



THE
**FINISH
LINE**

Americas
2011



Wycliffe®



DEAR FRIENDS,

Hooting, chanting, and dancing, Ketengban men and women in Southeast Asia greeted translators Andrew and Anne Sims as they returned to the rural mountain village after a long absence.

Although Andrew and Anne were responsible for the Ketengban translation project, and this was Anne's first visit since the New Testament dedication eleven years earlier, they hadn't expected such an exuberant welcome.

At the edge of the crowd, Andrew and Anne saw a small group of young men. Covered in white mud from head to toe, they stood silent and expressionless, in stark contrast to the rest of the crowd.

Village elders explained:

Today we celebrate your return, Andrew and Anne—you who brought God's words to us in our own language. But we don't want to forget what life was like before we had the Word, so we asked these young men to cover themselves with mud and to stand apart, silent and somber. They represent the lives of all of us before we understood God's words to us. We were like dead men walking. We didn't know God or His Son. We lived in guilt and fear and constant warfare, always under the power of the evil spirits who terrified us and caused us to fear one another.

Now we are alive in Christ and free from our dark past. But our children don't remember what it was like to be outsiders and walk as dead men, because they were born after the coming of God's words. We want them to understand our past so they will fully value what they have with Jesus and always give thanks to God.

What a privilege it is to share God's Word with millions of people like the Ketengban, in a language and form they can clearly understand, and to see the hope and transformation it brings to entire communities.

The people groups represented in this issue of *The Finish Line* will soon share this life-changing experience as their translation projects are completed. This important time requires much prayer as projects often experience significant setbacks leading up to the completion of Scripture.

We stand at a pivotal time in the history of Bible translation. The current rate of Bible translation is truly unprecedented. God has sanctified His Word and, I believe, is multiplying our efforts. Faithful partners like you stand with us and are paving the way for Wycliffe's mission: to see a Bible translation program in progress for every language still needing one by 2025. Thank you for your dedication to the Bibleless people of the world. This year, let's continue to pray that God will bring new hope to communities as they receive His Word for the first time in a language and form they can clearly understand.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Creson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Bob Creson
President
Wycliffe USA



LIFTED FROM THE ASHES

BY BEV DAWSON

I knew I would never be able to do it. It was impossible.

But God reminded me: This was not my project; it was His. He would finish what He started.

My friends and colleagues, Rich and Charlene Hicks, were robbed and murdered, and their house was burned to the ground. I felt a great loss at their passing, and yet I knew they were now seeing and praising God, face to face. The fire consumed more than my friends; it also claimed some of our Bible translation work in the Wapishana language. Portions of Romans and Hebrews were gone, as well as linguistic aids like grammar write-ups and a working dictionary.

I would just do what He sent me to do, one day at a time.

I had worked with the Wapishana in Guyana for over thirty years, together with Rich and Charlene for the last twelve. We had finished about 75 percent of the New Testament, and as we were nearing the end, we were working on some of the more difficult books to translate. Realizing that portions of those harder books would need retranslating was heartbreaking.

