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Editorial

By Dr David Tan, Executive Director

I trust you are keeping safe.

In this issue, we introduce Charles Ho, the ED-designate, who will take over from 1 October 2021. We also have articles to demystify the requirements and process of serving with our organisation (*Joining Wycliffe FAQ*), on how to raise children in the field (*Living in Two Worlds*) and on how consultant checking is being done in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic (*Rethinking Consultancy: Pandemic Accelerates Virtual Checking*).

Let me say a few words about serving with Wycliffe. Contrary to what most people might think, potential member candidates do not need a background in linguistics! I myself have a scientific background, and worked in the air force and then in the area of operations research before joining Wycliffe. Wycliffe is able to guide and provide the required training for our members to serve in the field. What is more important for potential members is to have a strong sense of calling, a good set of work skills, and sufficient ministry experience. In particular, it is increasingly important, in this day and age, for members to be able to obtain work visas overseas.

The ministry of Wycliffe and our family of organisations is also shifting. There is an increasing emphasis on scripture use/engagement. There is also a shift towards integral ministry, i.e. both providing access to the Word and demonstrating the relevance of the Word. And lastly, there is a need to engage and build capacity in the communities that we serve. This is because the target communities are often at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder. The call now is for workers who have varied skillsets and experience. Read more about the vision and ministry of Wycliffe in the article introducing our ED-designate.

Enjoy reading!



Blessings,
Dr. David Tan



编者语

总主任陈金峰博士

愿您们平安。

本期《译经行》要郑重介绍我们的候任总主任何仁杰弟兄，他将在2021年10月1日就任。本期也刊载几篇报道：《加入威克理夫的问与答》——作威克理夫成员的要求和流程，《活在两个世界：宣教工场上的孩童》（英语版）——如何在工场上养儿育女，以及《顾问审核的新模式》——冠病大流行期间如何为译经进行顾问审核。

让我来说一说在威克理夫的事吧！有别于多数人的想法，成员候选人并不需要有语言学背景。我是理科毕业的，在加入威克理夫前曾在空军和运筹学领域工作。威克理夫会为前线成员提供指导和必要的训练。较重要的是，候选成员必须拥有强烈的使命感，良好的工作技能，以及足够的事工经验。此外，能取得工场国家的工作签证将会是越来越重要的。

威克理夫的事工及其伙伴机构正在转变中。人们越来越重视圣经的实用性，译经事工也趋向整全化，既要让族群拥有自己语言的圣经，也要展示出神的话语如何与他们息息相关。最后，由于目标群体往往处于社会经济阶梯的底层，我们需要与他们沟通互动，帮助他们提升生活水平。现在，神要呼召的是拥有不同技能和经验的工人，大家且从即将上任的新总主任介绍报道中了解更多有关威克理夫的愿景与事工。

祝阅读本刊愉快！

愿神祝福你！
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Charles and Hoong Yen Ho. 何仁杰与陈红燕夫妇。

Introducing Our New Executive Director

Wycliffe Singapore's next Executive Director, Charles Ho, will assume the position on 1 October 2021. Ahead of taking up his new role, we caught up with him to find out what he's been up to and what led him here.

Call to service

A Systems Engineer in IT, Charles was called to serve full-time in ministry in late 2000 as Wycliffe Singapore's Ministry Coordinator, right when he was looking for an IT role in ministry. Though working with computers was what Charles was comfortable with, he saw the need for a computer specialist and how heart language was instrumental for church growth and discipleship, especially in the work of Bible translation.

The opportunity was also good preparation for entering the mission field, which he eventually did together with his wife Hoong Yen, in 2005. The couple received training in linguistics and theology before setting off for a country in

Southeast Asia with 190 years of minority Christian presence.

Charles' passion for missions was birthed serving in various capacities in Bartley Christian Church's Youth Fellowship and the Missions Department, where he was blessed with many opportunities to explore his spiritual gifts in IT, administration and leadership roles.

On the field

In the 13 years abroad, Charles' IT expertise saw him in positions such as a computer specialist providing support to regional personnel and mobilisation coordinator with a partnering organisation in the Mekong region, where he oversaw the development of strategic plans for national involvement in 5 countries. He has also served as the interim director for another Wycliffe organisation in the field, while Hoong Yen served in literacy efforts.

Engaging with locals in Bible translation as well as recruitment efforts in missions exposed Charles to the diverse demographics and leadership in national churches from different areas— from small, community, ethnic churches to large, city churches.

