

WordsforLife





Above: Ephesians 3:20 in Ifè with a back-translation into English. Illustration by Jason Ramasami.
Front Cover: A woman carries a box of Ifè New Testaments at the dedication ceremony in October 2009.

Welcome

'We know that in all things,' Paul tells us in Romans 8:28, 'God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'

That doesn't mean that all things are good, or that everything that happens is according to God's will (but is within his sovereignty) – which is why Jesus teaches us to pray in the Lord's prayer: 'your will be done on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10). But it does mean that we can know and trust that in 'all things' God is working for good and to fulfil his redeeming plans for his people.

In this issue of *Words for Life* we tell the remarkable story of Mary Gardner and the Ifè project in Togo and Benin. It is a powerful testimony about how God is at work bringing good out of evil. We hope that this story inspires you to pray, not only for the Ifè translation project, but also for the essential work of Bible translation all around the world.



Alfred Thompson

Alfred Thompson
Editor
E: athompson@wycliffe.org.uk

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Pray...

- August** Wycliffe members, Ifè, Chad, Tanzania, Philippines
- September** Senegal, Papua New Guinea, Siberia, Eurasia
- October** Iraqi Kurdistan, Kamuku, Nigeria, Ethiopia
- November** Oniyan, Mali, Eastern Arrernte, Mbembe

Wycliffe Bible Translators:

The Clare Charity Centre,
Wycombe Road, Saunderton,
High Wycombe HP14 4BF
T: 0300 303 1111
E: askus@wycliffe.org.uk

The Mount Business Centre,
2 Woodstock Link,
Belfast BT6 8DD
T: +44 (0)28 9073 5854
E: northernireland@wycliffe.org.uk

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A photograph of a woman sitting on a large, colorful patterned mat on the ground. She is wearing a blue beanie and a patterned dress, and is holding an open book. In the background, another person is sitting on a similar mat, also wearing a blue beanie. The ground is sandy and there are some sandals nearby.

Bearing fruit

When Mary Gardner was killed by a bomb in Jerusalem in 2011 she had dedicated the last 20 years of her life to Bible translation and literacy among the Ifè people of Togo and Benin.

As the Ifè Old Testament translation progresses, and the Ifè church grows, we explore how God is at work and how the seeds that Mary and the dedicated Ifè team have sown continue to grow and bear fruit.

'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last' John 15:16



Mary in the Judean wilderness 2011

Wrong day. Wrong time. Wrong place. And the wrong side of the road.

Mary Gardner and her best friend from university Mercia Malcolm rarely found themselves on the same continent. So when in March 2011 they found themselves not only on the same continent, but in the same city – Jerusalem – they anticipated meeting up and catching up again face-to-face with joy and excitement.

'Our friendship,' Mercia recalls, 'was what the Irish call an *anam cara* – a soul friendship – where you can instantly pick up the depth of sharing no matter how many years you have been apart.'

Mary was eleven weeks into her six-month stay in Jerusalem, where she was studying Hebrew at the Home for Bible Translators to prepare for the start of the Ifè Old Testament translation project. Mercia arrived in Jerusalem on Tuesday 22nd March for a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She brought with her some things that Mary had especially requested: "proper" teabags (for Mary loved a good cup of tea), some oatcakes, and some pencils (as Mary loved to draw). They had arranged to meet at the earliest possible opportunity on Thursday afternoon. However, a

few days before, Mary's class schedule changed and an opportunity opened up for them to meet a day earlier – at teatime on Wednesday.

Mary was staying at the Home for Bible Translators dormitory at Yad Hashmona, about seven miles from the centre of Jerusalem. On her unexpectedly free afternoon, Mary decided to get a bus into Jerusalem a couple of hours early to buy spices at the market. She loved to cook and was due to prepare a meal for the community of students with whom she was staying. Her classmates at the time recall that she had made them nettle soup from plants she had picked up while walking – an example of Mary's ability to combine her love of walking, and of getting free food!

That day Mary got off the bus near the central bus station and then crossed the road to the bus stop on the other side. 'We presume,' Mercia says, 'to double check – because that's the way she would have been – on the time of the bus home.' As Mary stood by the bus stop, another bus pulled in, and at that moment someone pressed a button on a mobile phone remotely triggering a bomb hidden in a bag that had been left on the pavement.

Within moments a paramedic who happened to be passing on a motorcycle was at her side, but Mary was already unconscious. An ambulance rushed her to hospital, where the doctors tried everything they could to save her, but tragically, she died of her wounds.

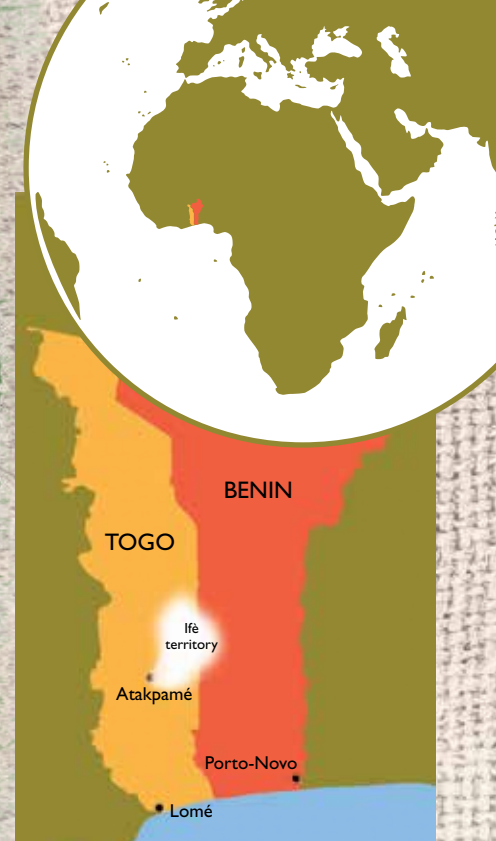
Mary's death ripped a hole in the lives of many people that was – and still is – felt in many places around the world: in Scotland by her generous-hearted parents, her sister and three brothers, her dear friend Lesley who for years distributed her prayer letters, and the members of the churches who nurtured and supported her; in America by Pat her Wycliffe teammate and friend for over two decades; in Ireland by Mercia; and in Togo and Benin by the Bible translation team she had mentored, and the Ifè people she had lived with and dedicated her life to for twenty years.

Beginnings

In early 1981 two women, Hélène Boëthius from Sweden and Anna Kohler from Switzerland, who were working in Togo went to research the Ifè language area. It soon became very clear to them that the Ifè people needed the Bible in their own language.

At that time there was no written form of the Ifè language, there was hardly any Christian work among the Ifè, and very few Ifè Christians. The Ifè, like many African people groups, have traditionally held animistic beliefs, which means they believe there is a spiritual dimension to all of life. But with those beliefs comes the need to try to control and appease the spiritual powers that can cause death, misfortune and madness. Any missionaries who were trying to connect with the Ifè were repeatedly hitting a brick wall. So when Hélène and Anna officially started the Ifè language project in late 1981 there was much work to do.

