Can contemporary Christian poetry about 'language diversity' bring a lump to your throat or a tear to your eye?

We didn't think so, until we watched two performances by Christian poet David Bowden. David's poems '*The Well, the Bucket and the Rope*' and '*Pent Up Cost*' were commissioned by Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate The Seed Company and his rendition of the poems is well worth watching and sharing with your friends, small group or congregation.

- › See The Seed Company on **YouTube** or go to the Resources section of [www.wycliffe.net](http://www.wycliffe.net)



# Ethno Arts and the Gospel – the stories



*Nanias at work in his studio in Wewak, PNG.*



*Bernard carving a post to retell a legend*



**Wycliffe Australia member Peter Brook has been working in Papua New Guinea since 1996, primarily as a vernacular literacy trainer and consultant, but since 2011 as an Arts Worker.**

Papua New Guinea's rich tradition of visual arts - carving, costume, painting, weaving - is one of the country's most distinctive features.

Like spoken languages visual arts are also a form of communication. Churches and missions have more to learn about using local visual literacy skills in discipleship and evangelism.

Since assuming his new role Peter has lived and worked with several communities and artists in the Sepik region. Using photography and video Peter documents local artistic expressions, seeking to better understand world views, cultures and cultural art forms.

In November 2010 Peter met Nanias Maira, an artist working on the north west coast of Papua New Guinea. Over the next 2 years he grew to know Nanias well and discovered that Nanias is a 'custodian' of the Kwoma visual language.

Together Nanias and Peter embarked on documenting the complex visual 'languages' of bark painting, carving and dance of the Kwoma people.

# of the Bible are no longer foreign ...



*Gen 1:14-19. 'And God created the sun and the moon and the stars...'  
Yah ka neuka ka (Kwoma language).*



*Gen. 1:20-25. 'God created living creatures on land, in the air and the sea.'  
Foiy apusomb (Kwoma language).*



*Joseph demonstrating traditional drum beats.*



*Kwoma ladies in traditional dance costume.*

About halfway through 2011 Peter set Nianas the challenge of painting stories from the Bible using traditional designs and images of his clan. The result was a beautiful set of paintings of the Genesis creation account and the beginning of a series on the Life of Christ (see cover picture). Nianas was transformed as he read the Scriptures to accurately translate these stories into the Kwoma visual language.

In April and October 2012 Peter went out with Nianas to his village to document their arts and culture. When the villagers saw the new "Biblical" paintings their enthusiastic response was "These are ours!"

**The paintings in their local visual language spoke straight to their hearts, the stories of the Bible were no longer foreign!**

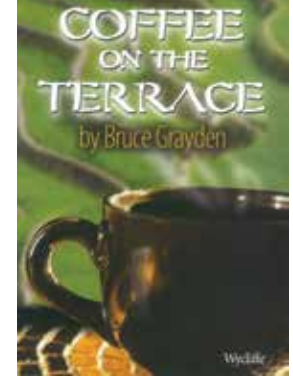
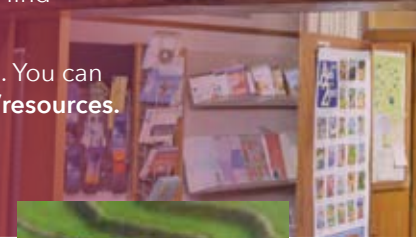
# BOOKSTORE

Below is a list of books produced by Wycliffe Australia. We trust you will enjoy the read and find them informative and inspirational. Most of the books are by Australian authors.

To order an item simply fill in the enclosed coupon and return it in the addressed envelope. You can also order some of these books along with other resources online at: [www.wycliffe.org.au/resources](http://www.wycliffe.org.au/resources).

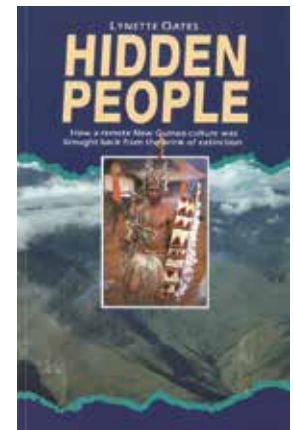
Receive a free copy of our photo book *To the Ends of the Earth* with every order.