Surveying the efforts of the national churches in that country to send out missionaries, Charles is encouraged by the growing involvement of youths in missions. They are also strategically located to reach out to neighbouring countries where people groups have similar language and writing systems.

After pursuing a Masters in Global Studies during his sabbatical in the US, the couple relocated in 2014 to another Southeast Asian country. Here, Charles continued to serve as an IT consultant and Director of Strategic Initiatives of Wycliffe Global Alliance Asia-Pacific, overseeing the strategic initiatives teams in several countries. He was



also involved in Scripture and community engagement among 7 unreached people groups.

On his greatest challenge thus far, Charles shares about “communicating with [locals to] understand the heartbeat of God as a missionary”, working with them “as a church to send out cross-cultural workers to unreached people groups”, seeing “God as a redeemer [at] the centre of missions”.

“One of my weaknesses is depending too much on self rather [than] on God. I need to trust that in all things, God is sovereign and learn to trust [...] the Holy Spirit for direction and leading.”

Home ground

Since returning to Singapore in 2018, Charles has been serving as the Missions Director of his home church. The couple also continue to serve an unreached people group remotely.

“Serving and equipping local Christians and churches towards a transformational indigenous movement has always been my heartbeat as I believe God is preparing local believers to be the missionaries and church planters [in] regions where we, the foreign missionaries, have difficult or no access.”

Going forth

Willing and open for God to use him in any capacity, Charles sees this upcoming role as another instance of God “[using him] for a particular purpose for a particular period of time.”

“My vision for Wycliffe Singapore is to establish a strong partnership with churches so as to raise the next generation of young people for the harvest field. Through strategic partnerships, we will together explore new ways in which the Gospel can reach the last frontiers and [for] communities [to] be transformed through His Word in their heart languages,” Charles shares.

From engaging the next generation through social causes to facilitating strategic collaboration, integrating Bible translation with discipleship and researching Business as Missions for creative access nations, there is much to be done and much to look forward to.

Soli Deo gloria!



我们的新总主任: 何仁杰

新加坡威克理夫办事处的新总主任何仁杰弟兄将于2021年10月1日就任。在此之前，我们有机会与他面谈，了解他的近况及事奉经历。

神的呼召

仁杰弟兄原是一名资讯科技系统工程师。在2000年下旬，他回应神全职事奉的呼召，成为新加坡威克理夫的事工联络员。尽管令仁杰弟兄感到最自在的是对着电脑工作，但他发现译经事工实在十分需要一位电脑专才，他也领会到心语圣经是教会增长与门训事工的一个重要工具。

在新加坡办事处的服事预备了仁杰弟兄和妻子红燕在2005年踏入宣教工场。该东南亚国家在190年来的基督徒数目寥寥可数。出发前，夫妇俩接受了语言学 and 神学的训练。

仁杰弟兄的宣教热忱萌芽于巴特礼基督教会。他积极在青少年团契和宣教部的多个岗位服事，得到不少机会发掘自己在资讯科技、行政以及领导方面的恩赐。

踏入工场

凭着其资讯科技的专业知识，仁杰弟兄在海外服事的13年里胜任数个职位。他曾任电脑专员，为湄公河地区一个伙伴机构的区域人员及动员事工协调员提供支援，负责督导五个国家的全国事工策略计划。他也曾经在工场上一个威克理夫附属组织里担任临时主任。妻子红燕则专注于识字事工。

在与当地人一同参与圣经翻译及宣教招募工作中，仁杰弟兄接触到各个地区的不同类型教会，从小型的社区民族教会到大型的城市教会。他发现这些教会在会众结构和领袖组织方面有颇大的差异。

在调查该国教会在差遣宣教士方面的参与度时，仁杰弟兄看到越来越多年轻人投身宣教，令他深受鼓舞。教会更策略性地把宣教士差派到那些居住在邻近国家，操相近语言和文字系统的族群中。

在美国休假期间，仁杰弟兄完成了世界研究硕士课程。夫妇俩于2014年进入另一个东南亚国家服事。仁杰弟兄继续担任威克理夫亚太区联盟的资讯科技顾问和策略计划主任，负责督导几个国家的策略计划团队。他还参与了七个未得之民群体的圣经与社区事工。

迄今，仁杰弟兄认为所遇到的最大挑战是：作为宣教士，他能如何帮助当地人明白神的心意，如何促进教会差派跨文化工人到未得之民的族群中，及如何使他们认定“神是救赎主”乃宣教的中心信息。