They began with the painstakingly detailed process of language learning and linguistic analysis. After three years' work, Anna had to return home to care for her elderly parents. ►



- **Population:** Togo 6.3 million / Benin 9.4 million
- **Life expectancy:** 57 years
- **Independence from France in 1960**
- **The Ifè area is 80% in Togo, 20% in Benin (see map)**
- **Ifè speakers: 154,300 (but local estimates range up to 400,000)**
- **Ifè is related to the Yoruba language in Nigeria, but they are not mutually comprehensible.**
- **Togo and Benin are among the countries with the lowest levels of human development worldwide**
- **Most Ifè are involved in subsistence agriculture and there are few schools, medical facilities and clean water in several Ifè areas**

Sources: Ethnologue, UNDP, SIL



Practicing maths skills at an Ifè literacy class



A new literate reads an Ifè book



Cooking in an Ifè village

A couple of years later Marquita Klaver, from America, joined the project. And a number of years after that, when the Ifè language had been written down, they began translating Luke's gospel and preparing basic teaching materials for the fledgling literacy programme.

By late 1990 Luke had been translated into Ifè and printed, and the literacy programme was growing. But after 10 years of work the team felt that the project was going too slowly and they needed help to get it going faster – and God was preparing that help.

God willing, the goal of the whole Bible in Ifè will become a reality in the near future.

Although Mary Gardner was Scottish, she was not born in Scotland, nor did she spend much of her childhood there. She was born in Nairobi in 1955, the precious firstborn of Tony and Jean, and it was only when Mary was 15 that she returned to Scotland to complete her schooling.

Mary studied English and French at St Andrews University, where her first roommate was Mercia Malcolm, and they bonded quickly over a shared

love of books and mutual favourite authors. Mary and Mercia also shared a faith journey during their years at St Andrews – a journey which would shape both their lives.

'We were both exploring going deeper into faith,' Mercia recalls. 'There was a sort of crisis point in our third year, while Mary was in France, and I was still in St Andrews, where we found that God seemed to be doing the same thing in both of us.' During this time they shared a deep correspondence – 'sixteen-page letters,' Mercia remembers – about the surprising things that God was teaching them. Both Mercia and Mary kept all the letters they wrote to each other during this profound time of growing faith, a time that Mercia summarises as being 'that moment of surrender of life to God which can never be retracted whatever other struggles may come.' In their final year at university Mary and Mercia shared a flat that, Mercia says, 'became a little hub for a Christian community. It became an important centre for a lot of us. It was a very special time.'

After university Mary and Mercia both completed teacher training and spent a number of years teaching – Mary in Orkney, Mercia in England. 'Teaching was not a good fit for Mary,' Mercia says. 'She knew it wasn't the right fit, but didn't

know what to do instead. Then she went on one of those taster weekends with Wycliffe, and when she came back her teaching colleague Lesley said Mary was "glowing" because she had found the right fit with Bible translation – and after that she never turned back.'

That moment of surrender of life to God which can never be retracted.

Seed planting

Pat Devine, from Massachusetts in the US, first met Mary in the summer of 1989 just outside Paris where they were both honing their French skills in preparation for working in French-speaking Africa. During this time Mary worked at a youth camp in France where, Pat recalls, 'Mary used to

laugh that she picked up a lot of rough language and bad jokes in her renewal of French!'

Mary and Pat both ended up in Togo, where they each visited several language projects that were asking for additional personnel. Though they visited the Ifè project separately, both of them felt it was the place God had prepared for them. So in 1991 Pat and Mary officially joined the Ifè team and over time became 'a natural pairing and partnership.' Pat recalls this was an act of God's grace because, even though on the surface she and Mary appeared to be quite different – British, introverted,

bookish versus American, extroverted, movie lover – 'it didn't take us long to realise that we had a lot in common – the things we read and movies we liked, being out in nature and taking walks. God was so kind to us because one of the sweetest parts of our friendship and our working relationship is that we relaxed well together. We just enjoyed each other's company. It was a gift from the Lord.'

When Mary and Pat joined the Ifè team the intention was that they would come alongside Hélène and Marquita in order to help move the project along. However, God had other plans. Within a few years the other women moved on and Mary and Pat found themselves as the project managers overseeing a team of, at that time, four full-time translation and literacy workers. Eventually, missionaries from other organisations also left the area and, because Pat periodically travelled for other work activities, Mary often found herself as the only missionary in the area. Mercia says that Mary didn't find this easy: 'I know that at times she found the isolation hard. ►

Since I learned to read Ifè fluently, I no longer read the Bible in other languages. For a long time I have heard teachings and sermons on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. I even read several times and in different versions, that portion of the Bible. But when I read the same description of the crucifixion scene in Ifè, tears flowed because the words chosen to describe the scene were accurate, natural and moving. Now I look forward to reading the Ifè Old Testament!' Fati

She hated conflict and sometimes found it challenging to be constantly living and working outside of her own culture, and she found it hard not being part of a church in her own heart language – but she was in the place where she could do what she was meant to do.'

God put into my heart a longing that other people should have the same access to the Scriptures and to the Bible that I enjoyed.

And what Mary was meant to do was to help translate the Bible into Ifè. Talking to an audience at St. Silas Church in Glasgow, one of her supporting churches, Mary explained that God had 'put into my heart a longing that other people should have the same access to the Scriptures and to the Bible that I enjoyed – it was his word that had led me to him and it was through his word that so often he has continued to speak to me.' She further explained that giving people access to the Bible is an essential part of God's mission: 'The Bible is crucial to our understanding of God. So it is really important that we can read the Bible and have access to it in a way that we can really understand it, so that it speaks to our hearts, so that we can trust that it is accurate, so that it makes sense to us, and so that we can hear God speaking to us through it.'

As the Ifè team grew, the work of giving the Ifè people access to the Bible in their heart language proceeded – word by word, verse by verse, chapter by chapter, book by book. Slowly but steadily the translation process advanced, through initial exegesis – which is carefully checking the meaning and accuracy of every word – and translation. Then through checking the meaning and readability with the Ifè community, checking the theological accuracy with a translation consultant, and the many revisions coming out of this process. And then, finally, the typesetting and printing. The aim throughout this whole process is to produce a clear, accurate and natural translation that can be used by God to



Reading the Ifè New Testament

transform many lives. This all happened alongside the ongoing Ifè literacy work. And all of this was overseen by Mary and Pat while they mentored the Ifè translators and literacy workers, preparing them to take over running the project.

We realise that we Ifè have long been ashamed to speak Ifè in church. But now we want to say to the world that God hears Ifè, that he understands Ifè, that he loves the Ifè people and he's very happy when an Ifè speaks to him, not just speaking in other languages, but most especially speaking to him in Ifè, his native language. Kosi



Mary teaching Greek to the translators

One of the Ifè men that Mary mentored closely was Komi Sena. Komi was probably born in 1968 but, like many Africans, does not know his exact date of birth. He studied philosophy at university in Lomé, the capital of Togo, but after that he couldn't find much work, and wound up labouring for a pittance at a local sawmill business. So in 1999 when the Ifè language project was recruiting new translators, Komi tried out and was accepted. At the time, Komi was a new Christian and he did not know the Scriptures well. But, Mary recalled in her talk, 'as he worked on the translation, the Scriptures began to change his life' and, after a number of years, seeing 'the power of the Scriptures in Komi's life convinced his wife to become a Christian too.'

