



# TheWordForTheWorld

BIBLE TRANSLATORS

*The **vision** of The Word for the World Bible Translators (TWFTW) is the glory of God through transformed lives by the power of his Word in everyone's heart language.*

*The **mission** of TWFTW is to enable persons, ministries and organizations from language communities that do not have the Bible in their own language yet to take responsibility for Bible translation and related activities and to ensure its availability and accessibility.*

## INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT (2016 Year-End)

### OPENING REMARKS

As I review our progress towards realization of *TWFTW's* Vision 2050 (completing first-time translations of the complete Bible in 500 languages by 2050 and assist other Bible Translation agencies in many more Bible translation projects), it is a great privilege to share the following highlights from all that God has been doing through *TWFTW* in 2016.

### BIBLE TRANSLATION

We have been involved, or are still involved in a total of 103 Bible translation projects in Democratic Republic of Congo (1), Ethiopia (23), India (49), Malawi (2), Myanmar (1), Slovakia (1), Tanzania (18), Zambia (4) and Zimbabwe (4). Eleven of these projects are new this year in Ethiopia (for the Basketo, Kebena and Meskan people groups), India (Kolami, Relli and Vagiri people groups), Zambia (the Luyana and Nkangala peoples) and Zimbabwe (Kalanga, Korekore and Nambya). One hundred per cent of our 301 Bible translators are nationals indigenous to the people groups for whom they are translating. *TWFTW* has also been assisting other agencies in Bible translation projects managed by those agencies.

## **Bible Translation Consultation**

One of the challenges facing Bible translation agencies is the lack of consultants. They are the experts that check new translations for accuracy, comparing them to Greek and Hebrew texts. We rely on our own consultants, consultants from *SIL*, *Seed Company (SC)*, *Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT)* and the Bible Societies, a few national consultants in India, as well as guest consultants (i.e., persons not involved in Bible translation full time). Additionally, our group consultations continue to help us save time and money. This year, we saw several effective group consultations in as many as twelve languages at once.

## **PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION**

This year, we published and distributed one complete Bible and five New Testaments. Additionally, one additional New Testament that was printed in 2015 had its dedication ceremonies this year and began distribution. All of seven of these language communities were previously Scripture-less people groups. These languages are:

- Maale in Ethiopia. This is the first complete Bible produced by *TWFTW* in the Horn of Africa, as well as produced in the shortest period of time (17 years) in Ethiopian history.
- Kutu, Makua, Ngindo and Vidunda in Tanzania
- Ila in Zambia
- Lambya in Malawi (distribution only)

## **TRAINING**

We finished 2016 with 353 students from 14 countries enrolled in our Diploma in Bible Translation (DBT) training programme. With some students in North East India and Zambia completing their Bible translation studies, we now have 178 graduates of *TWFTW's* DBT programme. In total, our students and graduates represent 130 (formerly) Scripture-less languages.

This year, we completed fifteen DBT training events in Ethiopia, India, Myanmar, Slovakia and Zambia. This is the largest number of training events in the most countries that *TWFTW* has had the privilege of running in a single calendar year.

Another first for us was a DBT training event held in Myanmar! The month-long event took place in Yangon, Myanmar, where eight students – from the Rakhine (5), Kawng Tu (2) and Anu (1) people groups were training for possible future projects. Several agencies came together to provide this training – *TWFTW* (provided lecturers, finance, facilitation and marking), *NECTAR* (logistics, administration and research), the Dai Bible translation team (translation of material, interpretation, teaching and on the ground coordination), and Rakhine Mission Band for Christ (translation of material and on the ground coordination).

In 2016, *TWFTW* continued to make significant progress in developing a strong team of nationals for the work of Bible translation in India. Our second month-long “fast track” training event was successfully completed for eighteen Bible translation project facilitators, empowering indigenous leaders to train new teams of translators via *TWFTW*'s training programme for Bible translators.