仁杰弟兄也表示：“我其中一个最大的弱点是过于依靠自己而不是依靠神。我需要在一切事上信靠神，祂是至高无上的。我要学习信靠圣灵的引导与带领。”

回返家园

自2018年回到新加坡以来，仁杰弟兄便一直在母会担任宣教主任。夫妇俩亦继续以远程方式服事一个未得群体。

“服事与装备当地基督徒和教会朝向本土化的改革一向是我心中的负担。有些地区是外国宣教士无法或难以进入的，我相信神正为这些未得之地装备当地信徒成为本土宣教士及植堂者。”

向前迈进

仁杰弟兄愿意敞开自己，让神使用。他认为接下来的任命将



是另一个经历，神要再次在一段特定的时间使用他完成一个特定的目标。

仁杰弟兄说：“与教会建立稳固的伙伴关系，以便为宣教禾场兴起下一代的年轻人，这就是我对新加坡威克理夫的愿景。透过策略性的伙伴关系，我们将与教会携手开创新方式来把福音传到地极，让各族群藉着他们的心语圣经，生命被转化。”

从鼓励下一代年轻人关怀社会民生，到促进策略性合作；从结合圣经翻译与门训，到研究“营商宣教”在创启国家的可行性，要做的工作还有很多，大家拭目以待吧！

荣耀全归于上帝！

Joining Wycliffe – Frequently Asked Questions



Photographer: Elyse Patten © Wycliffe Global Alliance.

Did you know that over 2000 people groups do not have any scripture in the language that touches their heart most deeply?

Do you want to help marginalised people groups hear God speak in their own language, and see their lives transformed by understanding and applying God's word?

Do you yearn to stand in the multitude in heaven and hear God praised in every language, and know that you played a part?

Read on to find out more about serving in Wycliffe!

Q: What roles are available?

Wycliffe organisations work in field projects all over the world, and people with many different skills are required. Just a sample of the varied roles:

- Translation (Bible translation, scripture use, oral storying, etc.)
- Literacy and multilingual education
- Administration (HR, finance, project management, IT, communications, etc.)

- Community development ('tent-making', business as mission (BAM), poverty alleviation, etc.)

Q: What's the best age to join Wycliffe?

There is no 'best age'! Some join Wycliffe in their twenties, practically straight out of education. Others may have worked for several years before joining Wycliffe in mid-career. Still others may only join after retirement. Each stage of life brings with it different strengths and challenges. Younger people may have more energy and a long runway ahead, while older people will be able to draw on more extensive work and life experiences.

Q: Is a linguistics degree or specific working experience necessary?

Many of our members have a university degree, but not necessarily in linguistics. A degree or other tertiary qualification is generally recommended because it provides training in critical thinking, transferable skills and in-depth study of a subject. Another important reason is that a tertiary qualification can make it easier to find opportunities to live and work in another country.

There is no precise course which is the 'best' for the work of Wycliffe as it depends very much on the role to be filled. Except for language-related roles, formal training in linguistics is actually not needed! And in fact, many Wycliffe translators do not have linguistics backgrounds, and only get linguistics training after joining. Those who wish to serve in other types of work should have the appropriate training and experience for their area of service.

Many Wycliffe members in future are likely to be 'tent-makers', holding down a job or running a business while doing ministry. A track record in some line of work, whether as a teacher, entrepreneur, doctor, baker, etc. will provide equipping in work skills, and also make it easier to find ways to live and work in another country. Experience of working in organisations is also invaluable for anyone who intends to work cross-culturally and with other people in the field.

Q: What other training is needed?

Before heading to the field, everyone will need training in how to work and relate to people cross-culturally and how to learn a language.

Technical training for ministry will be needed as well – whether for language work, IT, running a business, etc. However, some of this can be acquired when needed, not necessarily before heading to the field.

Some theological training is recommended, though not a full seminary degree. Serving among an unreached people group will often mean that you will need to minister to others in some way, and a good grounding in scripture is essential. Other ministry skills such as discipling or leading small groups will also be important in situations where there may be few Christians and churches. You will also need to learn how to maintain your own spiritual health in tough and lonely situations.

All this adds to the time before getting to the field, but the training is necessary to ensure that you have sufficient equipping for the job and to thrive in the field.

Q: Do I have to speak the 'target' language to translate the Bible?

The simple answer is 'yes, but not necessarily to a very high level!' Language projects always involve mother-tongue speakers, but you will be able to contribute more to the work if you know the language better.