The power of the Scriptures in Komi's life convinced his wife to become a Christian too.

Right from the start Mary perceived Komi's potential as a Bible translator. 'He learnt how to test his translation in the community and lead a review committee, and to work with a translation consultant,' Mary once wrote describing Komi's rapid progress as a translator. 'He also reviewed what the other translators had translated. During

the New Testament revision he worked on the consistency of phrasing among the four gospels, a very slow and painstaking task requiring great concentration on details.'

Komi became a central pillar of the translation team as they worked towards the completion of the Ifè New Testament. Mary described the final stages of this work: 'After a year of final revisions, we went to Yaoundé in Cameroon to typeset the New Testament. It was a scary moment when

we realised that we could make no more changes – but it was also a celebration! Then the final version was sent for printing.'

'It was glorious'

The Ifè New Testament was dedicated on a wonderful day in October 2009. 'It was a big milestone in the history of the people and of the project,' Pat notes, 'and all the glory goes to God.' Mary, Pat, Hélène and Marquita were all there to share the joy of the Ifè people. During the



Bishop Barrigah-Bénissan holding the Ifè New Testament over his heart



Their first glance of the Ifè New Testaments

celebrations, Bishop Barrigah-Bénissan held the Ifè New Testament over his heart (see picture on previous page) saying: 'I will touch my heart with these words, so that these words may be in my heart.' A crowd of almost 2000 people joyously celebrated the arrival of God's word in Ifè. But even more exciting was seeing how God was opening doors into the Ifè community.

To have traditional religious leaders who were willing to say publicly 'I've left all that behind and I'm following Jesus' had huge ripple effects throughout the community.

'Even in the early 1990s there was throughout the Ifè villages a resistance to Christianity,' Pat says. 'But from the end of the 90s and the beginning of the 2000s God started moving. People began to welcome the offer of literacy classes. Our efforts to interest people in learning to read and write Ifè went from a sense of trying to pull teeth to the

reality of having people knocking on our doors saying: "We want a class." And dovetailed to that, all of a sudden, people were open to the gospel.'

Ifè went from having only a few churches to having hundreds of churches.

Some very significant community leaders began to put their faith in Christ. Pat recalls that 'the conversion of well-known traditional priests was a big deal. To have traditional religious leaders who were willing to say publicly "I've left all that behind and I'm following Jesus" had huge ripple effects throughout the community.' These ripple effects ran far and deep and wide: 'So in a short span of just 30 or so years the Ifè territory went from having only a few churches, mostly in towns, to having hundreds of Ifè churches scattered throughout the region.'

'Over the years we had printed individual New Testament books as we translated them, often distributing them through the literacy classes. But with the arrival of the full Ifè New Testament, ►

Tèbè, who was a formidable charlatan in Benin, first learnt to read Ifè through the ACATBLI literacy programme. Having no other books to read he latched on to reading the Ifè New Testament. Through this Tèbè encountered the Lord Jesus Christ personally and he now serves in a Baptist church in the town of Tchetti, Benin. His old life has changed radically. This aroused the displeasure of his 'elder' charlatans and they began persecuting him. But he is very determined and committed. He says he will follow the Lord the rest of his life.

Mercia's memories of Mary



Mary and Mercia in 1998

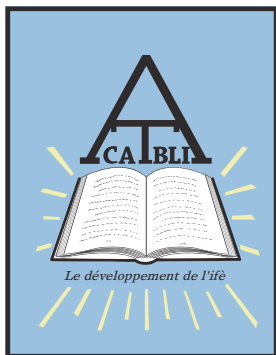
Mary and I met each other first at St Andrews University in 1973 when we were put together as roommates and were studying the same course. Despite her initial reservations about discovering she had a roommate from Belfast (news from Belfast was not good in 1973!) we connected instantly over a shared love of the same books and authors. Though we have rarely lived on the same continent, we have maintained in all the years since then a deep and abiding friendship that enriched us both until her shocking death, coming to meet me in Jerusalem in 2011. So to try to sum up 37 years of deep friendship in a few hundred words or describe something of her qualities and nature is no easy matter.

Mary was shy and sometimes found social gatherings difficult. She was modest and unassuming and tended to undervalue her great gifts of mind and spirit. But despite her reserved nature she was creative and witty, with a wonderful sense of humour

and a keen appreciation of the ridiculous. Her creativity spilled over both in her early desire to write stories and poetry and in later life into her skilled needlework and her beautiful drawings which often embellished her prayer letters. Her wit also considerably enlivened both her general approach to life and her correspondence.

She was a loyal, kind and thoughtful friend and conscientious in all that she did. If she undertook any task it would be completed to the best of her ability. Though quiet and gentle, she had a core of steel that kept her dedicated to her life's work and that produced wonderful fruit for the building up of God's kingdom. For someone so gentle to die through violence in a conflict far removed from her has been very hard for all of us who knew her. We can only trust that God in his mercy will continue to bless with his transforming power the legacy of her life. **Mercia Malcolm**

well, you can see how God had been at work preparing the ground for it,' Pat proclaims. 'It was glorious.'



But God still had much work for the project to do: further mentoring of the team so they could fully take the 'baton' of leadership of the project; completion of the project offices; transferring ownership of the project to a local organisation they

had set up called ACATBLI (which in English stands for: Christian Association for Literacy and Bible Translation in the Ifè Language); and the biggest job of all – translating the Old Testament

so the Ifè people could have access to the whole Bible in their heart language.

Pat had to go back to America to care for her ailing father in 2010, and much of Mary's work during that year had to do with the administrative details involved in transferring ownership of the project to ACATBLI. This was necessary work, but not work that Mary enjoyed – she just wanted to get on with the Old Testament translation.

Yet the foundations for the Old Testament translation were being put in place: Komi, along with his wife and two daughters, went to Abidjan in Ivory Coast to complete a masters degree in Bible translation. Meanwhile Mary arranged for further study in Old Testament Hebrew to equip her to be a translation consultant. The best place for her to do that was at the Home for Bible Translators. And so, in January 2011, Mary travelled to Jerusalem.

Ripping a hole

Why would God take our mother from us?' was the heartrending response of the Ifè team to Mary's death.

The loss of Mary was immense – for her parents and family, for the Ifè project, for Pat and Mercia and all those who loved her so much. As was the loss of all the good she could have done – in Bible translation, as well as through her warmth, kindness and grace.

Mary committed her whole life to the service of his kingdom.

'It felt like she had been ripped out of something,' Mercia says, 'and the ramifications have been great. It ripped a hole in our lives and, of course, in the Ifè project.' Mercia talks with moving

honesty about how 'it has been hard theologically, wrestling with all the questions that have come out of it. It does shake you that God saw us writing all those emails changing the time we were to meet, and yet allowed it to happen. There are no simple answers to that at all. I just have to hold onto some sense that God has and is bringing something from this, which felt just chaotic and incredibly, incredibly painful. And I felt incredible guilt that it was because of our friendship she was killed. So it was very moving for me when Mary's sister Alison said that her family were actually so glad because they knew that Mary was happy when she died – happy because she was coming to meet me.'

