

## Daily Devotional 1

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? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

**(Romans 10:14–15)**

### Can you imagine...?

Can you imagine what it would be like not to have the Bible? Not just a Bible of your own, but not having the Bible at all in the English language?

We take it for granted, but just 650 years ago that was exactly the situation for everyone in this country. The only translation available was the Vulgate, in Latin, a translation in a language the majority of the population didn't understand.

It was John Wycliffe, who began the process to change that. He believed that 'the sacred Scriptures are the property of the people' and despite persecution and arduous hand-written work, he and his team produced the very first Bible in the English language in 1382.

Not only would it have cost a labourer 13 years' wages to buy (it took ten months just to write one out), it was declared heresy to have a Bible in English, and promptly banned.

However, it was the start of a spiritual revolution across Europe. William Tyndale produced the first printed New Testament 150 years later (that cost just a week's wages), and having access to the Scriptures in their own language was a key part of the Reformation that brought the full message of the gospel within the reach of so many for the first time.

One man started a project that has impacted generations!

Today we have hundreds of translations in English, more than we could ever read, but there are still 1.5 billion people across the world who still don't have the Bible in the language they understand best.

### Video resource

Who We Are

<https://youtu.be/WVsPf5jdpUs>



## Prayer and reflection

Today let's give thanks for our history, and the riches we enjoy in terms of Scripture and Bible resources, and remember those who sacrificed so much to bring it about.

- Give thanks for how blessed we are with Bibles in English
- Give thanks for all those who have worked, and continue to work, to bring the Bible to speakers of every language
- Pray for those without Scriptures of their own, that they might still encounter the truth of the gospel, and that workers and resources will be raised up to end Bible poverty.