Expatriate workers are most needed for their skills in project management and supervision, accessing outside resources, and making sure that the texts are sufficiently tested and checked. In particular, as the local people are often fairly new believers, the expatriate will usually be responsible for helping them understand the scripture and translate it accurately.

In order to serve in these ways, the expatriate will need to be able to communicate with the team in their language or the working language of that area. So, some language learning is needed before embarking on any project.

Q: What can I do now to find out more?

The best way to find out more is to contact us for a chat. Attend our events and activities to get a feel of what we do. Sign up for our regular mailings and read our website. We look forward to answering your questions!



Photographer: Mark Ewell © Wycliffe Global Alliance.

加入威克理夫的问与答



Photographer: Mark Ewell © Wycliffe Global Alliance.

您可知道还有超过2000个族群仍未拥有能触动其内心的心语圣经？

您想帮助边缘族群听到神用他们的语言说话吗？您想看见他们透过了解和实践神的话语而生命被转化吗？

您是否渴望站在天堂的群众当中，倾听大家用万族的语言颂赞神，并知道自己有份参与此事工？

要了解更多有关加入威克理夫服事行列的情况，请继续读下去！

问：有哪些类型的岗位呢？

威克理夫在世界各地都有事工项目，需要拥有不同技能的人参与。以下是一些事工例子：

- 翻译（圣经翻译，经文应用，口述故事分享等等）
- 识字与多语言教育
- 行政（人力资源，财务，项目管理，资讯科技，通讯联络等等）
- 社区发展（带职宣教，营商宣教，扶贫等等）

问：哪一个年龄最适合加入威克里夫？

没有所谓的“最佳年龄”！有些人20多岁，刚从学校毕业就立刻加入；有些人工作了好几年，中途转换跑道才加入；亦有些人在退休之后加入。处于不同人生阶段的人各有所长，各人面对的挑战也不一样。年轻人或许活力充沛，可以事奉较长的年日，而较年长者则能够在事奉中运用他们丰富的工作与人生经验。

问：语言学学位或具体的工作经验是必须的吗？

许多威克理夫成员都拥有大学学位，但不一定是读语言学的。我们通常建议成员取得大学学位或其他高等教育资格，因为可以学到批判性思维与可转移的技能，或深入研究某个学科。此外，拥有大专学历能让成员更容易找到在另一个国家生活和工作的机会。

对于威克理夫的事工来说，没有所谓“最合适”的学科，因为在很大程度上是取决于所要填补的岗位。除了与语言相关的岗位外，其他人实际上是不需要接受正规的语言学训练！事实上，很多威克理夫翻译员都没有语言学背景，他们是在加入后才接受语言学训练。那些希望从事其它类型事工者则应具有与其服事领域相关的训练与经验。

未来，许多威克理夫成员很可能是带薪宣教士，一边工作或经营企业，一边开展事工。无论是教师、企业家、医生或面包烘焙师等等，若拥有相关资历，就可以提供工作技能的培训，也更容易找到在另一个国家生活与工作的机会。任何事奉者若打算参与跨文化事工并要在工场上与人合作，他以往的工作经验将是非常宝贵。

问：还有什么训练是必须的呢？

每个人在前往工场之前都必须接受两项训练：如何在跨文化环境里与人交往和工作？如何学习一种语言？

无论是参与语言工作、资讯科技或营商等方面的职事，都必须接受事工技术训练。然而，这些培训不一定是安排在上工场之前，也可以在有需要时才提供。

我们建议成员接受一些神学装备，但不一定要取得神学学位。在未得之民群体中服事，通常意味着您需要以某种方式栽培他人的灵命，所以需要拥有良好的圣经基础。在基督徒和教会为数不多的情况下，其它事工上的技巧，如门训或带领小组，就很重要了。您也需要学习如何在艰难和孤单的情况下维持自己的灵命健康。

以上这些都增加了踏入工场前的预备时间，但这些训练都是必须的，以确保您有足够装备开展事工，并能在工场上茁壮成长。

问：如果要翻译圣经，我需要懂得说“目标语言”吗？

简单的答案是：“需要，但不一定要达到很高的水平！”语言项目总会有母语使用者的参与，但如果您认识目标语言多一点，您将能作出更大的贡献。

工场上最需要外籍同工的技能是：项目管理和监督，寻找外部资源以及确保译本经过充分的测试和检查。由于当地人往往是新信徒，外籍同工要负责帮助他们理解经文，让他们能准确地翻译。

若要配合以上的服事模式，外籍同工将需要用当地团队的语言或该地区的工作语言来互相沟通。因此，在参与任何项目之前，都需要学习一些语言。

问：我怎样才可以了解更多呢？

若要了解更多，最好是联络我们，与我们谈一谈。您可以参加本会的活动来感受一下我们的工作，也可以订阅我们的期刊或浏览我们的网站。我们期待着回答您的提问啊！

Rethinking Consultancy: Pandemic Accelerates Virtual Checking

By Grace Chou



Restrictions on overseas travel during the pandemic have led to an unexpected blessing. The Bilua Bible translation project in the Solomon Islands conducted a virtual check with international consultants—whom they could not have afforded to bring onsite for face-to-face work.