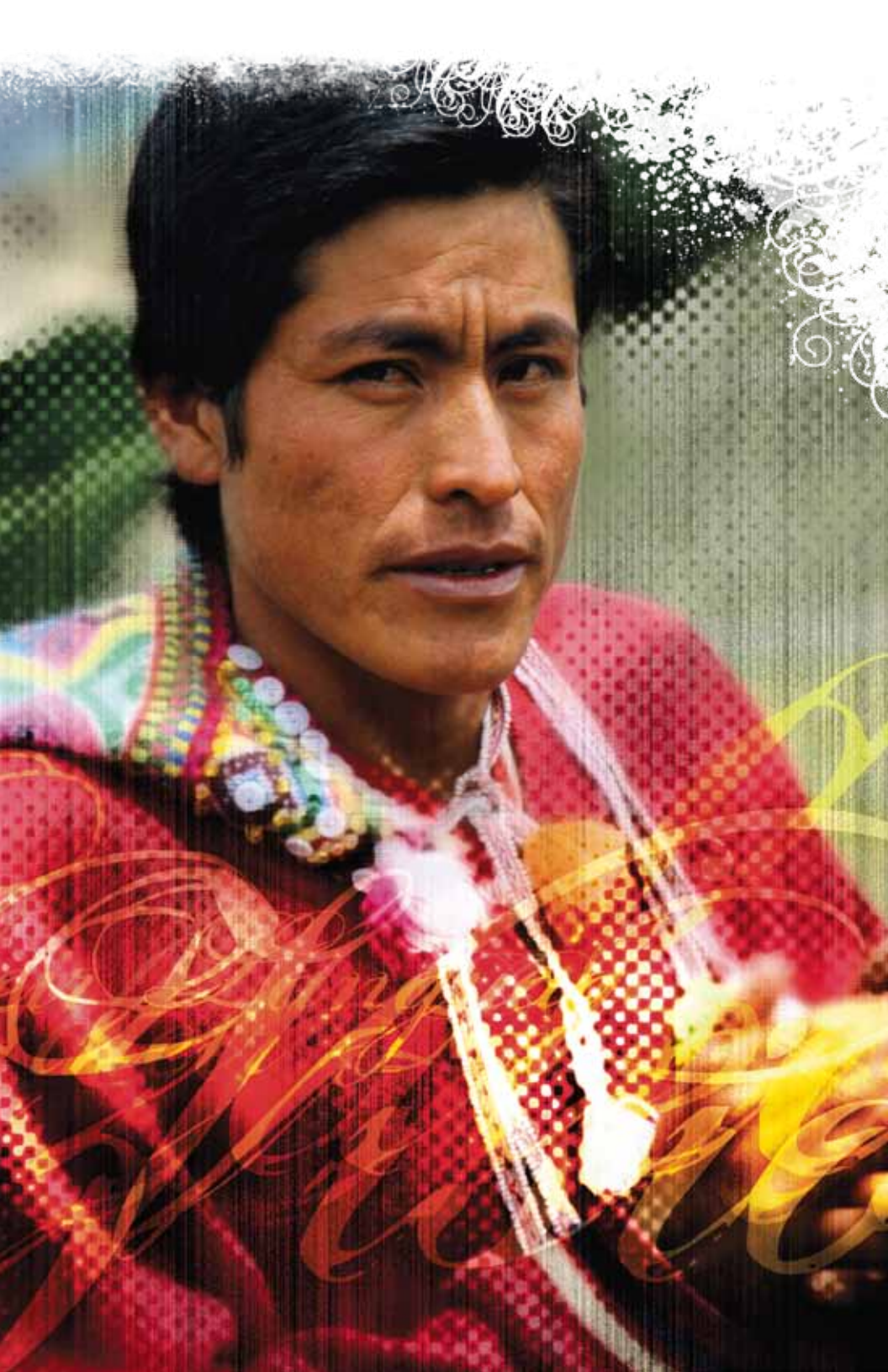
But God will be victorious.

At the Hicks' funeral, the Wapishana people decided to make the project their own. They realized that this was their Bible, and they began to really want it for themselves and for their families. The Wapishana had heard sermons and Scriptures before in English, but it wasn't until they heard it in Wapishana that it had the power to change their hearts. Hearing the words in their own tongue made them true.

In the three years since the Hicks died, we have finished a complete draft of the New Testament. Even more exciting is the difference we have seen in people's lives. We may not know what the future holds, but we are assured that our God is more powerful than Satan. Despite an evil act like the Hicks' murders, God was able to move the Wapishana to want to know Him more fully.

In Him, all things are possible.

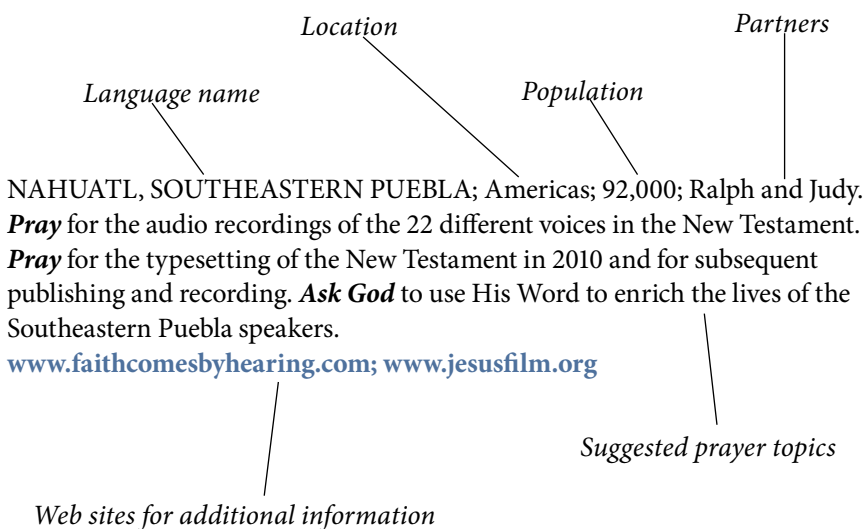
Bev Dawson is a Wycliffe missionary who has worked with the Wapishana language group of Guyana, South America, since 1973.



HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

The language projects listed in this guide are arranged first by location, then alphabetically by language name. You can pray through the projects one by one, or focus on a particular country or area for a given time. The map on the next page serves as an index for the languages listed by country.

There are a number of components included in each project listing to help you pray more specifically.



A stylized map of the Americas, including North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. The map is rendered in a light, golden-brown color against a textured, parchment-like background. Each country is labeled with its name in bold, uppercase letters, and a line points from the label to the corresponding country on the map. Below each country name is the page number it corresponds to in the document.

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HOW DO I PRAY FOR TRANSLATION PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION?

Every translation project is unique, but many face similar challenges and obstacles. You are welcome to use this list of prayer points to help you begin and focus.

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE

Translation teams and their families are vulnerable at this time. Pray for their stamina and health. Pray that their focus would remain on Jesus, despite the challenges that will come. Pray for their hearts to be encouraged by one another.

PRAY FOR THE PROCESS

Pray for trained consultant checkers. Pray for the involvement and consensus of church denominations on the wording, writing and printing of the translation. Pray for the final proofreading process, asking God to correct any errors that would mar the translation. Pray for the technology involved in every project so that it would not hinder the finished product.

PRAY FOR PROTECTION

Pray for those involved with translation projects operating in secrecy. Pray for peace in areas affected by subversive political forces. Pray for provision in the event of hurricanes, cyclones, floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Pray for the courage and strength of mother-tongue speakers in the event of persecution.

PRAY FOR THE PRINTING

Pray for the typesetters, who often work in a language they do not understand, that they may be accurate and maintain the integrity of the translation. Pray for availability of paper. Pray for the printers as they work to ensure that inking, pagination and binding result in clear and durable books. Pray that the published books will be delivered in God's perfect power and timing.

"IT IS THE SAME WITH MY WORD. I SEND IT OUT, AND IT ALWAYS PRODUCES FRUIT. IT WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL I WANT IT TO, AND IT WILL PROSPER EVERYWHERE I SEND IT." —ISAIAH 55:10–11 (NLT)

For more tools to guide you in your prayers for projects nearing completion, as well as other helpful prayer resources, visit www.wycliffe.org/pray.



*Bring their Big
Guy*

NOTE: The Finish Line is a quick-access resource to help you pray more effectively for translations that are within three years of publication or arrival to a language group. For deeper prayer points and updated information, visit a Web site(s) is listed under some language group. Unless otherwise noted, each project is for a complete translation of the New Testament.

AGILMENTE; Americas. Due to family needs and other concerns, a key translator has been unable to work on the translation for almost six months. **Pray** that God will bless her with a more favorable schedule and improved circumstances that will allow her to return to the project for a few months—long enough for her to give valuable input on translation issues. Other members of this team are considering what format to use for an audio version of the New Testament. **Pray** for wisdom in their decision. **Pray** for two team members as they rerecord passages that were recently revised.

HUICHOL; Americas; 20,000. **Praise God** for technology that allows access to remote areas in the Americas. It makes the 2011 completion goal for publishing the Huichol Old Testament a realistic possibility. Continue to **pray** the project forward triumphantly. www.theseedcompany.org

KATIO; Americas. **Praise God** that in 2011 nearly 80 percent of the New Testament will be published and distributed. It is not known when the remaining 20 percent will be finished, but **rejoice** that a significant portion can be made available to the people now. **Pray** for the health and safety of those who will be working to finish the remainder of the project.

MACO; Americas; 2,500. The Maco translation team is checking and revising the New Testament. **Pray** for God's provision for all of their needs, especially as they expect to publish Scripture in 2012. **Pray** for strength, clarity of thought, good health, and stamina for all the team members. **Pray** that this translation will speak to the hearts of the people.

