

Living Words

ISSUE
NO. 11

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.



This edition of *Living Words*, is the final in a 3-part series that features the themes of Wycliffe's three-fold mandate. The first was: "To bless the body of Christ". The second was: "To empower the Bible translation movement". This edition features our third mandate—"To care for those involved".

As I write this, my thoughts are with one of our members who recently suffered a massive stroke, required a medevac flight back to New Zealand from their field of assignment, and is now on a slow and difficult path of recovery. This has been a hugely traumatic experience for the members involved, and the broader impact is far-reaching as well.

It has required enormous amounts of time and other resources to ensure their safe arrival back to NZ, under extremely difficult circumstances, including restrictions as a result of Covid-19. Many people—including people like yourselves, their partnership team, and our Member Care personnel—have sought to walk with them, pray for them, and advocate for them every step of the way.

I recently visited them in hospital, and I came away with a renewed sense of why we have the care for those involved as one of our three-fold mandates. It was a timely reminder, and I am so glad we place such importance on this.

In this edition you will also read of some others who have recently passed on, who have given their lives to the Bible translation movement. The tributes included in this issue celebrate their dedication, devotion, and pioneering spirit.

Along with the example of these pioneers, we also recognise the many who have followed in their footsteps, and a new generation of people that will continue to follow for years to come. There are still many opportunities to serve, and we are needing more people to follow in their footsteps. You will read of numerous opportunities to serve, and we kindly ask that you pray with us for people to respond to God's call to serve Him today in the ministry of Bible translation.

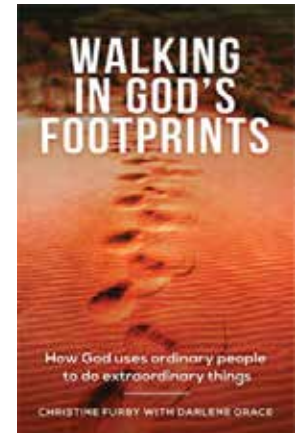
I hope you enjoy reading these inspiring stories of hope. Thank you for partnering with us to make God's Word accessible to all people—particularly those who do not have Bibles in their language yet.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Lovatt
Executive Director

Book review— Walking in God's footprints

BY TANIA VAIL



Walking in God's footprints is a really inspiring story—a love story of how Christine and Ted anchored their lives in God's love and calling to work amongst the Garrwa Aboriginal people group in Australia. It portrays the joys and challenges of living in the rural setting of the Garrwa people, learning their language, and living through the day-to-day ups and downs of life involving hunting, floods, dry seasons, funerals and weddings. They shared it all with these people who became friends and family, while also raising their children there.

Ted and Christine translated the New Testament and parts of the Old Testament into the Garrwa language. Many Garrwa lives were changed as a result of hearing the Word of God in their own language. The Garrwa believed God because they heard and understood. They believed and they acted. They prayed and expected God's response. They didn't view His answers as miracles—they were simply episodes in the daily life of following Jesus. God changed their lives, and all in the community could see the fruit of walking with Jesus.

With the dedication of the New Testament and farewells done, Ted commented to Chris, "These years we've had working with the Garrwa people have been the most satisfying years of my whole life!", and Chris agreed. By obeying the Lord and walking in His footprints, God took them on a journey they never dreamed would be possible. This story tells of two ordinary people who trusted God and achieved extraordinary things for Him, learning that with lives surrendered to Him, nothing is impossible.

● If you would like to purchase a copy of *Walking in God's Footprints* (\$20 + postage) please contact our office: admin@wycliffenz.org



Christine (right) and her husband Ted (left) in Northern Territory, Australia

A tribute to Christine Furby

02.11.1941 — 03.03.2021

BY ROBERT LOVATT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – WYCLIFFE NZ

Christine—who passed away in early March of this year—along with her late husband Ted, were some of the earliest members to join Wycliffe Bible Translators New Zealand, and as such are foundational members of our organisation.