In Bible translation work, a consultant check is the final step before the translation is published. But there are not enough consultants to carry out consultant checks.

Over the past two years, the Wycliffe Global Alliance Asia-Pacific Area Leadership Team conducted a study to find out how many translation projects in the region needed consultant checks, and to know the workloads of existing consultants. This survey was part of efforts to encourage greater sharing of consultant resources among Alliance organisations in Asia-Pacific. The idea is to enable organisations with more consultant resources to assist translation projects that need them.

Changes brought about by the Pandemic

When the pandemic unfolded, the Old Testament translation team for the Bilua people in the Solomon

Islands looked for a consultancy solution to keep the work progressing. The Alliance’s Asia-Pacific leadership team suggested they try a new model, and invite different entities from the Asia-Pacific area to participate in community checks for the Bilua Old Testament (Kings). The three consultants who participated in the project were from Australia, Singapore and Taiwan. The Australian translation consultant, Debbie Conwell, who has been serving long-term in the Solomon Islands, acted as the cross-cultural bridge, linking the Bilua team with external consultants. The Singaporean resource consultant “Shan” (pseudonym) was the adviser. And the Taiwanese translation consultant was me, Grace Chou, who oversaw the Bilua Old Testament consultant check. The Bilua translation team included translator Jonah Onama and a pastor.

The Bilua population numbers about 5,000. A few decades ago, Wycliffe Bible Translators translated the New Testament into Bilua. Subsequently, the Bilua church appointed some translators for the Old Testament. Five years ago, the first translator died, and his younger brother, Jonah, continued the work. The translation of the Bilua Old Testament has in fact been drafted. However, it has not been published due

to the lack of funding for consultant checks. Unexpectedly, the pandemic has made online consultant checking both possible and acceptable, and the lower costs have allowed publication plans to move forward.

Historically, Bible translation groups in the Solomon Islands have relied on financial support and resources from international organisations. Debbie pointed out that Bible translation efforts in the Solomon Islands are led by the local church. However, because they are short of funds, being able to complete and publish their translation is quite a surprise. As a result, she is overwhelmed with thanksgiving whenever she mentions how the pandemic ironically enabled the completed drafts to be consultant checked.

mifala no lookim yu

The islands where the Bilua people live have no electricity or internet access. Jonah and an assisting pastor have to take a two-day boat ride to the translation office in the Solomons capital, Honiara, in order to log on for online consultant checks. There was some concern about two Bilua people, new to online meetings, carrying out checks with consultants they were unfamiliar with. However, with much prayer, and regular interactions with the consultants, the Bilua team members have grown increasingly comfortable expressing their views, allowing the consultant checks to progress smoothly.

Although the team was checking the Bilua text, the languages used for communication among team members are English and Pidgin, the vernacular language used in the Solomon Islands. I cannot understand Pidgin and had to rely on Debbie for translation. However, I have since learnt a phrase in Pidgin! The computer used by the Bilua team members would often enter sleep mode, which meant that we were then unable to see them on the video. Each time this occurred, Debbie would say *mifala no lookim yu*, meaning “we are unable to see you”. Jonah would then activate his computer so that we could see them. After having heard this phrase over a few days, one day when their computer again entered sleep mode, I said “*mifala no lookim yu*”. I had barely completed the phrase when laughter could be heard coming from the Bilua team members, and soon enough they could be seen. I suppose my pronunciation was not too accurate, and they found it funny.

Learning through the Process

Shan, the consultant from Singapore, has decades of experience carrying out Bible translation consultation checks. The outcome of the Bilua consultant check would definitely be much better with her handling it. However, to give me opportunity for growth, she allowed me to try and gave me much encouragement and guidance along the way. Before we had started the consultant checks,

I was anxious and worried that I would mess up. Shan told me, “Do not worry! God will watch over His own Word.” Indeed, I often felt the Holy Spirit open our eyes and lead us to take note of important points that needed changes through the whole process of checking. At the same time, Shan often reminded me, “Even though I have a few decades of consultation experience, I approach each consultant check with fear and trembling, because we are handling God’s Word. I think the right approach is humble reliance on God.”