➔ MAZATEC, AYAUTLA; Americas; 3,500. Dedicated on January 21, 2010.

MAZATEC, JALAPA DE DÍAZ; Americas; 24,200. **Ask God** to encourage translators as they do a final revision and read-through of the New Testament. **Pray** for them to reach their goal of finishing in 2011. **Pray** that they will be strengthened by His truth: “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5, NLT).

MAZATEC, SAN ANTONIO and MAZATEC, SAN JERÓNIMO TECÓATL; Americas; 21,100. **Praise God** that consultant checking was completed for both New Testaments. The translation team is working on final publication checks (spelling consistency, layout, etc.) in preparation for publication in late 2011 or 2012. **Pray** for progress on an audio recording of this Scripture, produced in partnership with Faith Comes By Hearing. www.faithcomesbyhearing.com

NAHUATL, SOUTHEASTERN PUEBLA; Americas; 92,000. This translation team has received typeset copies of the New Testament. Now, as part of a final check, they are rereading the translation. **Pray** that the entire manuscript will be ready to send to the printer in May 2011.

PUMÉ; Americas; 9,211. This team has added more Old Testament books to their translation project. **Pray** that they make good progress in order to begin revisions in 2012 and then aim for printing in 2014. **Pray** for their encouragement: “So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NLT).

SINCERE; Americas. In 2012, three-fourths of the New Testament will be published and distributed. In the meantime, workers are recording and distributing portions as they become available. **Pray** for Christian leaders to step forward in the community.

ZAPOTEC, COATECAS ALTAS; Americas; 5,500. Members of a review committee are showing great interest and enthusiasm over finished Scripture portions that communicate clearly in their own language. **Pray** for continued progress and for the ongoing availability of the right people to serve on the committee. **Pray**, too, for housing for the committee participants while they serve. **Pray** that all Zapotecs will hunger for the Scriptures, and **pray** that the team will find ways to get the translated portions into use even before the New Testament is published.

ZAPOTEC, YAGANIZA; Americas. This translation team is proofreading the typeset New Testament and polishing up summary material of the Old Testament. **Pray** that the power of the Word will impact lives in the community. **Pray** that the team will not grow weary with the task, but will continue to do their part to make His Word available in the heart language of the people. **Praise God** for a successful audio recording of the New Testament and Psalms.

BRAZIL

BAKAIRÍ; Brazil; 950. A second read-through of the New Testament is nearly finished. The text is expected to be ready for printing in 2011. **Pray** for stamina for team members during these final preparations. **Pray** for wisdom for translators working to resolve major issues, like how to communicate nasalization through the text. **Pray** that they will also finalize the remaining 2,000 words for a word list. **Pray** that the Scriptures will impact the lives of all those involved in the process.

JAMAMADÍ; Brazil; 480. **Pray** that everyone in this region will be free from malaria, as it is an ongoing problem. **Pray** for the team as they work

20 One of the 20 countries with the greatest remaining translation need.



on consultant checking and continue to make revisions to their work. **Pray** that they will find stability and hope in God's Word. Publication of this New Testament is estimated for 2012 or 2013.

KAIWÁ; Brazil; 18,000. The first Kaiwá New Testament was completed in 1986 and then reprinted in 2006. Once the Old Testament is finished, more revisions will be incorporated into the completed Bible. **Pray** for solutions to difficult passages in the remaining books. **Pray** that the drafting and consultant checking can be completed by 2012. **Pray** for health, protection, and good communication for team members working in scattered locations. **Praise God** for healing one mother-tongue translator from a serious illness; **pray** for continued good health for this translator.

NADĚB; Brazil; 300. **Praise God** that translation consultants have finished checking the New Testament. **Pray** for the team as they enter revisions. **Pray** that they will be diligent in their work and maintain good focus during this tedious phase of the project. **Pray** that the New Testament will be ready for publication in 2011. **Ask God** to grow the Nadëb church.

→ TEMBÉ; Brazil; 180; ALEM. Delivered in August 2010.

CANADA

CREE, NORTHERN EAST; Canada; 5,310. This project has yet to cross the finish line. It has encountered severe setbacks, including the unexpected death of the main translator. Thankfully, a skilled editor has now joined the team to help keep the translation moving forward. **Ask God** to provide even more staff this year.

