



Press release from Wycliffe Bible Translators

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 February 2009

UNESCO's database warns of 2,500 dying languages

The benefits of language development and the need for Bible translation.

UNESCO's database of endangered languages is a reminder of the importance of language development work and the continued requirement for Bible translation.

When a language dies it does not mean that people start speaking another language fluently. Instead literacy levels almost always drop and people become unable to communicate fully with each other or express emotions. Understanding in a new language is not as easily attained as in the old language and people's health and financial security can often be irrevocably damaged.

"When we (Wycliffe) work on a Bible translation project, we can see multiple benefits to a community, over and above the changes brought about by understanding God's word in their own language," says Eddie Arthur, Executive Director of Wycliffe UK. "The identity of people groups can be improved adding to an individual's self-worth, literacy amongst children and adults grows exponentially and materials about health and wellbeing can finally be understood by the people."

Wycliffe has an exceptional record in this field. In more than 70 years of history they have been involved in the translation of 740 New Testaments and Bibles, reaching over 82 million people.

Currently Wycliffe is involved in over 80% of translation projects taking place worldwide.

However, there is still a massive need in this area as statistics show that there are still 2,393 languages that require a Bible translation. A Bible in each of these languages would have the potential to reach 200 million people with the gospel.

(End)

Photos can be downloaded from: www.wycliffe.org.uk/pressreleases

For more information contact:

Ruth Marriott, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Horsleys Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3XL
Tel: 01494 682339 Email: communications_uk@wycliffe.org