Raised Standards

The consultant check for the Bilua translation of Kings is but a small step in the Alliance’s plans for translation checks. Doing checks online significantly reduces the cost and allows participation by more consultants in more locations—thereby raising the standards of the checks. Based on the experience with the Bilua translation, the Asia-Pacific Language Service Programme Department has put in place some guiding principles and policies to help future cooperation efforts in consultant checks in the Asia-Pacific region.

Although the Bilua Old Testament translation has long been drafted, only 5 percent of the material has been consultant checked thus far. The Alliance organisations that participated in this round of cooperation are happy to continue helping with the Bilua translation, though the project still needs the participation of many consultants. We hope the consultant check for the Bilua Old Testament translation can be completed in the next few years so that it can be officially published.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific, such as the Solomon Islands, India and Indonesia, still have many completed drafts of Old and New Testament translations awaiting consultant checks. The Alliance looks forward to more such cooperative efforts in getting Bible translations published so that they can be used in the local churches.

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<https://www.wycliffe.net/rethinking-consultancy-pandemic-accelerated-virtual-checking/>

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顾问审核的新模式

文：周淑秀



病毒大流行限制了国与国之间的人流，却变相成为一个预期外的祝福。虽然无法把国际顾问们请到所罗门群岛，但透过互联网的连线，我们完成了比卢亚语圣经翻译项目的审核工作。

在圣经翻译工作中，顾问审核是圣经译本能否出版的关卡；而译经顾问却是十分缺乏。在过去两年，威克理夫国际联合会（简称联合会）的亚太区领导团队进行了一项调查，以了解区内有多少语言的译经项目需要顾问审核，及各译经顾问的事奉状况，希望尝试促进亚太区各个联合会机构彼此之间在译经审阅上的合作。合作计划的概念是让有译经审阅资源的机构，协助那些需要顾问审核的译经项目。

疫情带来转机

在疫情开始蔓延时，所罗门群岛比卢亚族的旧约圣经翻译组需要另觅它法来进行审阅工作，以免阻碍项目的进度。亚太区领导团队建议采用一个新模式，就是邀请亚太区不同的联合会机构一同参与比卢亚语旧约列王记的审阅工作。三名译经顾问是来自澳洲、新加坡和台湾的联合会机构。台湾译经顾问周淑秀是总负责，新加坡译经顾问山姐（化名）作督导，而长期协助所罗门群岛译经事工的澳洲译经顾问康黛比（Debbie Conwell），则作跨文化沟通的桥梁。当中并有比卢亚族译经团队的译经员欧约拿（Jonah Onama）和一名传道人。

比卢亚族人口约有五千。几十年前，威克理夫圣经翻译员翻译了比卢亚语新约圣经。后来比卢亚教会开始委派译经员翻译旧约圣经。五年前，第一位译经员离世，他的弟弟欧约拿接续翻译工作。比卢亚的旧约圣经翻译初稿经已完成，但由于缺乏审核经费，因此一直没有出版。想不到由于疫情的关系，在线视像审核译文变成一种大家都可以接受的方式，而且花费低廉，让出版计划可以继续向前迈进。

所罗门群岛的圣经翻译组一向以来都倚赖国际机构的财力和资源支援。康黛比长期协助所罗门群岛，她指出圣经翻译在所罗门群岛由教会主导，因缺乏经费，能够出版真是神迹。每当提到疫情反而让翻译好的圣经可以进行顾问审核，她感恩之情溢于言表。

mifala no lookim yu

比卢亚人居住的岛屿没有电力，也没有网络，欧约拿和协助的传道人必须坐两天船到首都霍尼亚拉（Honiara），在那里的圣经翻译办公室连线作视像审核。要两位不熟悉网络和视像会议的比卢亚人使用视像，跟未曾谋面的译经顾问审核圣经，是件让他们紧张而不自在的事。但是借着许多的祷告，加上定期的接触，比卢亚团队愈来愈能够自在地表达他们的意见与理解，让审核工作越发顺利。