CHILE

RAPA NUI; Chile; 3,390. **Pray** for the review process, which will likely take three more years. **Pray** that the reviewers will benefit from these years of intense focus on God's Word. After the review is complete, the New Testament will be ready to begin the publication process. Continue to **pray** for the health and protection of the Rapa Nui reviewers and linguists.

COLOMBIA

EPENA; Colombia; 3,500. Already, local people are using the completed Epena New Testament. Translators are now working on Old Testament books and hope to have them finished by mid-2011. **Pray** that these additional books will stir even more interest in the community.

FOOTHILLS; Colombia; 14,300. **Pray** for endurance for the team as they continue this translation. **Ask God** to protect them from those who are opposed to the project. **Pray** for perseverance as the team works toward a goal of completion in 2012. www.theseedcompany.org

➔ GUAYABERO; Colombia; 2,000. Published in 2010.

➔ WAIMAHA; Colombia; 600. Dedicated on July 18, 2010.

ECUADOR

QUICHUA, CAÑAR; Ecuador; 100,000. As soon as the New Testament was published in 1996, translators began working on the Old Testament.

20 One of the 20 countries with the greatest remaining translation need.



Pray that nothing will hinder the team as they begin the last stages of preparing the entire Bible for publication in 2011. www.lbt.org

➔ SHUAR; Ecuador; 46,700. Old Testament dedicated on August 28, 2010.

GUATEMALA

➔ ACHI', RABINAL; Guatemala; 37,300. Dedicated on January 10, 2010.

➔ POQQOMCHI', WESTERN; Guatemala; 50,000. Dedicated in June 2010.

XENOCOJ; Guatemala; 5,200. Praise the Lord for good working relationships among the team members and for their high level of education in biblical studies. **Pray** that they will work diligently through an overwhelming number of tasks during the upcoming months. **Ask God** to provide a committee of local people to help conduct a revision before the typesetting process begins. **Pray** for excellent health for the translation team and an ability to resolve translation problems quickly. Alcoholism is a major issue in this area; **pray** that God will deliver the people from this widespread addiction.

GUYANA

➔ AKAWAIO; Guyana; 4,500. Dedicated on January 12, 2010.

WAPISHANA; Guyana; 6,000. This project is featured in the story "Lifted from the Ashes," on page 5. **Pray** for this translation to be finished by the end of 2011, and for its publication in 2012.

JAMAICA

PATOIS, JAMAICAN; Jamaica; 4,000,000. Although Jamaica is known for plush amenities and pristine beaches, the average Jamaican lives in a country where unemployment and resulting crime are increasing problems. **Pray** for Jamaican Patois speakers, who need God's Word to speak to these very real issues. **Pray** that the translation team will reach its publication goal in 2012 and that the Scriptures will deepen the faith of Jamaican Patois Christians. www.oneverse.org

20 MEXICO

GRASSLANDS; Mexico; 18,000. **Praise God** for all the Scripture portions that are ready for publication. **Pray** for a widespread desire among local people to read and hear God's Word. **Pray** that the translation team will find creative ways of showing community members how to use and study the Scriptures in preparation for the completion of this project in 2011. **Ask God** to provide excellent script readers to help produce a dramatized version of the Scriptures. www.theseedcompany.org

LAS FLORES; Mexico; 5,000. **Praise God** that this project is well supported by the local people as the team finishes checking and revising the New Testament. **Pray** that it will be published this year. www.theseedcompany.org

SAN PEDRO; Mexico; 11,000. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit will change hearts as people listen to and ponder available Scripture portions while waiting for the New Testament's publication in 2012. **Praise God** for the opportunity to work in partnership with consultants of the United Bible Societies. **Pray** for an increase in literacy among San Pedro speakers. www.theseedcompany.org

20 One of the 20 countries with the greatest remaining translation need.



SOUTHERN MEXICO cluster project—SANTO DOMINGO, SAN PABLO, SANTA MARIA, SAN VICENTE, and SAN MIGUEL languages; 21,300. These projects are at various stages: The San Pablo translation is in progress; the San Miguel team is earnestly translating Proverbs; the Santo Domingo and Santa Maria translations are being published; and the San Vicente community will celebrate its completion of Scriptures in April 2011. **Pray** that each of these projects will finish well and bring glory to God. www.theseedcompany.org

NORTH AMERICA

CROW; North America; 4,280. **Pray** that this New Testament will be ready for typesetting in 2011. **Pray** that the team will apply this verse to their daily tasks: “Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts” (Colossians 3:16, NLT).

