

October 2021



# The Wright Stuff

*Supporting Bible Translation through Member Care*

## Greetings from North Carolina!

We trust this finds you well. We are doing well and looking forward to cooler temperatures, less humidity and the changing colors that come with the arrival of autumn. This has always been our favorite season.

In this newsletter, we are highlighting two couples Keith serves in his member care role. Both couples are involved in translation work but in different capacities. We want to share a small glimpse of their work with you to have a better understanding of the complexities of translation work.

## Cultivating a “print culture” (From the Carwiles serving in PNG)

Seeing words and letters shouldn't be a rare thing, but in Avevete it is. A "print culture" has to be cultivated. Part of making the written word available to Pamosu speakers involves small, conscious, public actions. In church, the order of service is written on a blackboard at the front of the sanctuary and efforts such as the hanging library are vital to providing access to literature. The way to improve reading and writing is through practice. Practice and exposure also make for good language learning and teaching.

It is common among the Pamosu speakers to relax around a fire after a hard day of work and talk together and tell stories. But those trying to teach Jason Pamosu as they sat around the fire quickly ran out of new words and phrases to share. One man said, “I have no more words to teach you.” Two of Jason’s language teachers, Mambe and Ovokare, have started using alternative teaching methods.

Mambe brought Jason along to clear some land for making a garden. When Mambe started using the axe in different ways and described the different kinds of trees and the different methods used in different situations, Jason was quickly overwhelmed with the number of new words and concepts.



Fortunately, he could record all this new knowledge on his cell phone. Later, Mambe and Jason went again to the same garden and Mambe's excitement was visible as Jason acquired more and more of the Pamosu language.

Ovokare made a similar realization concerning the availability of language learning topics in the fire-circle setting and decided on another solution. He took his cell phone and began taking pictures and videos while out doing normal activities. Then he brought the material and discussed it with Jason on the days they met. This, too, is broadening the range of words and topics that can be talked about to a dramatic degree.

As we start to understand and make revelations about language learning, everyone is encouraged. Jason’s mastery of the Pamosu language benefits from various methods, and the Pamosu translators

perspective on their own language learning approach and abilities alters, making learning English and later Greek/Hebrew less work and more fun! **Praise God** for the freedom and opportunity to learn these translation methods, grow in knowledge, and learn more of who Christ is!

## Translation can be tricky (From the McLarrens serving remotely from the US)

So what is new? Actually the good news is old, the news that God loves us and has provided for us to live in good relationship with him. We all know that. But one in 5 people in the world don't have access to that news in a language they know best. That is where Bible Translation is so important.

But translation can be tricky. Some of you may have seen signs like the one below. Even when you understand the message you can't always get it into the other language in an understandable phrase. But if you don't understand the message, it can be even worse.

Imagine translating this phrase from 1 Chronicles 26:18:

"and for the parbar on the west there were four on the road and two at the parbar." (RSV)

Footnote: The meaning of the word *parbar* is unknown.

Note: some translations think it is a tower or fortification.

Understanding the message of the Bible is essential for a good translation. Paul and Janet prepare written helps that assist translators so they will understand the Bible message as they translate. Paul manages, and they both write articles for the Key Terms Old Testament project which provides definitions of important concepts from the Old Testament, words like "redeem" and "loving kindness". Janet is also co-directing a year-long training program for consultants who give advice and check translations to make sure they are accurate and well understood.

**Please pray** for Paul and Janet as they write the helps for translators and train new consultants.



## Praise—Celebrating 25 years of ministry this month!

- ◆ Keith is in his fifth year of service as a Member Care Resource Coordinator (RC). **Please pray** for wisdom and grace as he serves his RC clients and as he works with others in our partner organizations to address assignment needs of the Wycliffe USA members.
- ◆ Keith and other member care staff continue to assist Wycliffe members whose ministries have been impacted in some way by COVID and political unrest in various parts of the world. **Please pray** for the member care staff and these families as they look to God for His perfect timing for their next steps.
- ◆ Ministry budget update—Wycliffe has evaluated and adjusted our ministry budget for 2022. Based on increased cost of living and health insurance costs, which you are likely experiencing as well, our budget increased by \$600/month. **Please pray** with us for new and increased financial partnerships to help meet these additional expenses. If you would like additional information on how you, or others you know, can become ministry partners with us, please let us know.

**Thank You** to our Wycliffe ministry prayer and financial partners for standing with us during our 25 years of ministry! Your partnership is closing the gap of those language groups who still wait for access to God's Word.

*Blessings,  
Keith and Debbi*

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