

Daily Devotional 4

'My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.'

(Colossians 2:2)

Translating a Bible is just part of the work

You might think working to help and encourage people to engage deeply with the Bible is a focus area for after it has been printed – but in fact Scripture engagement is necessary before anything is translated and throughout the whole process.

So what is Scripture engagement? It's more than telling people to read their Bibles! Scripture engagement includes:

- building relationships with people in the community
- promoting local ownership of a Bible translation project
- deciding what format to produce and distribute Scripture in (whether a book, videos, or recordings)
- teaching and modelling how to engage with the Bible and put it into practice in our daily lives (this may include teaching about how to meditate on God's word, how to lead a Bible study, or how to use listening devices to listen to audio recordings of Scripture)
- identifying needs for, developing and distributing materials that will help people engage with the Bible, such as Bible study notes
- working with local musicians, actors, storytellers and artists to create ethnically authentic worship songs and Scripture presentations.

Video resource

History of the Americas video

<https://youtu.be/wHCBgoV6m0w>



Prayer focus

- Pray that God would open more opportunities for Wycliffe teams to build relationships through their work in the communities they're working in.
- Pray for inspiration in how the translated Scripture can be most effective in the lives of those who read it.
- Pray for creativity to flourish in the work of our translation teams and those receiving the Scripture that it might have a deep impact on the culture and bring a kingdom harvest.

International focus – Americas

The beginnings of Wycliffe – William Cameron Townsend

In 1917 a missionary named William Cameron Townsend went to Guatemala to sell Spanish Bibles. He was shocked to discover that many people couldn't understand them because they spoke Cakchiquel, a language without the Bible. Townsend believed everyone should understand the Bible, so he started a small linguistics school that trained people in Bible translation. The work continued to grow, and in 1942 Townsend officially founded Wycliffe Bible Translators in the USA.

If you'd like to learn more about the history of Wycliffe, this video by Wycliffe USA gives a timeline of how the work has grown from its early days – with fewer than 50 languages remaining to be translated across the Americas, it just shows the impact that sustained effort can have on an entire continent!