➔ GWICH’IN; Canada and the United States; 800. Dedication date to be announced.

HAWAI’I CREOLE ENGLISH; Hawaii; 600,000. **Pray** for the Old Testament translation in progress for this language group. **Praise God** that Scripture portions already available for this language group have been well received.

PANAMA

EMBERÁ, NORTHERN; Panama and Colombia; 60,200. In cooperation with New Tribes Mission, this team is preparing the New Testament for publication in 2011. **Pray** that as the team deals with many pressures, they will realize the truth of these words: “... letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace” (Romans 8:6, NLT).

KUNA, SAN BLAS; Panama; 57,100. **Praise God** for the San Blas Kuna team’s steady progress toward completing an Old Testament translation by late 2012. Sixty percent of the editing is now complete. **Pray** for healing for one of the translators, who is experiencing side effects from a bout with dengue fever.

PARAGUAY

MAKA; Paraguay; 1,500. **Pray** that the team will seek God's direction in every way, so the project will remain on schedule. **Pray** this Scripture for the team: "Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives" (Galatians 5:25, NLT).

PERU

QUECHUA cluster project—CHIQUIAN, NORTH CONCHUCOS, SOUTH CONCHUCOS, HUAYLAS, HUALLAGA, HUAMALIES, and MARGOS languages; Peru; 970,000. **Pray** for much-needed endurance for these Old Testament cluster teams. **Thank the Lord** for new team members, and **pray** that they will blend well and speed the tasks along. **Pray** for each team's ultimate goal to complete the entire Old Testament in 2012.

www.theseedcompany.org

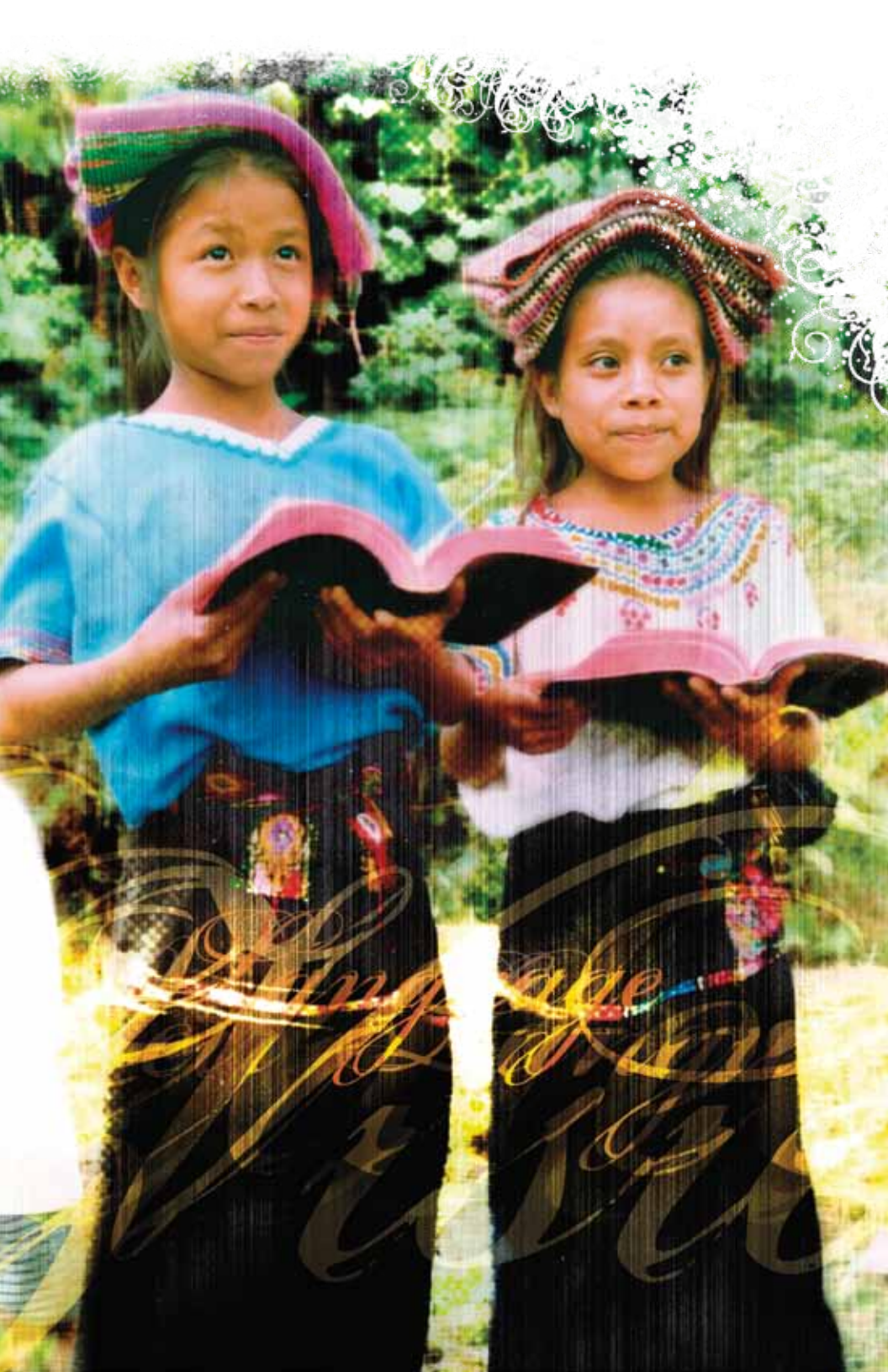
→ QUECHUA, PANA O HUÁNUCO; Peru; 50,000. Dedicated on August 7, 2010.