我们审核的虽然是比卢亚语，但用来沟通的是英语和所罗门群岛的通用语（Pidgin）。我听不懂所罗门群岛语，只有靠康黛比帮我翻译，不过在过程中，我也学会了一句所罗门群岛语。原来比卢亚组员用来通视像的电脑常常会进入休眠状态，令我们看不见他们，每当遇上这情况，康黛比都会说：“mifala no lookim yu”，意思是「我们看不见你」。欧约拿听见就会动一动电脑，让我们再看见他们。我听了这话好几天后，有一天他们的电脑又进入休眠状态，我就说：“mifala no lookim yu”。话才说完，那边先传来一阵笑声，然后就再看到他们了。我猜大概是我的发音有点逗趣吧？

在过程中学习

新加坡译经顾问山姐有几十年审核圣经译文的经验，非常资深。由她来负责审核工作，效果一定会比我作的来得好，但是她很愿意让我尝试，并在过程中鼓励与指导，让我有所成长。在我们还没有开始审核前，我很紧张，担心把这件事搞砸。她却说：「放心吧！神的眼睛会关注祂自己的话语。」的确，在过程中，我常感到圣灵开启我们的眼睛，引导我们看到需要修改的重点。虽然如此，山姐仍提醒说：「即使我有几十年的审核经验，每次审核时，我还是带着恐惧战兢的心，因为我们面对的是神的话语。我想还是谦卑地倚靠神，才是正确的态度。」

素质提升

比卢亚语列王记的审阅，在亚太区译经审阅的合作计划中只是一小步。以视讯审阅译经，大大减少了开支，并容许多位译经顾问在不同地点参与，提高了审阅的素质。亚太区语言服务策划部（Language Service Programme Department）经过此次经验，设定了一些原则与政策，有助未来继续推广亚太区的译经审阅合作计划。

结语

虽然比卢亚语旧约圣经的翻译完成很久了，但获审阅的却不到百分之五。参与这次合作计划的联会机构，都很乐意继续协助比卢亚语的翻译工作，但这个翻译项目需要更多译经顾问的参与。希望在未来几年，比卢亚语的旧约圣经可以审阅完毕，正式出版。

在亚太区的国家，如：所罗门群岛、印度及印尼，有许多已经翻译好的旧约和新约圣经，正等待译经顾问审阅。联会期待未来可以有更多像这样的合作机会，使圣经译本能够早日出版，造就当地教会。

Living in Two Worlds: Children on the Mission Field

How do we provide proper care for children raised in the mission field? How can we make their transitions – physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually – easier? Yes, it sounds hard, but it doesn't have to be if you are well-prepared beforehand!

David and Sharon Tan of Wycliffe Singapore went overseas when their two daughters were 4 and 2 years old, and returned to Singapore when they were 16 and 14 years old. We chatted with Sharon for a peek into their experiences.

Q: What was most challenging about raising children while on missions overseas, and how did you tackle it?

I think the most challenging thing was helping the children live and thrive in two worlds – on the field, and in Singapore. We wanted them to settle and thrive on the field, but we were also very clear that they should regard Singapore as their eventual home. We had seen in

others that not handling this well could pitch a child into a downward spiral of maladjustment, poor self-esteem and being unsettled, and this would affect them in negative ways psychologically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Q: What preparations did you and David make before leaving?

Unlike many people now going to the field, we had not visited the country before we made the decision to go. We told the kids that it would be an adventure, and things would be different! We constantly emphasised that “different” is not “worse”, and that every culture and country had their own ways of handling things. We were careful not to paint too rosy a picture, knowing that there would be times when we might be uncomfortable. Telling stories from our own past experiences helped – both of us had stories about changing schools and crossing cultures!

We made sure that they packed a few “comfort” toys and photos of family and friends. Long before, we had intentionally encouraged *small* favourite toys – no giant teddy bears or large doll houses! We also trained them to eat a wide range of foods as we didn't want to cope with fussy eaters while travelling and being hosted by new friends.

Q: How did the people around you help with your children?

Other foreign families on the field helped with advice, and we tried to help our children learn some local language – simple conversation, recognising signs, etc. This helped them start to feel more “at home” in the host culture. For older kids, having at least a survival level of the local language is important for independence so they can move around, shop, hang out, etc. without their parents.

There was no social media back then, so communication with Singapore was difficult for the kids. But at home, relatives and friends



would invite our kids on playdates and outings, and give them exposure to Singapore culture and language. The Sunday school teachers were also wonderful in welcoming them while we were back in Singapore.

Q: How did your family navigate the return to Singapore?

