

Daily Devotional 3

...Or when they give the book to someone who cannot read, and say, 'Read this, please,' he answers, 'I don't know how to read.'

(Isaiah 29:12)

What does being literate mean to you?

Maybe not all that much, if you've never needed to navigate the world without it. But learning to read isn't just about being able to read the Bible and other books.

What if you couldn't read vital information on a medicine bottle? What if you couldn't email your best friend when they moved to another town? What if you couldn't even tell the time? These are all everyday tasks most people in the Western world do without thinking – but these tasks all require a certain level of literacy.

Bible translation isn't effective unless you can read, so in addition to training people from language communities big and small across the world to translate the Bible, it's important that these projects also empower people to engage with the word of God through Scripture engagement and literacy programmes.

Exclusively oral communities face major barriers to higher education, earning money, and community development.

Wycliffe works with communities to develop intuitive writing systems (alphabets) that language groups recognise as their own and that help adults and children learn to read in the shortest time possible. How long it takes to learn to read varies from language to language and person to person, but an adult who is new to reading may learn to read confidently in six months to a year.

'...for a long time, there were no [Ngbaka] schools at all. Now I am very glad to be learning to read and write. Now I am educated! I can read and write in Ngbaka. I can read and understand God's word, and now we have the entire Bible in our language!' – **a woman from the Ngbaka community of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Video resource

The story of the Lugwere New Testament translation (3min)

<https://youtu.be/2vHTqYIDXNc>



Prayer focus – literacy efforts

- Pray for harmony and consensus as teams develop writing systems for previously unwritten languages.
- Pray that literacy would open doors around the world not only for people to engage with the Bible, but for large-scale community change.
- Pray that God would inspire Wycliffe workers as they work to unlock opportunities for people groups through literacy.

Video resource

The Ripple Effects of Bible Translation video

https://youtu.be/3L7k9JH_imo

