

WYCLIFFE
SINGAPORE

God is love

शुभर प्रेम हुनुहुन्छ

Deus é amor

If your God is so great, why doesn't he speak my language?

An Inside Look at Wycliffe Singapore's Work

Tuhan adalah kasih

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သတင်းပို့နေပါသည်။



Who are we?

We are a faith-based non-profit with a vision to see lives and communities transformed through God's Word translated into their heart languages* and cultures.

We focus on five key pathways: Bible translation into heart languages, literacy, ethnoarts, digital innovation and arts in trauma healing. By meeting felt needs through community development, we demonstrate love and build relationships with language communities.

How did Wycliffe Bible Translators come about?

In 1917, a missionary named William Cameron Townsend went to Guatemala to sell Spanish Bibles. He was shocked when many people couldn't understand the Bible as they mostly spoke their indigenous minority languages. An old man from the Cakchiquel tribe said to him:

"If your God is so great, why doesn't he speak my language?"

Challenged, Townsend set out to translate the Bible into Cakchiquel, and subsequently trained people to translate the Bible. In 1942, Townsend officially founded Wycliffe Bible Translators, named after John Wycliffe, translator of the first complete English Bible.

*Our heart language is the language that speaks most deeply to our understanding, identity and emotions.



A young William Cameron Townsend

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?"

– Romans 10:14



We want to see lives and communities transformed through the Word, translated into their languages and cultures for the glory of God.

– Wycliffe Singapore's Vision

"...from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne..."

– Rev 7:9

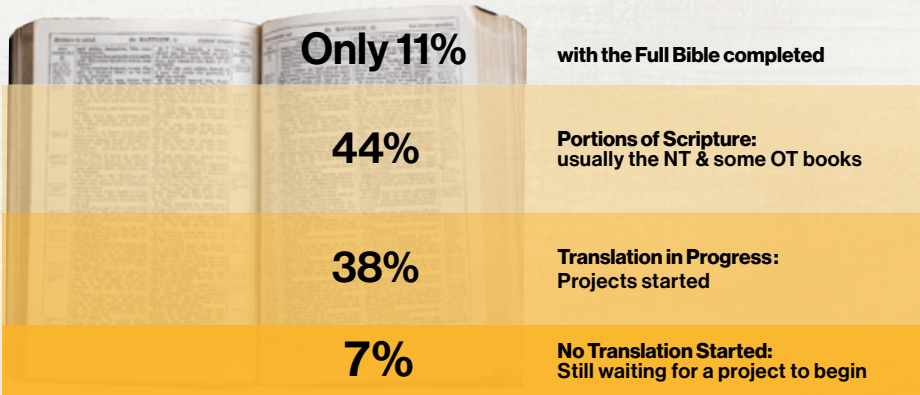


36.8 million people still do not have God's Word in their heart language...

That represents 514 of the world's 7,397 living languages that are still waiting for Bible translation to begin.

Did you know? Only 11% of the world's living languages have the full Bible translated. This means 6,583 living languages still need Bible translation work.

% of languages with Scripture



* Source: Statistics from ProgressBible, March 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why can't people just read English (or a national language)?

There are still many people who only speak and understand a minority language. Even if they are able to understand their national language, they often struggle to understand complex concepts in the national language Bible. As people are most comfortable in their heart language, having Scripture in that language is essential for spiritual growth and discipleship.

2. Aren't minority languages dying out?

Minority languages are certainly under pressure from the major languages, especially national languages taught in schools. However, many people still use their heart language for their daily activities and closest relationships. They might attend church in a national language, but the message often feels distant rather than personal. To understand this, imagine trying to connect deeply with a Bible written in your weaker language!

3. Why can't you just machine translate it?

Translation is not just changing words into another language – it is conveying the original meaning of a text as accurately as possible to the reader or hearer. Many factors including the background and cultural context of a language have to be carefully considered.

Furthermore, machine translation only works for languages with a large amount of printed text which can be used to determine the meanings of words and phrases. Currently, there are thousands of smaller languages with hardly any material in print.



“When I read the Bible in my national language, it is like a leaf floating on top of the water. But when I read the Bible in my own language, it is like a stone dropping to the bottom of a river, it goes right in to touch my soul.”

– A Kenyah (Borneo) speaker



Five Pathways to Hope

For God's Word to truly take root in people's lives, it must speak to their hearts and meet real-world needs. We don't just translate; we seek to preserve cultures, uplift lives, and build a legacy of hope for generations to come.

Where there is a need, we may also partner with community groups to improve healthcare, sanitation, and local livelihoods. We focus on five key pathways that bring heart language Scripture to the community while meeting their felt needs:

Literacy

We help build reading and writing skills to handle real-world tasks and engage with Scripture, by teaching native speakers to read their own language (and sometimes, the national language).

Digital Innovation

We use smart IT solutions to accelerate Bible translation and improve access to Scripture through digital media.

Bible Translation

Ethnoarts

We celebrate God's Truth through local music, dance, and visual arts that resonate deeply with indigenous cultures.

Arts in Trauma Healing

We create safe spaces where communities use culturally-relevant arts and God's Word to process trauma and find lasting restoration.



Scripture-based Resources

Full Bible
or portions



Audio Bibles
& mobile apps



Bible Stories
(for oral retelling) in audio
or video form & in print



Songs
& hymns



Presentations
of the gospel



Literacy
materials



Bible Study
& discipleship materials

Scripture Engagement

Having Scripture in their heart language is just the beginning of a people group's journey with God. Using Scripture-based products, we help people groups connect the Bible's message to their daily lives and unique cultures. This might include storytelling, local music, drama and art, sharing the gospel in ways that feel familiar and personal.



A Scripture engagement team in Borneo created music in traditional styles to help locals worship God. They host workshops for people to share Bible stories in their own language.

Help Make Scripture Accessible for Everyone

With more than 6,000 languages in need of Bible translation work, the task is yet to be finished. Through the power and help of the Holy Spirit, each of us can play a role in reaching them. Your partnership changes everything. Join us in the mission today!



How can I be involved?

Learn



Get involved from the start by finding out more about people groups and their language needs.

Pray



Ministry without prayer is powerless. Sign up for our newsletter and be a prayer partner! Email hello@wycliffe.sg

Give



We depend on the financial support of partners who are the vital link to our work both in Singapore and overseas.



Serve



We need more than just translators! Explore short-term & long-term roles in both language and support areas, as well as internships.

Inspire



Create awareness of people groups and their language needs. Invite others to learn more and join you for workshops and talks. Bring others along for the journey!



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We Need You!

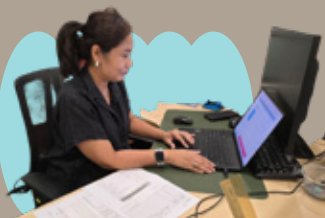


Are you willing to serve in these areas of need? Or do you have relevant training, experience and skills?

Language-related



Administration



Support Ministries



Want to serve with us?

Full-time/part-time

Short-term placements (1/3/6 months to 2 years)

*Internships available as well.

Offer your talents to God and discover the joy of serving Him in new ways! You might have other gifts not listed here. Talk to us to explore different service opportunities in Wycliffe Singapore.

Start by scanning the QR code in the 'Find My Fit' form on wycliffe.sg.



Find My Fit