The BOOK TREE



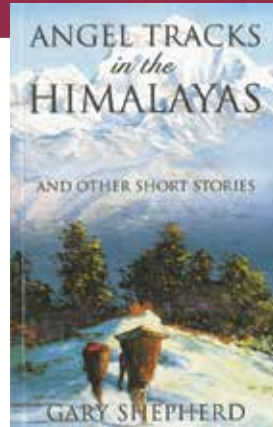
## COFFEE ON THE TERRACE

by Bruce Grayden  
The fascinating account of the life of the Kalinga people of the northern Philippines through the eyes of Bruce and Judith Grayden who lived amongst them. **Price \$13.50**



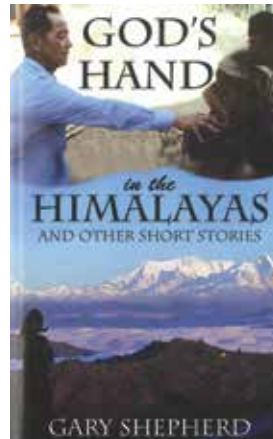
## HIDDEN PEOPLE

by Lynette Oates  
The Binumarien people of Papua New Guinea faced certain extinction. Warfare had scattered and broken them. By 1959 their numbers had dropped from 3000 to 111. It was the coming of the Book in their own language that turned things around. This is a remarkable account of how people found reason for living. **Price \$15.00**



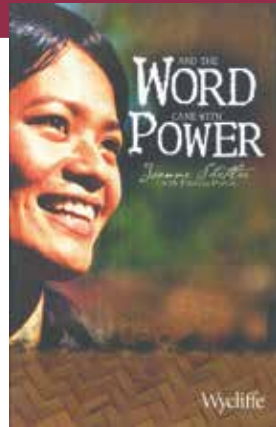
## ANGEL TRACKS IN THE HIMALAYAS

by Gary Shepherd  
A collection of short stories about Gary and his family and their life in Nepal. It is an account of God's love and guidance. **Price \$15.00**



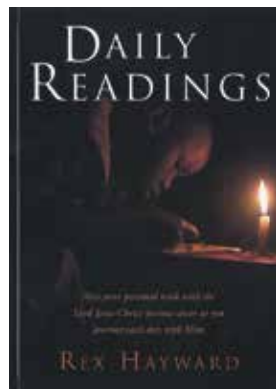
## GOD'S HAND IN THE HIMALAYAS

by Gary Shepherd  
Short stories recording God's miraculous power at work amongst the Magar people of Nepal, despite challenges and struggles. **Price \$15.00**



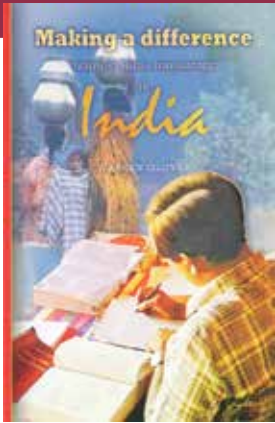
## AND THE WORD CAME WITH POWER

by Joanne Shetler with Patricia Purvis  
The dramatic story of how God set in motion events bringing Joanne and the Balangao people of the Philippines together in a spiritual battle that changed them forever. **Price \$15.95**



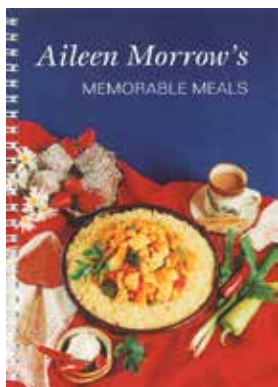
## DAILY READINGS

by Rex Hayward  
A whole year's devotions on many aspects of the Christian walk. **Price \$15.00**



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN INDIA

by Warren Glover  
Stories about Indian Bible translators, their difficulties and their perseverance while serving in their own country. **Price \$8.65**



## AILEEN MORROW'S MEMORABLE MEALS

This recipe book has food from Australia and many other countries where Wycliffe works. The Wycliffe Australia author has adapted carefully chosen recipes yet is still authentic and appeal to all ages. **Price \$9.35**



## TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

A photographic essay dedicated to all the wonderful people Australians have encountered while sharing God's Word through translation, literacy and compassionate service. **Free with every order, or \$3.00 on its own**

FREE WITH EVERY ORDER



# God is changing hearts to welcome Scripture

by Jenny Austin



*Mavis Price (left) and Linda Weissenberger (right) celebrating the Miya mini-Bible dedication in June 2013*

Any literacy worker worth their salt desires the transformation of lives. In Mavis Price's case she wants to see children and adults learn to read in their own language well enough to get the meaning of what they read and thereby understand God's love for them. She has laboured to this end during her years of service, firstly with the Girawa and then with the Maia people of Papua New Guinea.