When Pat talks about the pain of Mary's death she says: 'I've had to grapple with why God let this happen. And although I have no clear answer, I look at all the circumstances of that day, and I think, for reasons that I don't understand, that God allowed it to happen.' While over thirty ►

Pat's memories of Mary



Mary and Pat in 2006

In the wake of Mary's death, many people expressed words of appreciation - for her person and for her faithful work. Honestly, I think Mary would have been amazed to hear people speak of her so glowingly! But that was typical of her for, as others said, she was 'a prototype of self-effacement', 'the essence of humility and helpfulness', 'unassuming, unpretentious'; or as one person put it: 'Mary had the nobility of heart not to pretend to know when she was not sure of something. In other words, humility was one of her most obvious qualities.'

People spoke of her individuality – in her clothing (much of which she made herself); in her artistic talents (drawing, painting, quilt work, needlework or whatever new creative project she had gleaned from a craft magazine!); in her cooking (yummy curries and chapattis from scratch!); in her

love of walking - handmade hat on head, binoculars around the neck, sketchpad and snack in the bag.

About Mary's work in Bible translation and literacy, people used words like 'systematic', 'rigorous', 'an efficient finisher', a 'steady plodder' who had the 'stickability' to persevere through the detailed, day-to-day work. And though Mary might be embarrassed by these words of praise, she well knew to whom the glory was due. Like her master, Mary did not want to attract attention, but rather to offer herself in service to others. I am certain that if she could advise me what to write here, she would ask me to point people to Christ – 'the author and perfecter of our faith'. I was blessed to call Mary my friend and co-worker for so many years.

Pat Devine



Dancing at the Ifè New Testament dedication



Ifè team 2003

people were injured by the bomb, Mary was the only person killed – and because her body took the full force of the blast, she likely saved the lives of others, especially those on the near side of the bus that had just pulled into the bus stop. Among the people on that bus whose lives were saved were two teenagers from the Christian community linked to the Home for Bible Translators – one of them, Yasmine Bar David, told news reporters at the time: 'It's hard for me to actually imagine that is actually what she did for me...and I just want to thank her.'

'The thought that Mary's death allowed other lives to be saved,' Pat says, 'is a great consolation to those of us that loved her and continue to miss her.'

Romans 8:38-39 was one of the readings at Mary's memorial service – 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' And in her address that day Mercia said: 'That was a very important passage for us at university, though we never expected to experience its truth in such a sharp way as this. Mary lived and died in the love of God and committed her whole life to the service of his kingdom. Her death, even in these circumstances, cannot be outside his will and

purposes for her. She has run her race and come home into his eternal kingdom in which there will be no more tears or sorrow or loss. Someday perhaps we will know more of the purpose behind this hard separation from her, but for Mary herself there can now only be joy and rejoicing in her place in God's love.'

Taking up the baton

Mary's sudden death, alongside Pat's need to return to America, meant that instead of a gradual handover of project leadership, it happened all of a sudden. And while that was not easy or straightforward, in the end, Pat explains, 'God enabled the Ifè team members to step up into the leadership roles. No, it didn't go as Mary and I had dreamed or envisioned it would go, but, by God's grace, the work continues. The team is pressing on and, God willing, the goal of the whole Bible in Ifè will become a reality in the near future.'

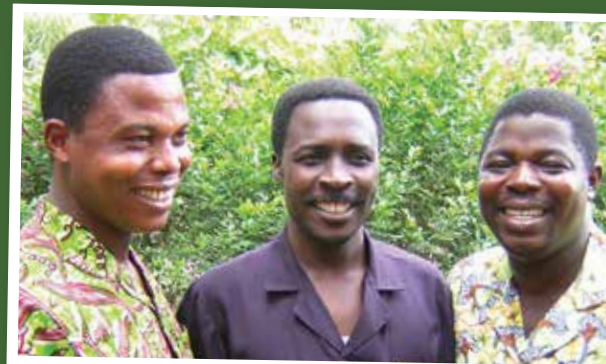
Komi is one of the people who was thrust into a leadership role earlier than anticipated. He had just arrived back in Togo after getting his masters degree when Mary was killed. Then a few months later an opportunity for him to study Hebrew opened up unexpectedly. Halvor and Miriam Ronning, the directors of the Home

How I Came to Know Mary Gardner

It was a Wednesday morning in mid-1999 when I first met Mary Gardner. She and the other members of the Ifè language project in Togo were recruiting new translators. I went to learn more about it and was welcomed warmly by Mary. The following week I returned and it must be said it was Mary who taught me to read and write my language, Ifè!

At the end of the course, I was accepted as a translator with the Ifè language project. Mary then began the process of training me. One day, after three years of translation work, Mary told me privately: 'Komi, I'm proud of what the Lord has done in your life with this project. I see in you a real talent for exegesis and in particular you are analytical in your exegesis – which is a good thing!'

In 2009 when I left for training at The Alliance Seminary of West Africa in Ivory Coast, Mary reassured me that I was capable of doing this advanced training to help the Old Testament translation project. She also greatly contributed to my training by arranging for me to have the financial and spiritual support of one of her churches in Scotland. In 2010 I came back to Togo on holiday and one day Mary told me: 'Komi, after your training, you're going to replace me in the role of manager of the translation team. I'm going



Translators Napo, Komi and Edoh in 2004

to do a six-month Hebrew course in Israel to become a translation consultant. I'll continue to lead the team until you finish your training. Then, I'll give you some training in team management, and I'll pass you the baton.'

While Mary was in Israel, she and I corresponded, continuing our discussions about the future of the Ifè project. Then while I was waiting for an email response from her, the Director of SIL* Togo-Benin called me into his office and, with great sorrow, told me of the death of Mary. I received this news like a bolt of lightning to my heart. What a shock! I was deeply upset, felt confused and cold. I didn't want to believe that this was true, but, alas, it was. It felt like I had taken the 'right' path, only to find that it was a dead end. Even to this day, Mary's death leaves a void in my life.

Nonetheless, by God's redemptive grace, in 2014, with funding from the scholarship created by the Home for Bible Translators in Mary's memory, I received a grant for the six-month Hebrew programme in Israel, the very same programme Mary was doing when she died. On my return to Togo later that year I was appointed to be the team's exegetical coordinator for the Ifè Old Testament translation. Mary's dreams have become a reality! All this has been possible thanks to God's gift to me of these training opportunities.

In conclusion, I will simply say that Mary contributed enormously to my training and I am so grateful for this woman whom I'll never forget. Praise God for his wonderful ministry among men!

Komi Sena

*Wycliffe's primary partner



Mary and Komi working on the Ifè New Testament translation



The Ifè translation team: Front row, l-r: Komlan Tchalla, Yaovi Odayéfoumi Afakodja, Edoh Kaleb Agounkey Back row, l-r: Kodjo Atchade, Komi Sena, Napo Maman

for Bible Translators in Israel, had set up a memorial fund in Mary's name specifically for West African French-speaking translators to come and study Hebrew. They offered Komi that scholarship and arranged for him to travel to Jerusalem and complete the Hebrew studies that Mary had started. Komi reports that while he was in Jerusalem, Halvor and Miriam were especially kind to him. Komi says: 'Ils m'ont chéri à cause de Mary,' which means: 'they cherished me because of Mary.'

