



ONEBOOK
The Word goes local

THE TRANSFORMED LIFE!

Stories of Bible Translation,
Literacy, and Community
Development

Fifty Bible Translations. Countless Stories to Tell.

From the mountains of Cameroon to the valleys of South East Asia; from underground faith communities to large thriving churches; from fear and insecurity to hope in Christ; minority language communities are being transformed as people engage with God's Word in their mother tongue. Thank you for supporting local project teams in Africa and Asia as they work to bring God's Word to their communities. This year, we are so excited to celebrate being a part of 50 Bible Translations!

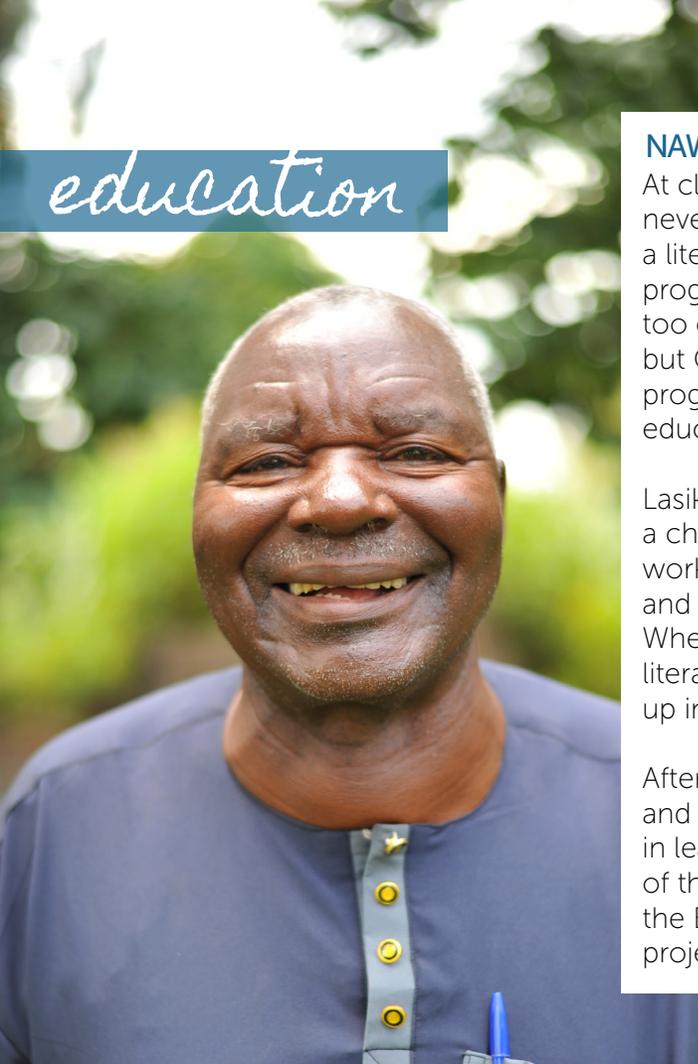
Countless lives have been refreshed by an encounter with God's Word in their own language. Literacy programs and community development efforts work alongside Bible translation, bringing life, health, education, faith, growth and equality to individuals and communities. We are confident these first 50 translations are just the beginning – God is writing new stories of transformation every day.

As you read the accounts of real people found within this book, we pray that their stories of new beginnings refresh your spirit as you behold God's redemptive power at work across the globe.

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31





education

| Education Has No Age Limits

NAWILA

At close to 50 years old, Lasika never guessed he would join a literacy teacher's training program. He thought he was too old to become a teacher, but God had other plans. This program was just the start of his educational journey.

Lasika did not attend school as a child. However, he was able to work hard to provide for himself and his family for many years. When Lasika heard about a literacy training program starting up in his village, signed up.

After attending the program—and unlocking a keen interest in learning—Lasika became one of the first literacy teachers for the Bible Training and Literacy project in his community. Soon

after becoming a teacher, Lasika decided to go to school. Taking this step was a little scary, as this was the first time he got to go to a real school. He ended up passing the class eight adult exam and finding employment with the Adult Education office.

Realizing education has no age limits, he is setting his sights even higher. Lasika plans on attending college to become a nurse. He looks forward to using his education to help people in his community access better health care. Currently, sick people in his village must travel 300 kilometers to the nearest hospital.

Lasika praises God for using a simple literacy class to help him discover his potential.

The Truth Sets Free |

ISU

Yvette's mother suffered from severe mental illness and her father abandoned their family for another woman. She attended school until grade five but when no one would pay for her education, she was forced to drop out.

It wasn't long before Yvette struggled to provide even basic necessities for herself. Eventually, she gave in to the young boys who promised to help her if she would give them what they wanted. She entered prostitution; it seemed like her only option.

When Yvette became pregnant at 18 years old, her fragile world crashed around her. Who would help her if the baby's father refused to take responsibility?

How could she survive? She worried God could never forgive her for all the things she had done.

Just as things were looking their bleakest, the Isu translation team held a testing session for the Gospel of Mark in her village. Yvette wandered in and, there, she heard a story of Jesus forgiving a prostitute. When the session wrapped up, Yvette raced after the translators. Her heart was beating fast. She had to know: was it possible God could do for her what He had done for the prostitute in the story?

When the translators assured Yvette that God still forgives today and invited her to repent, she confessed Jesus as her Lord and began to follow Him.