The results, unfortunately, may not be obvious for a long time. A lack of desire in people to know the Lord Jesus can be heartbreaking to those who bring Good News.

However, the dedication in June this year of the Maia Mini-Bible (comprising Genesis and eight New Testament books) and the audio version, on the AudiBible, awakened some of the hope that Mavis and her colleague, Linda, had felt so many years previously. God is changing the hearts of the people to welcome the Scriptures.

About 400 people were expected to come to the dedication but despite the damage caused by seven hours of torrential rain the week before, almost a thousand people attended the special day of celebration. Dramas,



songs and dances were presented and people spoke of the importance of reading the Maia Scriptures while thanking God for His work amongst them. About 150 Mini-Bibles and 90 AudiBibles were sold on the day and continue to be bought. Interestingly, the AudiBible is proving to be the catalyst for people to read the written form.

Mavis and Linda are praying for transformed lives amongst the Maia people because they know that Satan remains active wherever the Lord is at work. Would you join them in praying for the Maia people?

# VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME



## OUR 'HOME AMONG THE GUM TREES'

Wycliffe's National Centre – some 35km north east of Melbourne CBD – is the hub from which we support members working within Australia and around the world.

This peaceful rural property at Kangaroo Ground, with its majestic gumtrees and abundant wildlife is also home to EQUIP Training, where students are trained in intercultural studies, language learning and translation skills.

Other Missions, partner organisations and churches often use our centre for conferences or retreats. Members returning from field services also like to make Kangaroo Ground their base from which to reconnect with their supporters in Australia.

**Wycliffe**  
National Centre 

### Keen to volunteer part-time?

We welcome volunteers of all ages to help with work in the office or assist in the maintenance of the Kangaroo Ground centre.

If you have a heart for Bible translation, live within travelling distance and would like to spend 1-2 days a week serving the Lord with a group of like-minded people, please give us a call on 9712 2777 and ask to speak to Jeanette Bennett.

### Volunteering opportunities exist for young and old!

- › Housekeeping and hospitality
- › Catering
- › Gardening
- › Building maintenance
- › Transport
- › Child minding (at certain times of the year)
- › Cleaners

### None of these appeal to you? Then how about:

- › Business manager
- › Operations manager
- › Office and clerical worker
- › Writer, editor, proof reader
- › Photographer
- › Digital communications editor
- › Data administrator

and the like?

## VOLUNTEER POSITIONS URGENT NEEDS

### ASSISTANT MANAGERS Tree Tops Lodge Cairns, QLD

Tree Tops Lodge Cairns, in beautiful North Queensland, is a joint venture Wycliffe Bible Translators and Mission Aviation Fellowship Australia.

Tree Tops Lodge Cairns provides accommodation for missionaries and those interested in supporting missions, in a peaceful Christian atmosphere.

We are offering two full-time positions, ideally a husband and wife team, as assistant managers. Working as part of a team you will be involved in general maintenance (buildings, grounds and cars), servicing and assisting with reception, administrative duties and cleaning of rooms. The work is physically demanding and has a fixed roster which includes weekends and some evenings.

These are voluntary, unsalaried positions and as Wycliffe members, applicants will need to raise their financial support. Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents only can be considered.

Commencement date: September 2014

#### For more information

please contact **Ben Chenoweth**

E. [personnel-manager\\_australia@wycliffe.org](mailto:personnel-manager_australia@wycliffe.org)  
T. 03 9712 2777

[www.treetopslodge Cairns.org.au](http://www.treetopslodge Cairns.org.au)

# INVITING SUPPORT FOR OUR PROJECTS IN 2014



**King David once proclaimed: 'Everything comes from you, and we have given only what comes from your hand!' (1 Chron. 29:14).**

David was praising God for the gifts of his people to build the temple. We too praise God for the generosity of his people who support Wycliffe's work here in Australia and abroad. Last year we were able to fund some 28 projects, and provide computers

and books urgently needed by members in the field. Your gifts made this possible and we are very grateful.