'In a very tangible way Komi took the baton from Mary,' Pat says. 'She was going to be a translation consultant; now he is. She was going to oversee the Ifè Old Testament translation; that is what Komi is doing now. Mary went to learn biblical Hebrew, but wasn't able to finish it; Komi went and finished it. So there is a real sense in which

the mantle passed from Mary to Komi. Now he's teaching biblical Hebrew to the other translators and is the person overseeing and managing the Old Testament translation. And, by God's grace, the work is moving ahead.' Currently, Genesis is in the final stages of preparation for publication, and work is at varying stages on 1 and 2 Samuel, Joshua, 1 and 2 Kings, and Psalms.

'We need to pray for this team.'

'But,' Pat cautions, 'this does not mean that the task is completed. It is not a done deal that the Old Testament translation will be completed. We need to pray for this team. Yes, God is blessing the Old Testament translation work. However, there is opposition – both practical and spiritual, and from inside and outside the church. So while we

Hear Mary's talk from 2009 and see other related material at wycliffe.org.uk/wflextra

rejoice in what God has done – and is doing – let's not stop praying for and supporting this project, because they need our prayers and support.' That is what Wycliffe is doing – and you can find out how you can prayerfully and financially be part of supporting the Ifè project on the back cover of this magazine.

Vibrantly alive

'I had a dream a few months after Mary died,' Mercia shares, 'of seeing her very vibrantly alive, with her hair very red in the sunshine – just very vibrantly alive.'

Through the Holy Spirit, Bible translators and all those who play a role alongside them, are life-givers. Their work enables people to engage with the Bible in their mother tongue. And through that work God reveals to people the truth about his life-giving love, his power to transform lives and communities, and the redemption, resurrection, and vibrant life he has planned for his people.

Mary's absence here on earth remains painful – and deeply so – but her legacy is that through her work God will continue to lead many others into the vibrant life that only he can bring.

That is the power of the Bible, as Mary knew from her own experience. She summed up her



The ACATBLI offices in Atakpamé

life-giving work in saying: 'God has given me the privilege of being someone he has used to give the Ifè people the New Testament in their own language. The Bible is a key tool that God has given us to follow him, to serve him, and to fulfil his commission. As the Ifè would say: *Òdáyé kó tu kùsèè fú nǎ!*, which means: May God bless you!'

Alfred Thompson

If you would like to support the Ifè project please see the back cover.



Pray NOW for the Ifè project:

Thank God for Mary's life and for all that he did in and through her. Pray that her life and work will inspire more people to become involved in Bible translation.

Pray that Komi and the translation team will have the moral and spiritual strength, courage, and wisdom they need for their work day by day.

Pray that through reading and hearing the Ifè New Testament many more Ifè speakers will be drawn to Christ.

Finishing in God's time

Jo Johnson, Wycliffe's prayer advocate, introduces our multimedia prayer goody bags for individuals and small groups to use in the vital work of praying for Bible translation.

It has often been observed that when a translation project is nearing the finish line spiritual opposition increases. Hundreds of teams have experienced this.

In 1959, the Siberian Yupik Eskimo translation project was started in Alaska. Now the New Testament is nearly finished....

You could be forgiven for thinking, 'What a long time! What went wrong?'

Bible translation does take a long time. From the beginnings of a writing system to the final checks of texts for naturalness, clarity and accuracy there are many steps involving many different people. It's normal for a New Testament that doesn't run into any major roadblocks to take 10 to 12 years from start to finish. Clearly the Yupik project has hit some roadblocks!

Bible translation builds God's kingdom. It gives people who have never heard the gospel, the word of God. It equips individuals and churches to grow. These things bring transformation to individuals and communities. This means that Bible translation encroaches on the territory of Satan – and it is inevitable that he will put up a fight.

The Yupik New Testament is finally close to being completed. Each member of the team is facing

significant health issues... yet they still persevere. One of them said, 'The prayer of the people of God is the principal reason we have not bogged down, please help us to complete this lengthy project with your continued, faithful prayers!'

But we all struggle to pray at times – especially for situations which are far away geographically, and often far from our experience. Yet our prayers, as the Yupik team testify, are vital for sustaining and completing their work.

We have developed **prayer goody bags** which use a combination of written, video, and audio material to inform, enthuse and inspire you to pray. Each goody bag covers different issues, regions and challenges. You can dip into them – or you can tip them out and feast on the entire contents. You could pray daily for each project over a two week period, or share a few stories at a time with your small group, or pray for all the projects at once in a bigger meeting while projecting the video stories for everyone to watch.

As the Yupik project is not the only project to face these challenges, the latest prayer goody bag is full of stories from projects that have faced unprecedented challenges – and ways that you can pray for them. It is called **Finishing in God's time** and it, along with our other prayer goody bags, is available at: wycliffe.org.uk/goodybag

As well as *Finishing in God's time*, currently there are goody bags to help you pray for *India*, *Scripture engagement*, and – coming very soon – *Sign language translation*.

Please continue to check the goody bag page on our website as we are constantly developing new goody bags so that you have fresh ways to pray.



Pray now for the Yupik project:

Pray for good health and safety for all the team and their families.

Ask God to protect the translation work and enable the team to finish well.

Pray that many Yupik speakers will read God's word, allowing it to transform their lives.

Mamá Paola, Andrew Case, Pastor Tomás, Mamá Lilí and Guillermo working on the Kombe translation

Wycliffe prayer diary

Over the next four months we seek to steep the daily work of Bible translation around the world in prayer. We will do this by praying for the work of Wycliffe members, for ongoing Wycliffe projects, as well as for difficult situations where Wycliffe is working. An orange box notes prayers

for things that are happening on that day or around that time.

You can sign up to receive more detailed versions of these prayers as either daily or weekly emails at wycliffe.org.uk/subscriptions

Aug 1 – Aug 6

- **1** Pray for God's wisdom during the three weeks of consultant checking sessions that begin at NBT (National Bible Translation Trust) in Jos, Nigeria today.
- **2** *Stephen and Nessie Levinsohn, UK, senior linguistic consultant* – Pray for the Benga and Kombe teams in Equatorial Guinea as they work with consultants Andrew Case and Stephen Levinsohn to improve the accuracy and naturalness of their translations of the Psalms and Luke.
- **3** *Martyn Fielder, France, remote administration for Senegal along with church relations in France* – JESUS Film scripts have recently been prepared in the languages of several unreached peoples in Senegal and Mali. Pray for their completion and for actors willing to be recorded.

- **4** *John and Pam Blakely, working as translation consultants and trainers for mother-tongue translators in Asia and based in England because of Pam's health* – John and Pam travel to Asia 2-3 times a year, and work remotely the rest of the time. Please pray that they will consultant-check Scripture translations well to help teams prepare them for publication.
- **5** *Phil Barnett, UK, administration for Eurasia area* – Please pray for Phil as he is currently recovering from blood cancer. Pray for strength and stamina to continue to fulfil his volunteer role as finance officer for Eurasia.

- **6** Pray for Ricky and Marlene Ferguson as they oversee the Wycliffe stand at the New Horizon Bible Week in Coleraine.