SURINAME

JAVANESE, CARIBBEAN; Suriname; 60,000. **Pray** for the team members of the Suriname Bible Society who are adapting the Indonesia Javanese Old Testament into Suriname. Suriname speakers hope to receive the whole Bible in 2012.

20 One of the 20 countries with the greatest remaining translation need.





Language
Learning

WHAT'S NEXT?

Choosing to spend time in prayer for the language projects presented in *The Finish Line* is hard work as well as heart work. Once people make this investment in the building of God's kingdom, they are likely to ask the question, "What's next?" Many want to expand their involvement into the areas of donating and serving.

For those individuals able to provide funding for a language project, online giving is available by writing online_giving_orlando@wycliffe.org. You can also contact us at **1-800-WYCLIFFE (1-800-992-5433 ext. 3705)**. Some of our prayer partners have rallied their Sunday school classes to organize a fundraising event. We never cease to be amazed by the creativity of God's people.

Interested in taking a short-term trip to witness translation work up close? We encourage you to visit www.wycliffe.org and click on the **Go** section. You'll find a variety of programs, all designed to help you dig deeper into the world of Bible translation and literacy work.

You might be ready to take the first step toward membership. Go to www.wycliffe.org and click on **Go**. Then click the button titled **Ready to Serve**.

Your continued prayers are always welcome. Wycliffe's Prayer Ministries department can equip you to pray for a language community where there is no work in progress. You can sign up for the **Bibleless Peoples Prayer Project** online by visiting www.wycliffe.org and clicking on the **Pray** section, or by calling **1-800-WYCLIFFE (1-800-992-5433 ext. 3870)**.

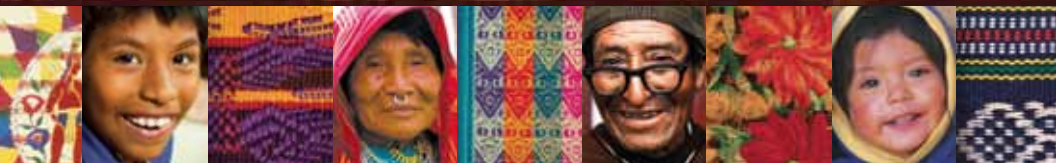


“THE BIBLE ITSELF IS NOW CLEARLY OUT OF CONTROL IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD... ONCE PEOPLE GET THE BIBLE IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE, YOU CAN READILY EXPECT WHAT IN MOST CASES WILL BE AN EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF FAITH MOVEMENTS TO CHRIST.”

—Ralph Winter, founder of the U.S. Center for World Mission, *Mission Frontiers*, Sept./Oct. 2006

Movements

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