The Bible speaks to us frequently about our finances. God tells us that if we use our wealth according to his plan, we will bring honour and glory to him and will also have an impact on the lives of people today leaving a legacy that will span generations.

Please join with us in prayer for our work around the world and for the projects listed below which Wycliffe Australia has undertaken to fund for the coming year. We would be delighted if you would continue to partner with us as we seek to bring the life-giving Word of God to the many needy people around the world.

David Tilbury, Project Funding Administrator

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## PROJECT NO. 30001

### VANUATU BIBLE TRANSLATION

Vanuatu **\$11,000**

These funds support the indigenous Vanuatu Bible Translation organisation as it grows in spiritual maturity and practical skills necessary to support existing Bible translation projects and initiate new ones.

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## PROJECT NO. 30002

### SALT PROJECT (Scripture Application & Leadership Training)

Papua New Guinea **\$16,500**

The continuing work of PACIFIC-SALT encourages church leaders to use their local Scripture translations effectively. The training shows the relevance of the local language Scriptures in all aspects of life, including life in community, leadership, intercession and worship, evangelism, discipleship, works of service and theological reflection.

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## PROJECT NO. 30003

### SONGHAI AKASALEM LITERACY

Togo Benin (ongoing) **\$11,000**

Join the mission of making the Scripture available for the unreached Muslims of central Togo through literacy, Akasalem Bible translation and appropriate media.

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## PROJECT NO. 30004

### BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

Vanuatu **\$13,500**

Two areas are currently impeding Bible translation in Vanuatu: low church involvement and the limited skill and knowledge of local translators. The goal of this project is to widen the net for local participation and to significantly increase the key skills of local translators so they can take greater leadership in all areas of the Bible translation process.

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## PROJECT NO. 30005

### NORTH BENGAL PARTNERSHIP

India **\$47,500** (\$10,000 received to date)

The North Bengal Partnership is a new initiative among nine minority language groups living in North Bengal and adjacent places. It operates under the leadership of the Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM) and embraces multiple partners. If you have a heart for India, for training, and networks of multiple partners developing a common vision, this project may be one with which you will want to build a specific relationship. The initial funding will help maximise community participation and build a solid foundation for the future. Primary outcomes for 2013-14 are developing and promoting a health booklet, magazine, songs and Christian tracts in the language groups - all leading towards Bible translation.

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## PROJECT NO. 30006

### LAMA WHOLE BIBLE COMPLETION

Togo Benin **\$14,830**

These funds support the Lama Old Testament translation team who have continued on without a designated Wycliffe translation advisor. The minor prophets were recently translated and now await a translation consultant check. A shortage of available translation consultants has caused delays from time to time and the team specifically asks prayer for this.

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## PROJECT NO. 30007

### SCRIPTURE USE

Solomon Islands **\$5,500**

This project involves church leaders in a deeper way in the Bible translation task. It is done by encouraging prayer, discussion and planning Scripture Use programs, producing Bible reading class booklets with Bible reading classes being held in four languages. Workshops are also planned to train church ministry leaders to use the Bible resources in their own language.

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## PROJECT NO. 30008

### STRENGTHENING THE FAITH OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Australia **\$11,866**

The goal is to strengthen the faith of indigenous Australians by providing training and other opportunities for them to interact with heart language Scripture and discover how to evaluate their own cultures in the light of biblical truth. This is done through writing and recording indigenous hymns and worship, storytelling, discipleship and evangelism.

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## PROJECT NO. 30009

### COMPUTER FUND FOR FIELDWORKERS

Australia **\$17,500**

Computers are essential for most of our fieldworkers. Portable computers have become increasingly important and are now essential tools for translators, literacy workers, consultants, language survey teams, and many of our members in teaching or administrative roles. From this fund we help by subsidising the cost of new portable computers needed by our Australian members in the front line.

