

*Thank you!!*

I thank God for your investment in Bible translation, reaching this and future generations with the transforming power of God's Word 2 Cor 9:13,15

Every November 11<sup>th</sup>, Wycliffe people celebrate Wycliffe World Day of Prayer. It could also be called: the day you wish you could sign up all over again. First, somebody tells the story about why November 11<sup>th</sup>. It's 1933 and Cameron Townsend, Wycliffe's founder, and LL Letgers want to enter Mexico. They get stopped at the border. They pray and they get in. Prayer is the foundation to Wycliffe's work. Let's not forget that. So we gather every year, everywhere Wycliffe works around the world and remember and pray. And you're thinking, "*fantastic, love it, I could sign up again now*".

Next someone will talk about the numbers: 1,917 languages left. There are more people in the world today with access to God's Word in their own language than ever before. The last Bible translator is likely alive today. Some of us may see the day when there is no language left, when people from every language have access to the transforming Word of God in the language they understand best. And you're thinking, "*Seriously. Me. Me. I have a life I can give for that cause*".

And then there will be praying for various projects. A university in Kenya with a linguistics program training the next wave of translators and later consultant checkers, and Bible translation projects stalled for all sorts of reasons, waiting for consultants is one and computer problems is another. "*Oh*", you're thinking, "*I could be the answer to that. I'm in*". And then someone will review completed translations since last November 11<sup>th</sup> and they'll tell stories and some you've already heard but never mind; tell them again because they're cool.

Like this one:

Bible translator, Lee, knew God had left His mark on the Hdi culture somewhere: something in the language or culture pointing to Himself. Lee searched and hadn't found it. In a dream, he felt prompted to re-look at verbs. Verbs in Hdi end in -a or -i or -u. Except not the verb for love. DV-. He found dva and dvi, but no dvu. So he asked the Hdi people. Could you dvi your wife? Of course, you loved her in the past, but not anymore. Yes, you could dvi your wife. And dva, can you dva your wife? Absolutely, when she cares for you and treats you well, then you dva your wife. It's conditional love. Well, could you dvu your wife? This question met with laughter. No, you wouldn't. That would mean you'd have to love her even if she refused to cook for you. No matter what. Even if she cheated on you. You'd love her even then. No one would dvu their wife. And God, does God dvu us? Stunned people responded by weeping with the realization that when it says "for God so loved the world..." it means "for God so dvu'ed the world...".

At some point some Human Resources person will present service awards. Wycliffe recognizes people who've served 25, 40, and 50 years. And then the HR person will ask everyone with 50 or more years to stand and there are a LOT of those people. And one of them will shout out something about it was 50 years well spent and the ones unlikely to shout out anything in front of a room full of people, if you asked, they'd want to know could they give another life please.

November 11<sup>th</sup>, also known as can-I-sign-up-all-over-again day.

## HOWe THINGS ARE ...

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### Home Office/Financial Contributions:

Check payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators

Enclose note: Preference for the ministry of Sheryl Howe

### Wycliffe Bible Translators

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