Aug 7 – Aug 13

The main story in this issue is about the Ifè project – this week we pray for the ongoing work:

- **7** Pray for the Ifè translators to be inspired by the Holy Spirit as they draft the Old Testament and pray that they will make steady progress towards a complete Ifè Bible.
- **8** Pray that God will protect the members and staff of ACATBLI, as well as their extended families, from ill health, from accidents, and from the temptations of our spiritual enemy.
- **9** Pray for God to give the ACATBLI leaders the wisdom and innovation needed to manage the project personnel and activities.
- **10** Pray for a spirit of humility and unity to infuse each individual involved in the work of ACATBLI in Togo and Benin.

- **11** Please pray for good understanding as the Ndali language committee meets in Tanzania to give official community approval of the Ndali orthography (spelling system) today.

- **12** Pray that the Ifè literacy programme will be enabled by God to help many more Ifè adults to learn how to read and write their language. Pray that the printed and recorded books of the Bible, as well as the weekly radio broadcasts, will draw many Ifè to put their faith in Jesus Christ.
- **13** Pray that the local community and church leaders will actively support ACATBLI's work and that ACATBLI will always be a channel of God's blessing to the Ifè people.

Aug 14 – Aug 20

- **14** Please pray for the students and teachers currently preparing for the Francophone i-DELTA course that will take place in Yaoundé, Cameroon in the autumn.

- **15** Pray for the eight language teams partaking in the LIST (Luke Initiative for Scripture Translation) Plateau Cluster Workshop in Jos, Nigeria, which starts today.

- **16** Pray for the Roma leadership team meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria which begins today.

- **17** Pray for the staff and students as a new term begins today at TCNN (Theological College of Northern Nigeria) in Jos, Nigeria.

Over the next few days we will pray for Hassan Kondaati*, bookkeeper of the Gajara project in Chad, who is supported by Wycliffe:

- **18** Hassan has been struggling with some health issues including typhoid fever, which is

very common in Chad. Please pray for him to be restored to full health.

- **19** Give thanks for the contribution Hassan makes to life and work in the Guera office and pray for God's blessing on his different tasks.
- **20** Hassan recently got engaged to a young woman. Please pray for their wedding preparations and for God to bless their marriage.

*pseudonym



The office where Hassan works

Aug 21 – Aug 27

■ **21** Pray for productive project officers planning meetings at BTL (Bible Translation and Literacy) in Kenya this week.

■ **22** Pray for the new course to inform pastors about Bible translation that starts in Nigeria today. Pray that God will speak to each pastor that attends.

■ **23** Please pray for the editing of songs recorded for the book of Revelation in the Ndut language in Senegal which begins today.

■ **24** Pray for the literacy & Scripture engagement coordinators working in the Mbeya Cluster Project, Tanzania, as they will be busy travelling and doing workshops during August and September while the dry season lasts.



Sunday school teacher training in Tanzania

■ **25** Pray for the strategy meetings that begin in Jos, Nigeria today. Pray for good collaboration and partnership among the various departments.

■ **26** Pray for Josh Oldfield and Stewart Johnson of the UK church engagement team as they oversee the Wycliffe stand at the Westpoint Festival / NewFrontiers Bible Week.

■ **27** Pray for the Scripture engagement workshop with pastors in the Zinza language in Tanzania that will take place during August.

Aug 28 – Sept 3

One of the projects featured in the **Finishing in God's time** prayer goody bag (see page 20) is the Mangali Bible translation in the Philippines. This is a project that has had many difficulties since its start in 1977. Watch a video and find out more about this project at: wycliffe.org.uk/goodybag

■ **28** Ask God for continued wisdom and direction for the team leaders as they lead the project to completion. Pray also for mental, physical, and spiritual strength for the entire team.

■ **29** Please pray for additional funding so that the New Testament can be completed. Pray also for sufficient consultant help. We thank God for the excellent help the team has had so far.

■ **30** Please pray that the completed Mangali translation will be accurate, clear, and natural – especially given the difficulties in finding a word for grace in a culture where revenge is valued.

■ **31** The first road only reached Mangali in 2012, but it is often impassable, so please pray for safety for the team in travel as they have to trek eight hours to get to Mangali.

■ **1** Pray for the Kisi dialect survey in Tanzania which begins in early September. Pray especially for planning, which is difficult as the area has no phone signal, and for safety in travel by car and boat.

■ **2** Praise God for the Hinsaal New Testament which is being launched today in New Ireland in Papua New Guinea.

■ **3** Pray for the recording and the production of the JESUS Film in the Ikoma language which starts today in Tanzania.



A boy records the part of Jesus as a child in the temple for the Ikoma JESUS Film in Tanzania

Sept 4 – Sept 10

■ **4** Pray for the consultant checking of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon in the Wamey language in Senegal which begins this week.

■ **5** Pray for the recording of the multivoice dramatisation of the story of Moses in the Ndut language in Senegal which starts today.

■ **6** Pray for Josh, Sam and Carwyn of the UK church engagement team as they go to the UCCF FORUM this week. Pray for their engagement with students.

■ **7** Pray that the Burunge New Testament, currently being printed, will arrive safely and on time and will be well-used throughout the churches and community.

■ **8** Today is International Literacy Day. Pray for all the Wycliffe members engaged in literacy work around the world.

In February we prayed for Siberia, from where we have received this update:

■ **9** A Chukchi teacher in the primary school of a key Chukchi village recently finished proofreading the book of Bible stories in Chukchi and said, 'I love the stories! I believe them, and I'm digging deeper and deeper into them!' Please pray for this teacher as she shares these Bible stories in her classes.

In June we prayed for the refugee situation, and now we have received this update:

■ **10** Wycliffe partners in the regions from which the migrants are fleeing have worked together to provide information about where to find translated Scripture in the refugees' languages. Pray that this information will lead many to discover the Bible in their language.



Maring translators Martin Ponomb and Anselem Kuloi

Sept 11 – Sept 17

The Maring project which we pray for this week is featured in **Finishing in God's time**. Hear and read more about this project at: wycliffe.org.uk/goodybag

■ **11** Pray for health and strength for the translators Martin Ponomb and Anselem as they work towards a Maring Bible.

■ **12** The Assignment Related Training stage of the training programme for new Wycliffe members begins at CLTL (Centre for Linguistics, Translation and Literacy) today.

■ **13** Please pray for increased community and church support for the Maring project and that local churches will become more aware of, and excited by the project.

■ **14** Thank God that the New Testament has been drafted and pray that the process of community and consultant checking will go well and quickly.

■ **15** Pray for the consultant checking of Revelation in the Kabwa and Jita languages of Tanzania, which takes place this week.

■ **16** Pray for younger people to join the two ageing translators to speed the work of giving God's word to the Maring.

■ **17** Pray for the UK church engagement team meeting in Belfast at the start of next week. Pray that God will guide and inspire the team as they meet.



Testing audio Scripture stories in a remote village in Siberia

Sept 18 – Sept 24

- **18** Pray for the editing of songs written based on the book of Luke in the Saafi-Saafi language in Senegal which takes place this week.
- **19** Pray for the literacy workshop that begins in Chad today to help create reading materials for those already literate in French to learn to read and write their mother tongue.
- **20** Pray for a fruitful Guide to Planning the Future of Our Language workshop starting today in Jos, Nigeria.
- **21** Pray for the Vostok project in Siberia planning workshop taking place this week. Praise God for the faithfulness of all the people participating in the project.