Christine was a pioneer in the truest sense of the word. She was willing to give up so much in a cause and a calling to follow God in the ministry of Bible translation. At that time very few people even knew what translating the Bible into another language, especially an oral language, involved. However, Christine, along with Ted, had an unwavering commitment to provide God’s Word for a language group who did not have access to the Scriptures. This involved the lengthy process of studying the culture and learning the language prior to starting translation, and teaching the people to read and write their language. A mammoth task that required tremendous perseverance and commitment. Their determination and trust in God saw them serve in Bible translation ministry for nearly two

decades, and resulted in the dedication of Garrwa Scriptures in 1983. Over Wycliffe NZ’s more than 50 year history we have had hundreds of others follow in Christine and Ted’s footsteps, and their example of obedience and sacrifice has been an inspiration and influential factor in this.

We can’t speak highly enough of them. Christine, with her husband Ted, have blazed a trail that many others have followed to serve in the Bible translation movement with Wycliffe NZ. We acknowledge and honour the pioneering spirit of Christine in her obedience to God’s call on her life, her dedication to the ministry of Bible translation, and in providing the Garrwa Aboriginal people in Australia with the gift of God’s Word in their heart language. Christine was truly a pioneer of our time. In the book of Numbers chapter 14, verse 24, we read that God describes Caleb this way: “my servant Caleb, who has a different spirit, and follows me wholeheartedly”, and I believe these words written of Caleb are also true of Christine.

Missionary life is hard

KEVIN SALISBURY

Leaving all to follow Jesus for our fellow missionary friends means leaving friends, family and support networks. Just think about that a little – leaving everything... all that is familiar, often even your language. Missionary field life gets even harder when you introduce cultural issues, language struggles, interpersonal communications, security threats, spiritual warfare attacks, health complications, children's issues, strained finances and a whole lot more, which can eventually take their toll.

**There is a cost for following Jesus...
Scripture assures us of that.**

People who may have been resilient before coming to the mission field had friends, family, church and regular routines that aided and fed their resilience back home. Take those things away and replace them with challenges like loss, uncertainty, danger, financial pressures, disease and threat, and those who were once resilient back home often find that their coping mechanisms are quickly overwhelmed.

Without counselling and psychological helps nearby, missionaries often need to go back to their 'passport countries' to access the helps they need, and more often than not, they don't come back.

There are many clinical studies on the effects of stress on the human body. Too much stress for too long can lead to increased incidence of cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal disorders, psychological disorders and impaired immune systems. Hurting people can also hurt other people. In our context, during our time serving in Papua New Guinea, we saw many, many good, loving and committed missionary friends seemingly pack up overnight and fly home... and they would rarely return.

Without counselling and psychological help nearby, missionaries often need to go back to their 'passport countries' to access the help they need, and more often than not, they don't come back. Their ministries and calling are cut short. It truly is a terrible process.

In 2019, we were challenged with this whole scenario. People were leaving the mission field; people were breaking. Those who did go home left huge holes to fill for already stressed missionaries, and the cycle never ended. We had to do something different.

In June of that year, Mark van Rossen, the then SIL Staff Care Manager, met with Dr Roger Van Der Veen, a Doctor at the Mackay Base Hospital. Dr Roger has for some time, had his own ministry

in counselling missionaries after hours.¹ At that meeting, The Red Sea Counselling and Member Care Centre was birthed. We talked about a facility that would be easily accessible for those working in the South Pacific/Asia Pacific region. We talked about a facility that would not just provide triage counselling, but also training to build people's resilience. We talked about a facility that would be available to all cross-cultural missionaries.

We talked about a facility that will provide the much needing clinical and professional/psychological support to help our amazing fellow missionary workers to:

- Be more resilient
- Find the tools they need to live strong and healthy lives
- Not just survive but thrive on the mission field
- Stay... and not go home
- Continue their ministry to the people they were called to serve

Since that meeting with Dr Roger, we have contracted lawyers to legally set us up as a charity, and we are currently working on our governance documents. We have gathered a Board of Directors to oversee the set-up phase, and Mark and Lorene van Rossen have moved to Cairns, in far north Queensland, where the Centre will be set up and run. Multiple missionary sending agencies have committed their support to this centre, and we hope that by the time international borders open once again, we have a facility that is open and ready to serve those who serve so faithfully.

'Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.' Galatians 6:10 (NLT)

1. mackaybaptist.org/careAndMission/iron.aspx

Mark and Lorene Van Rossen joined Wycliffe Australia in 2003. They have served mostly in administration roles in Papua New Guinea, and for the last six years, have served in member care/staff care roles. Mark and Lorene have two grown children and one grandchild (with another due in August 2021).

Opportunities abound in Australia

Despite a world of uncertainty, there are still tremendous needs in the area of Bible translation, some of which are right on our doorstep—well, across the ditch!

Could the Lord be calling you to serve Him in Australia to support the vital work of Bible translation? The needs are different and varied, but they all require mature believers with servant hearts who are obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

We are looking for people who are willing to give up the comforts of home to follow the Lord and serve Him. While you won't receive a salary, we will help you develop a team of partners who will pray and provide financial support. It is a privilege to serve the Lord, living on His payroll!

If you can't go, perhaps you would like to pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up workers for His harvest field and, in particular, these urgent needs.

We are looking for people to fill the following roles:



Bookshop marketers/managers

This isn't an indoor job for lovers of luxury! No, we need people who can not only manage the bookshop tasks of buying and selling stock, but who are also willing to travel to communities to take our books to the people. It will involve posting parcels and maintaining phone/email contact with stores to stimulate sales and ensure supplies don't run low.



Linguists/Bible translation advisors

We need people who will work in a cluster of related Aboriginal languages with a number of mother tongue translators, giving exegetical advice, helping with computer issues, encouraging, coordinating consultant checks and more.



Literacy/Scripture engagement trainers

We are looking for people who will teach literacy and encourage Scripture use. It is the role of a disciple involving moving from community to community, encouraging Aboriginal believers to multiply amongst the younger generation.



Audio/Video technicians

We need people who are prepared to travel and use their computer skills in audio and video recording, editing, mastering and manufacturing. This would mostly be music, but also Scripture readings.



eCommerce web developer

We have 650 albums which we would like to be made available online. We need someone to establish a sales centre online so tech-savvy people can purchase what they need.



IT - Linux

We need someone who can maintain computers and who is familiar with Linux to be based in Darwin. They would work with Aboriginal Bible translators to train them in linguistic/Bible translation software, and also travel to remote communities to provide computer support.



Short term helpers

People coming through Darwin who want to help in any way are always welcome. We keep a list of jobs that volunteers can do!

- If you are interested in finding out more about any of these roles or where in the world the Lord would have you serve, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us! We would love to make contact with you and help you on your journey of discovering where God wants you to serve. Please email inquiries@wycliffenz.org

A tribute to Joice Franklin

19.05.1931 – 23.03.2001

BY NEVILLE JAMES – FORMER FOUNDING
AND LONG-STANDING WYCLIFFE NZ
COUNCIL MEMBER

In 1964 the New Zealand Council of Wycliffe Bible Translators agreed to pray and research the possibility of starting an SIL school here in New Zealand. For many years New Zealand had sent candidates to Australia's SIL at Belgrave Heights Melbourne for their linguistic training, which was required for their service as a missionary overseas. It was an expensive requirement in those days to travel the Tasman and attend the school over in Australia. There was a need to check out whether to hold the school in the University or a Christian complex with the required accommodation. In America the SIL schools were being held in the summer period when Universities did not have students in attendance, so the SIL students gained accreditation of their linguistic studies at these summer programmes. This was not an available option in New Zealand.