Some families don't worry about re-entry till just before they return home, but we felt that that would be too late. Some of the ways we tried to keep them "in touch" with Singapore was through talking to them about Singapore culture, teaching them some Singlish, annual visits including a few immersion periods in Singapore school, watching the National Day Parade online, etc. We tried not to let them forget that although they were "at home" where they were at that moment, our intention was to eventually return to Singapore. We also tried to be positive about Singapore schools – some kids really fear returning because their main impression of education in

Singapore is that it is very tough!

We returned to Singapore for good after more than 10 years in the field. Before leaving that "world" which had been our home for so long, we visited places and people of significance to us, then returned to our other "world" to start anew. It was not easy, but our earlier preparations made it manageable. As our girls started school and youth group in church, we held debriefs over dinner to hear about their experiences, help them navigate teenage social life, explain Singapore customs and culture, and translate some Singlish terms. Having navigated so many changes in their life, they coped well with the transition.

Q: Any words of wisdom for parents embarking on this journey?

One question that we have been asked is whether the discomforts and challenges were worth it. Shouldn't we have chosen a more safe and comfortable life and a

higher quality education for our children? Looking back, all of us, even the children, do not regret what we did. Facing challenges together and sharing experiences has made our family relationship stronger. It has made our shared faith in God's provision and guidance much firmer as well. Each one of us has learned and grown through these experiences, and we wouldn't be who we are now if we had lived a different life.

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For more helpful tips on preparing to live abroad, visits home and eventual return, check out Sharon's and David's book, This Is Home, Surely? A Guide for Parents of Singaporean "Third Culture Kids". (<https://www.wycliffe.sg/news/This-Is-Home-Surely>)

This is the first of 2 articles. Read the second article about children's education in the field on our website: <https://wycliffe.sg/blog/raising-children-in-the-field-part-2>



Our Vision

The vision of Wycliffe is to see lives and communities transformed through the word of God in their heart languages. Wycliffe Singapore engages churches and individuals in Singapore to support and be involved in language projects among unreached people groups in their own languages.

Potential and Expressed Needs

The Need

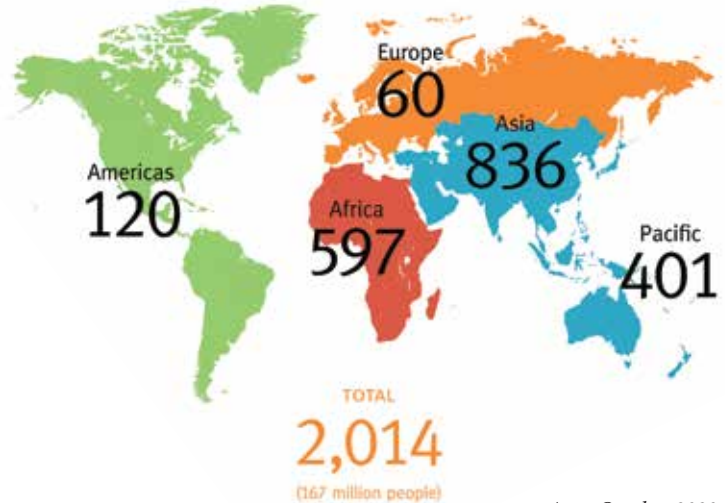
There are about 7,360 languages spoken or signed in the world. The numbers on the map refer to the number of languages where work has been requested or is likely to be needed, but where no translation has begun yet.

Other Statistics

Languages with full Bible:
704 (5.7 billion people)

Languages with NT or portions:
2,711 (1,273 million people)

Translation projects in progress:
2,731 (6.2 billion people)



As at October 2020

For more details, see <https://www.wycliffe.net/resources/statistics/>

The Work



Bible Translation

This involves different skill sets such as language survey, building relationships in the community, devising scripts, training local translators, IT, project management etc.



Literacy

This enables the people to read and write in their own languages.



Scripture Engagement

Communities are encouraged to express and experience the Word of God in their languages and cultures through oral storytelling, ethnoarts, vernacular media etc.



Community Development

Communities meet God through projects which demonstrate concern for their economic, physical, emotional and spiritual health.

What Can I Do?



Pray

We need your prayer support. Go to our website and sign up for our prayer newsletter!



Give

At Wycliffe, we depend on the financial support of partners who contribute to our work both in Singapore and overseas.



Serve

We need more than Bible translators to do the job! Besides language-related roles, there are roles for all kinds of professional skills including arts, management, administration, finance, teaching, IT etc.

Contact us to find out about short-term or long-term opportunities, internships and mission trips — or simply to find out where you can fit in missions!

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