In May we prayed for the Lenthomi project, now we continue to pray for the progress of the Lenthomi Bible:

- **22** Pray that printing of the Lenthomi Bible will go smoothly, that equipment will function well, and for the health and stamina of those involved in this stage of the work.
- **23** Pray for the Chadian Association for Linguistics, Translation and Literacy General Assembly which begins in Moundou, Chad, today.
- **24** Pray for good communication over large distances for translators from the Bende and Pimbwe language communities in Tanzania as they check their drafts of the book of Luke with Oliver Rundell in the UK and other translation advisors and consultants located in Mbeya which is 12 hours away.

Sept 25 – Oct 1

- **25** Pray for the recording of the book of Genesis in the Saafi-Saafi language in Senegal which begins today.
- **26** Pray for the interpersonal skills workshop that starts today for staff from Chad which aims to help all staff involved in Bible translation to work better together, despite their cultural and other differences.
- **27** *Bibi Nédellec, Yaoundé, Cameroon, training coordinator for Francophone Africa* – Pray that administrators, language programme managers, linguists, literacy & Scripture use workers, and Bible translators will have the time and funding to receive the training they need.
- **28** *Brian and Val Hodgkin, region of West Asia, Brian is service group director and Val is admin assistant* – Pray for daily wisdom needed as Brian leads a team of 50 people working in 16 languages. He asks for special prayer during networking meetings in September and leadership team meetings in October.

Oct 2 – Oct 8

In January we prayed for the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan. We have now received these follow up prayer requests so we can continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in very difficult circumstances:

- **2** Praise God that many basic services are still being provided despite the economy being in a very poor state.
- **3** Most hospitals will only deal with emergencies now because of staff shortages – pray that hospital staff throughout Iraqi Kurdistan will be given strength for their work.
- **4** Thank God that many school students in Iraqi Kurdistan managed to finish the school year despite having many school days cancelled.

- **29** Pray for the recording in the Bungu area of Tanzania that begins today. This will be the first recording in Bungu since the translation of Scripture began.

- **30** Pray for the participants from five language communities in northeast Nigeria to receive God's healing during the trauma healing workshop that begins today in Jos, Nigeria.

- **1** The Francophone i-DELTA course will start in Cameroon in a few days. Please pray for travelling mercies for all teachers and students who will be attending the course.



Bibi Nédellec at an i-DELTA course

- **5** Pray for all those who have been forced to change their work because of the political and security situation and for those who have lost money and livelihoods in the process.
- **6** There continues to be openness to Christ and opportunities to share. Pray for wisdom and boldness for believers to make the most of every opportunity to share their faith in meaningful ways.
- **7** Thank God for the impact of the recent trauma healing groups. Pray for the restoration of hope for so many traumatised by recent events.
- **8** Pray for follow up trauma healing workshops to be held later this year and also pray for plans to expand the workshops into additional language groups.

Oct 9 – Oct 15

- **9** Pray for the consultant checking of the book of Acts in the Ndut language in Senegal during the next two weeks.

- **10** The Francophone i-DELTA course starts today. Please pray for all participants and for the Lord's protection on everyone during this two-month course.

- **11** *Gareth & Katharine Mort, Nigeria, the Kamuku language and translation project* - Please pray for the new Kamuku Bible translation committee elected this year to give effective, godly leadership to the translation project. The first Kamuku Bible book (Luke) is due to be published this autumn.

*The Kamuku project is also featured as part of the prayer goody bag **Finishing in God's time** which these prayers are based on (more information at wycliffe.org.uk/goodybag):*

- **12** Pray for motivation for Kamuku speakers to use the book of Luke as it is published and for strategies to encourage discussion and engagement with the Scriptures in the mother tongue.
- **13** Pray for healing of differences within the Kamuku church and a desire to work together across different denominations for the progress of the gospel among the Kamuku people.
- **14** Pray for wisdom and initiative for the Kamuku Christian community as they promote the project in the scattered Kamuku churches as well as in guiding the translation work.
- **15** Pray for perseverance and stamina for the Kamuku translation team of four faithful men in the difficult and detailed work of translating the Scriptures.



Pastor Bala Tanko baptises a Kamuku man

Oct 16 – Oct 22

■ **16** Martin Raymond, Cheshire, part of the Non-Roman Script Initiative (NRSI) team - Pray for good feedback from language communities so the NRSI team can ensure fonts meet their needs. Please pray too that Scriptures which use the fonts would present God's word clearly and attractively.

■ **17** Pray for the Scripture engagement workshop beginning in Chad today to help churches in using the translated Scriptures.

■ **18** Pray for the Nigeria staff conference which starts today in Jos and give thanks to God for all that he has been doing among the Nigerian language communities they have been working in over the last year.

■ **19** Heather Ford Lark, UK, staff care services co-ordinator for Eurasia Area - Pray that the team can help the staff of Eurasia area to thrive in their assignments by providing emotional, practical, supportive and spiritual resources to enable workers to remain resilient whilst working in challenging situations.

A page from Genesis showing one of the fonts the NRSI team have developed



■ **20** Pray for Josh Oldfield of the UK church engagement team as he speaks at Robert Gordon University CU (in Aberdeen) for their World Mission Night.

■ **21** Clare Orr, Senegal, literacy worker – Please pray for mother-tongue literacy work among schoolchildren in Senegal. Pray for the preparations for these classes, and pray that they would help children to have access to more education.

■ **22** Phil & Cathy Davison, Francophone Africa. Phil is a linguistics consultant, Cathy is a literacy and education consultant - Cathy and Phil feel blessed to be part of the Africa-based training courses in Kenya & Cameroon, helping to equip African colleagues for service in their own countries. Pray for all staff and students!

Oct 23 – Oct 29

■ **23** Pray for the Participatory Methods for Engaging Communities workshop which begins in Nairobi tomorrow.

■ **24** Pray for the Scripture app workshop which begins in Chad today.

■ **25** Pray that God's vision will guide the SIL* Nigeria strategy meetings today in Jos.

■ **26** Pray for the voice recording for the Story of Genesis film in the Oniyan language in Senegal which is ongoing today.

■ **27** Pray for wisdom and guidance for the Wycliffe members home leave debrief happening in Edinburgh today.

■ **28** John and Jennifer Young, Republic of Ireland. John works with the Roma Service Group in Eurasia, and on church engagement in ROI, Jennifer is the personnel coordinator for members from Northern Ireland, ROI and Scotland - Pray for wisdom for the translators in Bulgaria and Romania and for the team when they meet from 16-18 August in Bulgaria. Pray for wisdom for Jennifer as she cares for the members she coordinates.

■ **29** Marc and Hannele Secchia, Ethiopia. Marc is the deputy director and operations manager for SIL Ethiopia. Hannele works in personnel in a mission-run school – Pray for over 55 Bible translation projects in Ethiopia, many working in challenging conditions. God is good, but much work remains. Pray for protection, progress, health and wisdom for translators.

Oct 30 – Nov 5

The Belian – approx 80,000 – live in Conakry, Guinea and Senegal and speak the Oniyan language. The New Testament and Genesis have been completed and are currently being printed in one volume.