With new faith and a forgiving community, Yvette found hope and began building a new future.



faith

Empowered to Read God's Word

KABRAS

13-year-old Hope was helping her mother with her corn roasting business after school. A woman came to the stall and began to speak to her in Hope's language, Kabarasi.

The woman pulled a transitional primer from her bag and asked her if she would like to look at it. Curious, Hope took the book and flipped to the first page. She found she could barely pronounce the words inside. Hope had never learned to read in her mother tongue. The woman encouraged her to continue and gave her a few pointers. Slowly, the words on the page started to flow more easily on her tongue, and she read through the entire primer.

The woman praised Hope for her quick learning, and then introduced herself as a project translator in the community. Hope

and her friends knew about the translation project, but she had never seen the transitional primer.

"Have you tried reading the Kabarasi book of Luke?" the translator asked.

Hope knew about the Gospel of Luke written in her language, but only her mother read the newly published Scripture in Kabarasi. She and her siblings used the Swahili Bible instead; however, she admitted they did not read their bible very often because they did not understand the Swahili translation well.

Now that she had experienced reading the transitional primer in Kabarasi, reading the mother tongue scripture didn't seem as difficult as it did before. Hope decided to go back home and try to read the Gospel of Luke in Kabarasi, her own language.

Not only was Hope given the chance to read and understand her mother's Gospel of Luke, but the translator also brought the transitional primer to Hope's school so all the boys and girls in her class could learn to read and write Kabarasi.

What is a transitional primer?

A transitional primer is a booklet many of our partners use to help improve the reading and writing skills of individuals beginning to learn their language. The primer also teaches valuable life skills through story, empowering people in their daily lives.

equality





| A New Path of Reconciliation

LAMAN

Utami was estranged from her husband and no longer had contact with his parents. It was hard being a single mother, but she did her best to make a good life for herself and her children. Scrolling through Facebook one day, she saw a picture of her friend holding a New Testament and announcing its upcoming dedication. The dedication, an event hoping to unite local believers and churches as one body in Christ, was taking place in the region where her in-laws lived.

God stirred Utami's heart, and she felt compelled to give a copy of God's Word to her husband's parents. Unfortunately, she knew they would not want to see or speak to her. Utami contacted

her friend Aulia, a member of the translation team. She explained her difficult situation and asked if she could pay for a Bible to be delivered to her husband's parents.

After the dedication ceremony, Aulia took the Bible to the home of Utami's in-laws. To Aulia's delight, they were not angry but thrilled to receive such a precious gift. They asked Aulia to send love to Utami and their grandchildren.

Things changed for Utami after she heard Aulia's experience of bringing the Bible to her husband's parents. A few weeks later, she reached out to her husband and, together, they began the process of reconciliation.

Literacy Opens Doors |

WAATA

After Hezzy graduated from high school, he worked as a shopkeeper in his community. Then he heard the government was advertising numerous census jobs. The posting for the enumerator listed fluency in the local language and dialect as a requirement. This caught Hezzy's attention, because he had completed a level two mother tongue literacy class a couple years earlier and had received a certificate.

Hezzy applied, thinking he might as well try for a job despite the fact many others were hoping for these positions. He didn't get his hopes up, though. He knew the odds of being selected were low.

Hezzy arrived for the interview. The first question he was asked was whether he was fluent in his own mother tongue. Hezzy showed the interviewer his literacy certificate. Shocked that he had documented proof of his knowledge, the interviewer immediately gave him the job.

When Hezzy first signed up for literacy classes, he thought the program would only help him read the New Testament publication in his own language. He was not looking for any other benefits from receiving the certificate - being able to understand scripture fully was enough of a blessing. However, this experience helped Hezzy to understand

that literacy impacts so many other aspects of life.

As the story of Hezzy getting his new job was shared in the community, many young people began coming up to the project's literacy teachers and asking when they could start taking classes.



growth

A New Chapter of Healing

KUNAMA

Years ago, Fana's family had been caught in the conflict that engulfed her homeland. As they prepared to leave, her mother and two brothers were forced to hide in their neighbour's home. Fana watched, horrified, as authorities with guns entered the home. They shot and killed one of her brothers. Her other brother escaped the scene. Fana and her mother fled.

Settling into a new home, Fana grieved the loss of her brothers—one dead and one nowhere to be found. For years she questioned God, angry that He did not prevent these terrible things. Wary of religious persecution, she did not meet with other believers to share God's Word or to work through her grief. Instead, she carried her own sadness and pain and attempted to comfort her mother without the support of Christian community.

A peaceful season eventually allowed Fana and her mother to return to their home country. They were amazed to find her brother alive. Sadly, mental illness had crushed this previously clever, hard-working, and handsome man. Although Fana was happy he had survived and they could be together again, she was torn by what the ordeal had done to him.

Fana registered to participate in one of the trauma healing sessions offered for the Kunama community. Sitting in the trauma healing session, surrounded by other women with similar experiences, Fana was inspired by the story of a Pastor experiencing trauma, questioning his faith, but continuing to seek God for healing.

"I felt like the Pastor in the story in the trauma healing book," explains Fana.

In the workshop, she and 35 other women from a refugee community shared their experiences. Hearing that other people had also experienced great trauma and questioned their faith, but still looked to God for restoration, gave Fana the strength to continue her own journey towards healing.

This year, having received instruction to be an apprentice trainer through the workshop, Fana looks forward to facilitating her own trauma healing group.

healing