Our research and interviews led us to recommend, with Professor Blaiklock's help, the preferred option to use Auckland

University's Romance Languages classrooms and Trinity Methodist College student accommodation which was in close proximity. After evaluating the costs we put the proposal to Dr Richard Pittman, the SIL Pacific Area Director, with what we saw as the best possible proposal, with the recommendation that it could be put in place by summer 1969-1970. Research was then undertaken by Dr Pittman and the Field Directors to establish the availability of qualified staff and movements of missionaries returning for furlough to staff the school.

Dr Richard Pittman reported back to the New Zealand Council that he found who he thought was the ideal principal for the New Zealand school: Karl Franklin. Karl was fully qualified with his PhD in Linguistics and with field experience, but we had to approve the person because of his "youthful" age. The New Zealand Council was delighted, because the Council members considered themselves to be "youthful", as well as inexperienced

in academic affairs and needed God to provide.

When the school went ahead, we got to meet Joice, Karl's wife, and found her to be a dynamic partner for Karl—able to teach classes, as well as heading up recreational activities for the staff and students. One of these was teaching the New Zealanders how to play volleyball. She organised volleyball on Fridays, but the wet weather in New Zealand frustrated her and she called it "wet-Friday", because every week it rained on Friday.

Gwen and I got to know Karl and Joice very well, and we often took holiday breaks together in places like Tauranga, Rotorua, Bay of Islands and the whole of the South Island. We knew them as part of our very close circle of friends, and we miss the relationship of Gwen and Joice very much.

God bless, and keep us trusting in Him.

Capturing a new generation

BY ALEX WINSLADE
& DARLENE FARROW



At the conclusion of a workshop in Asia, participants who were touched by the Word of God exclaimed, “We need God’s Word in our own languages!”

Of the seven languages represented, people from six languages asked for a Bible translation project to be started. Requests like this are not uncommon for our field teams. But sadly, there are not enough workers to meet all the needs. **Currently, there are over 2000 languages—representing 167 million people—still needing Bible translation to begin.**

The last issue of *Living Words* displayed our new branding for Wycliffe New Zealand, as part of a wider communications strategic plan. Our vision behind this new communications strategy was summed up as capturing the imagination of a new generation of supporters who see what God is doing through Bible translation, and want to get involved in carrying on the mission. Having this vision requires a broader view of caring for those involved, which stretches beyond just providing support for those already involved in Bible translation, to assisting those God is calling to be involved, in their journey of discerning and stepping into what God has placed on their heart.

Since recognising this need, God has shown us how He has already been moving in the hearts of the younger generation. We have received inquiries from a few university students, and others in the 20 year-old age bracket, three of whom have already joined or are in the process of joining Wycliffe NZ! We are also in the process of developing interactive programmes to share about Wycliffe’s mission with university students across the country. Such opportunities excite us for how many more people could have a passion sparked in them to see individuals, communities and nations transformed through receiving God’s Word in their language.

Much of this edition honours the incredible work done, and the way paved, by pioneers in the Bible translation movement. However, there is still much work that needs to be done before every people group has access to Scripture in a language that speaks to their hearts. Jesus encapsulates our sentiment perfectly in Matthew 9:37-38: *Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (NIV)*

Just as we can all be caring for those already involved in the Bible translation movement by praying for and supporting them, God’s Word also asks us to pray for those who are not yet involved, that they might be moved to respond to God’s calling. We ask that you join us in

prayer for this new generation of workers God is preparing to send out. Pray with us, too, for guidance in implementing new initiatives that will see people from all age brackets whose hearts are captured by the need for Bible translation, and will respond as Isaiah did, saying “here I am, send me!”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

Perhaps the Lord is calling you to be involved in serving Him. In addition to much needed translators and linguists, there are many other urgent needs. Currently, the field offices of our partner organisation, SIL desperately need administrative and management personnel. This includes accounts, finance managers, administrators and project managers. Software developers and IT support people are also needed. Some roles can be done part-time remotely, while others need to be based on the field.

● For more information on how to get involved, please contact Darlene. inquiries@wycliffenz.org

We believe in universal access to God's Word

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