**To support a project, please complete the enclosed coupon and return in the addressed envelope.**

**Alternatively please go to [www.wycliffe.org.au/donate](http://www.wycliffe.org.au/donate) or email [david\\_tilbury@wycliffe.org](mailto:david_tilbury@wycliffe.org)**

# The need for Bible translation remains critical

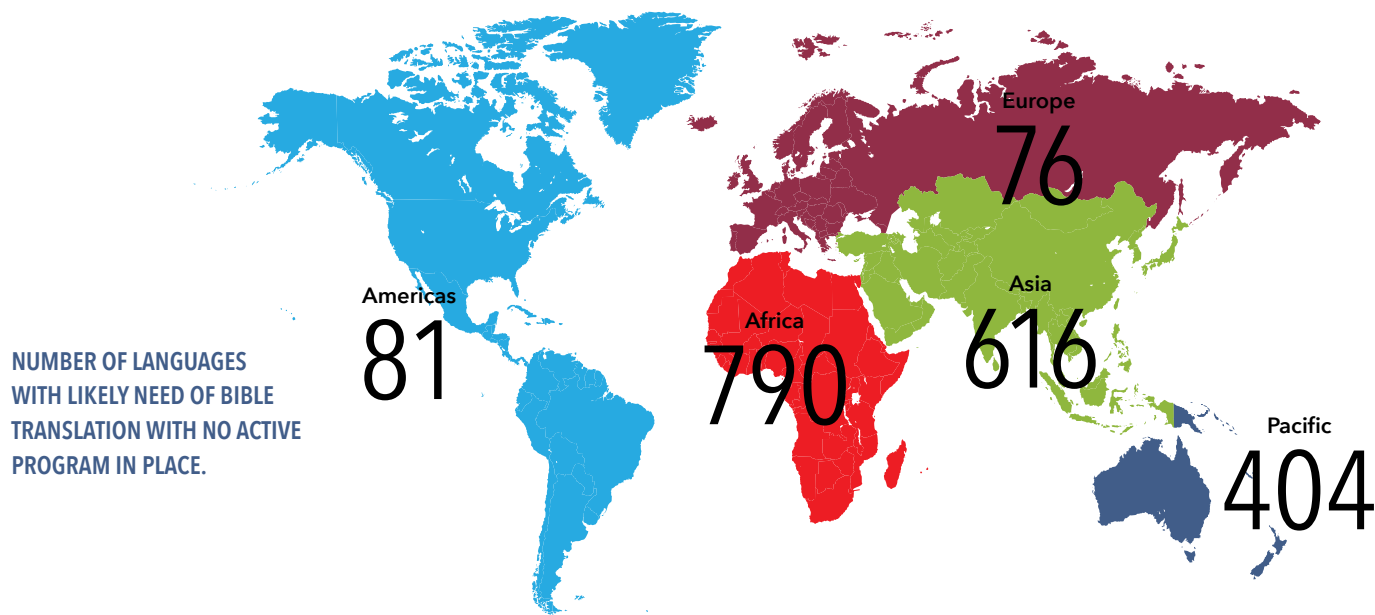
Current estimates are that around 209 million people speaking 1,967 languages still need Bible translation to begin.

Wycliffe believes a major way of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the nations of the world is through literacy work and Scripture

translation into the heart languages among the millions who are in need of 'the way, the truth and the life' (John 14:6 NIV).

It is this work that Wycliffe Australia and other members of the Wycliffe Alliance are engaged in.

- › Some of our current projects are listed on page 11 for your consideration.
- › If you would like to receive our monthly **Prayer Words**, please notify us at the address on page 2.



## ...while work continues in languages from 97 countries

Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia is one of over 100 organisations from more than 60 nations that make up Wycliffe Global Alliance.

### Translation

Since the first Wycliffe organisation began in 1942, people from these organisations, working alongside local communities, have assisted in the translation of 830 New Testaments and 35 complete Bibles, potentially impacting around 214 million people speaking 799 languages.

### Audio

Working in partnership with Faith Comes by Hearing, Wycliffe helped complete well over 300 Audio New Testaments. As well as this, audio recordings of Scripture portions and songs are a regular part of our translation projects.

### Video

Wycliffe partner JAARS has dubbed The JESUS Film into over 170 languages, some or all of the Luke video in 252 languages and some or all of the Genesis video in 97 languages.

### Other Resources

Alliance personnel also help produce thousands of resources for literacy, education, health and other development-related goals.

Staff from participating organisations in the Wycliffe Global Alliance are currently working alongside other local and national partners in languages from 97 countries.



For more information see [www.wycliffe.net](http://www.wycliffe.net)



Good News in Anyone's Language  
[www.wycliffe.org.au](http://www.wycliffe.org.au)

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