*TWFTW*'s DBT programme has been officially recognized by *Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU)* in Shillong, India. Students will receive a certificate based on their education level when they enrol in the programme. The Pro-Chancellor of *MLCU* said, “*there is no doubt in my mind that what these students have done is equivalent to a Master's, if not more.*” In August, *MLCU* officially recognized six DBT students, who were ready for graduation – five of whom already had a Bachelor's Degree and were thus awarded a Master of Arts Degree in Bible Translation!

### **Bible Translation Consultant Training**

To address the worldwide shortage of Bible translation consultants (mentioned above), we are training indigenous leaders to become Bible translation consultants. Our consultant development plan includes post-graduate studies and internships. At present, we have ten students (from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia, Slovakia and India) enrolled for post-graduate studies with the *South African Theological Seminary – SATS*. *TWFTW* provides academic supervision for the students pursuing Master's and Doctoral studies

We also have several people whom we are developing as consultants that do not fall under the purview of *SATS*. These additional consultants-in-training include two people in Ethiopia and three in India.

Additionally, we made progress on revising and expanding *TWFTW*'s consultant development programme, especially in terms of developing national consultants and enabling them to function more effectively and at an earlier stage than previously.

We also participated in an inter-organizational meeting, hosted by *SIL*, where various agencies reported on their respective translation consultant development and certification programmes. It was encouraging to us to hear that more and more Bible agencies are moving towards a similar model as that used by *TWFTW*. It is hoped that more inter-agency cooperation will take place in the future, which will alleviate the strain caused by an insufficient number of translation consultants across agencies.

### **Leadership Training**

I'm grateful to God for the 5-day *TWFTW* Leaders' Conference we were able to hold in August in Pretoria, South Africa, where 69 leaders from 15 different countries came together to improve themselves as leaders within the organization. Participants were inspired and encouraged through daily devotions led by Alexander Venter, a South African pastor, insights on leadership from Chris de Wet, CEO of Africa Ministries Network (AKA Emit), and training on various practical subjects. The feedback indicated that this training

was very helpful.

## PROMOTIONS

*TWFTW's* Department of Promotions has pursued their Implementation Plan for Vision 2050 by finalizing the Promotions Policy, new appointments, and increasing the visual presence of *TWFTW*. Specifically:

- The Promotions Policy was formally approved by *TWFTW* Executive Management Team in 2016.
- A National Coordinator of Promotions has now been appointed in Zimbabwe. He will also serve Zambia, and actively be gathering stories and testimonies from these countries.
- *TWFTW International* has also appointed an assistant for the International Director of Promotions.
- A new website was developed and launched for *TWFTW International*. The followers on Social media like Twitter, Instagram and Facebook have increased, some by more than 100%. This is due to more frequent postings, not only by the Promotions department but also by *TWFTW* members. More stories and testimonies are received from the field workers, especially from Tanzania, India and Slovakia. This has been extremely valuable for the overall organization.

## SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

*TWFTW* is actively involved in Scripture Engagement through various means:

- The Jesus Film
- Distribution of audio Bibles (produced by *DAVAR Partners International - DPI*), and flash drives with copies of the New Testament
- Audio recordings, e.g. of the Maale and Aari Bibles as well as the Awngi, Borna and Halaba New Testaments in Ethiopia
- Preparing a Sunday School Teacher's Training Manual and training teachers in Southern India
- Scripture use seminars in e.g. Ethiopia and Tanzania

## LITERACY

*TWFTW* is continuing to run literacy programs in Ethiopia, Malawi and India. In Ethiopia, we saw 7,260 people (4,109 males and 3,151 females) out of 7,975 enrolled successfully graduate and having learned to read and write at one of our literacy centres in four people

groups (Dawro, Gofa, Guji and Maale). Also, 545 people (320 males and 225 females) received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, several transitioning from other religions as well as former Christians, who rededicated their lives to Christ. In Malawi, in the Lambya and Sena literacy programmes, we have 288 literacy centres operating at this time. In North East India *TWFTW* has been instrumental in initiating literacy material in five languages.