■ **30** Pray for the production and duplication of audio-video Scriptures and Scripture-based songs in Oniyan. Pray for the completion of the composition process.

■ **31** Pray for the Following and Leading Across Cultures course that begins at CLTL (Centre for Linguistics, Translation and Literacy) today.

■ **1** Pray for the team as they plan for the recording of the JESUS Films and that the showing of the films will open many doors for the churches in the Belian community.

■ **2** Pray that those who were readers when the New Testament was recorded in February 2016 will commit to helping other Belian people learn to read in their language.

■ **3** Pray for the safety of the members of the project team, especially when they are travelling by motorcycle in both countries where the Belian are located.

■ **4** Ask God to watch over and guide the checking and correcting process of the scripts. Pray that those readers who are needed for recording the corrections in November will be available at the right time.

■ **5** Pray for the upcoming dedication of the Oniyan New Testament in early 2017 and its promotion among the Belian people. Pray that many people will come to faith.



Nov 6 – Nov 12

■ **6** Please pray for the morning devotions during the Francophone i-DELTA course as it continues this week. May the Holy Spirit use these times to encourage and transform all participants and teachers.

■ **7** Pray that the Chad executive committee meetings which begin today will be productive.

In May we prayed for the Lenthomi project, now we continue to pray for the progress of the Lenthomi Bible:

■ **8** Pray for formal approval to import and distribute the Lenthomi Bible. That decision will likely be made at the highest levels of government. Pray that officials will view the Bible in Lenthomi positively.

■ **9** Pray for those currently working on finalising the documentation needed for the approval of the orthographies (writing systems) for the Kwaya, Ikizu and Jita languages of the Mara Region in Tanzania.

■ **10** Pray for the network of volunteers in Dodoma, Tanzania, who give time after harvest and until the following rains to teach basic literacy in their village communities.

■ **11** Today is the worldwide Wycliffe day of prayer – please pray for all the prayer events happening today around the world.

■ **12** Pray for the typesetting of the book of Acts in the Rangi language of Tanzania, which is scheduled to happen during November. Pray that God will use it to reveal himself to the Rangi.

Nov 13 – Nov 19

■ **13** Pray for the four-week JESUS Film workshop in the Dogon Jamsay language in Mali that begins this week.

■ **14** Pray for the translation principles workshop which begins in Chad today - pray for God's blessing on each of the teachers and participants.

■ **15** Pray for the Eurasia area human resources services leadership team who are currently meeting in Germany as they work on their plans for the future.

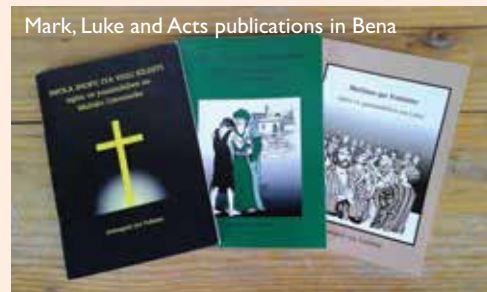
■ **16** Pray for the Bible storying course that is taking place at CLTL (Centre for Linguistics, Translation and Literacy) this week.

■ **17** Pray for wisdom and direction for the church leaders in Tanzania's Mbeya region who will meet together during November as the advisory committee for the 13-language translation project based in Mbeya.

■ **18** Elizabeth Broomhall, Mbeya, Tanzania, translation adviser for the Bena New Testament - As the Bena people await the complete New Testament, please pray that improved methods of distributing Scripture portions and regional literacy teaching would generate greater awareness and spiritual hunger.

■ **19** John and Lois Severn, UK, linguist-translator for the Husa* people in Southeast Asia - Thank God for the increased confidence in using the Husa* New Testament and please pray for impact of the workshop for school teachers this autumn.

*pseudonym



Mark, Luke and Acts publications in Bena



Preaching from the Husa* New Testament

Nov 27 – Nov 30

The Mbembe people – approx 60,000 – live in a very isolated area of the Northwest Region of Cameroon and over the border into Nigeria. Most of the population is not accessible by road.

■ **27** Thank God for the successful sales of Luke's gospel and Acts and pray people hear God speaking through them.

■ **28** Praise God that the checking of 1 and 2 Corinthians has been completed and pray for wisdom for forthcoming translation planning sessions.

■ **29** Please pray that the team will be able to work effectively, despite the challenges of travelling amongst a community with few roads and bridges.

■ **30** The Francophone i-DELTA course is coming to a close. Give thanks to the Lord for everything he has accomplished during the course.

Nov 20 – Nov 26

This week we pray for the estimated 2,300 speakers of the Eastern Arrernte language of central Australia. Hear and read more about this project at: wycliffe.org.uk/goodybag

■ **20** Praise God that so much work on translating the Eastern Arrernte New Testament has been completed. Pray for the final checking and read-throughs of Philipians and Ephesians.

■ **21** Pray for a productive LIST (Luke Initiative for Scripture Translation) Plateau Cluster Workshop that begins today in Jos, Nigeria.

■ **22** Pray for times when translators Neil and Frankie can have dedicated blocks of time together to complete the final read-throughs.

■ **23** Ask God to be preparing people's hearts and minds to receive his word and pray that

God uses the challenges they face to stir a hunger for the word of God.

■ **24** Ask the Lord to lead Eastern Arrernte leaders as they decide on a strategic time to hold the launch of the Eastern Arrernte New Testament. Pray for their far-reaching distribution plans.

■ **25** Ask God to prepare people in the Eastern Arrernte community who will not only read the translated Scriptures, but also share them with others.

■ **26** Many people do not realise the number of Aboriginal languages still actively spoken as a first language in communities throughout the central and northern parts of Australia today. Pray for a growing desire for translation among these language groups.



The new MissioMaze app

MissioMaze is a simulation game of choices commonly faced by missionaries who go overseas to join a Bible translation team for the first time. Where will you live? How will you interact with local people? How will you deal with delays in the project, or unforeseen crises? With each choice you make, the church may have more access to the translated Scriptures, or the project might falter and even fail!

Do you have what it takes to survive the MissioMaze?

Find out more and download the app from wycliffe.org.uk/missiomaze



'I enjoyed exploring the different ways through the maze... Having to wait before making the next choice really built my anticipation' - Jonathan



You can support Bible translation, including the Ifè project, in a number of ways:

Pray

Please pray for the work of Bible translation around the world. You can use the prayer requests in the prayer diary, or you can sign up to receive Ifè project reports with updates and prayer requests. Please email projects@wycliffe.org.uk or call us on the number below.

Give

If you feel led to give to support Bible translation, please do so through the response form with this magazine, securely through our website at wycliffe.org.uk/give, or by contacting us on the number or email below.

Encourage your church to support a translation project

If your church is interested in finding out more about supporting a translation project prayerfully and financially please contact our projects team on askus@wycliffe.org.uk or through the details below.

Go

If you are inspired to get involved in the work of Bible translation please go to wycliffe.org.uk/missionmatters to find out more about serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Tell

Why not share the story of the Ifè project by giving this magazine to a friend? Contact us if you would like additional copies. We have many other resources we would love to share with you at: wycliffe.org.uk/resources