

## Head of State encourages Bible Translation in the Solomon Islands

On Thursday 2 September 2010, a commemorative stamp block celebrating Bible translation in the Solomon Islands was officially launched. It marks another milestone achievement for the work of Bible Translation in the country. The work of Bible translation started there more than 30 years ago, and today's launch of the first issue of the stamp is a significant recognition of the many Bible translation efforts to date.

In attendance, The Head of State, His Excellency The Governor General Sir Frank Kabui addressed those gathered, and recognised the importance of the stamp block, urging Bible translators to continue the good work. "The Bible translation work in the Solomon Islands should continue as it is. It is a worthwhile cause for Christians all over the world. It is the only way the Bible can be understood and appreciated by millions throughout the world. It is not easy though. It costs money, time, commitment and continuous focus."

The stamp features beautiful watercolour illustrations which tell the story of the arduous task of translating the Word of God and after many years of hard work, the arrival of the printed Bibles. From Varisi in Choiseul Province to Natqgu in Temotu Province, Solomon Islanders rejoice in having God's Word in their heart language. The names on the perimeter of the stamp represent the languages which now have a New Testament or Bible. With more than 65 languages spoken in the Solomon Islands, church and government leaders are committed to seeing translations completed in each one.

The official launching then followed with the 'first day of issue' postmarking by the Solomon Islands Philatelic Bureau. Further information - Solomon Islands One Television <http://tinyurl.com/34go26n>

[Wycliffe Bible Translators](http://www.wycliffe.org.uk), the UK's biggest Bible translation organisation, works with partners worldwide to ensure that every community around the world has access to a Bible in a language that they can fully understand. In more than 70 years of history they have been involved in the translation of 759 New Testaments and Bibles, reaching around 107 million people. Since 1999, Wycliffe has contributed to over 80% of translation projects started in Bibleless people groups. However there remains a massive need, as statistics show that there are around 353 million people from 2,252 languages still waiting for translation to begin.

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Photos can be downloaded from: [www.wycliffe.org.uk/pressreleases](http://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](mailto:communications_uk@wycliffe.org) [Email preferences](#) [Privacy Policy](#)