## PARTNERSHIPS

We continued to enjoy the opportunity of working alongside many partners in the great work of bringing God's Word to all peoples, especially in the *Forum of Bible Agencies International* and regional Forums of Bible Agencies. Other key partners include numerous indigenous churches and ministries, *NLCI*, *NECTAR*, *PBT*, *SIL*, *SC*, *UBS*, *ABS* and various national Bible Societies, *The Bible League*, *Digital Bible Library*, *Faith Comes By Hearing*, *DPI* and *The Jesus Film Project*.

In 2016, *TWFTW* was invited to join the *ETEN* Alliance and take a seat at the monthly meetings of the *ETEN* Steering Committee. Our inclusion with the other eight Alliance members is a very encouraging development in our partnership efforts.

## NEW TESTIMONIES

At a recent funeral ceremony among the Dawro people of Ethiopia, a non-believing man showed up in the crowd. He was the head of a family of eight, but, although he was raised in a Christian home, he had backslidden for the past 15 years. After a Dawro evangelist read and preached from the Dawro New Testament, the unbelieving man said to the evangelist, "*today, what I heard from the Scriptures in my heart language has made clear everything for me; it touched my heart.*" [Sic] Then the man repented along with his entire family and they all committed their lives to Christ!

At the launching of the Vidunda New Testament in Tanzania, a man in the crowd came up to Barry Funnell, a senior *TWFTW* consultant and CEO of *TWFTW UK*, and asked if he could have a copy of these newly translated Scriptures even though he was not a Christian. Barry told the man that the Bible is for everyone and handed him a copy of the New Testament. The man accepted Jesus as his Saviour immediately, and wanted all of his family to hear this good news as well!

Ongoing Bible translation work has revitalized the Kharam churches in North East India. Kharam churches are now using the Kharam language in all their church services. One Kharam Bible translator said, "*The ongoing translation work has opened the eyes of the community; people started loving our culture, song, folktale and literature, and lots of vocabulary and language orthography discussions can often be heard when two or three Kharam people are gathered together.*"

## FINANCES

Percentages of our income and expenditure (based on financial reports of *TWFTW* in all the countries where we work) give a good picture of priorities within the organization.

### Percentages of Total Income for *TWFTW* (amounts are in US Dollars):

SOURCE	ACTUAL 2013	ACTUAL 2014	ACTUAL 2015	ACTUAL 2016
Individuals and Businesses	50%	28%	28%	25%
Grants	35%	54%	50%	55%
Churches	10%	9%	5%	7%
Other Organizations	2%	6%	13%	7%
Services and Gifts in Kind	3%	3%	4%	6%
TOTAL INCOME	2,447,645	2,751,362	\$2,909,848	\$2,851,611

### Percentages of Total Expenditure:

EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL 2013	ACTUAL 2014	ACTUAL 2015	ACTUAL 2016
Ministry	83%	83%	84%	84%
Operational Costs	17%	17%	16%	16%

### Comparison of Capital Expenditure to Total Expenditure:

	5%	3%	4%	1%
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## ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Important organization changes that occurred during 2016 include the following appointments:

- Reuben Kabwe as the Chief operating Office of *TWFTW International*
- Doreen Kabwe as Regional Director for Southern Africa
- Theodore Mwendakazi as National Director for *TWFTW Tanzania*
- Manoj Mathew as the Director for Mainland India
- Jonathan van Aswegen as the Director for North East India and Myanmar
- Stacy Prater as International Accountant

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

We are monitoring our progress towards realization of Vision 2050 (as mentioned in the introduction) by means of the Implementation Plan in which all Directors of *TWFTW* participate. In humility we are happy to report that we are making greater than planned progress in the pursuit of that goal. For this we thank God and all who have partnered with

us thus far. And we declare once again that we realize we cannot do it alone, and that we are depending completely on God to see the fulfilment of our Mission.

*TWFTW* regards it a high privilege to be living and working in this age. We want to continue to position ourselves as a service organization working alongside others to fulfil the Great Commission. We believe it can be done!

Soli Deo Gloria!

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