



WYCLIFFE GLOBAL
ALLIANCE



Annual Report 2023

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends

Greetings from Johannesburg! I pray that this finds you and your organisations excited about what God is doing in the global Bible translation movement. What follows is the Annual Report for the Wycliffe Global Alliance for Fiscal Year 2023, which spanned 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023. Calling attention to every significant event, milestone and accomplishment would be impossible, but I hope this brief report at least provides a snapshot.

Of course, all of this occurred before a backdrop of ongoing crises in so many areas of the world. War continues in Ukraine, in Sudan and between Israel and Hamas (the latter which started just as our FY2024 was beginning), with concerns of these conflicts widening. Coups and attempted coups occurred in several African nations. Political tension gripped Hong Kong and Taiwan. More with each passing day, we live in a VUCA world – volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous.

And yet, God is clearly up to something wonderfully new in our world. This past year gave the Alliance a global view of God moving us into a new era in mission and specifically in Bible translation. Nowhere was this more apparent than in our five-venue Global People Conversation. For this reason, I would like to use this time with you to highlight these conversations and their implications for us all.

Reflecting global change

One of the Alliance's seven [Participation Streams](#) is simply called 'People'. The People Stream includes recruitment and placement of personnel to serve in Bible translation movements, along with ongoing, supportive care for those personnel. We have heard concerns from Alliance organisations, particularly in the West, that these functions have become more problematic. So, to strengthen our People Stream we called for a Global People Conversation. FY2023 saw a conversation take place in each of our four areas. Then, in November 2023, a final group met in Johannesburg to discuss and process the results. A final report is coming soon.

The People Conversation reflected how things are shifting and changing in the world. Of course, the world is not shifting in the same way everywhere. But even in contexts where things still look the same as they did five years ago, much around them has changed. Collaboration with the wider world depends on responding wisely to those shifts.





Coming together, Saul Samuel Patayaure from NBTT and Eugene Mou MEI from CABTAL talk with one another at area meetings.

Becoming the Alliance

Coming out of the days when we were called Wycliffe Bible Translators International, we used secured, set operating systems. The further we have moved from that context into what has become the Alliance, organisations are increasingly finding the muscle to respond to their local contexts. Before, they had always responded to the international context, the WBTI context. I think we will continue to see a growing ability of the collective body of Alliance organisations to bring all kinds of new ideas, new dynamics, to the global Bible translation table.

We continue to see the maturing of Alliance organisations to function not only dependently, but also independently. With this maturity comes the self-assurance that they can function well in Bible translation with their own strategies and how they position themselves. We all approached the Global People Conversation knowing that God calls people to serve. But each Alliance organisation has a different approach to responding to people being called into mission. Alliance organisations have different strengths and different capacities—leading to multiple ways people are being positioned within the Bible translation ministry. There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

We still hear calls sometimes for common gateways for recruiting and placing people in Bible translation movements. At the People Conversations, one participant would get excited about something mentioned. Then someone from another organisation would say, “That wouldn’t work in our context at all”. Being together for these conversations helped us all see, vividly, the complexities in which we move and work together. It’s about exploring what works best in each context, then finding collaborative ways to help people who are sent from one place to another.

Permanent shifts

Ironically, I think what accelerated these shifts was COVID. Organisations were forced to work more independently because of the global isolation we all faced. We see a very different world emerging from the pandemic. Across Africa, for example, an increasing number of local people in the Bible translation movement has brought new thinking into Alliance organisations.

Most of us got a strong sense during COVID that things could not be the same once the pandemic receded. Things continue to shift. New technologies make it possible for us to work in different ways. Many countries have tightened the ways they allow people to enter. Some have made it more difficult to enter with a work permit, for instance. But then, the potential of working remotely from one’s home in another country, is now typical. It is not always ideal, but things have shifted in how we position people in ministry.

I also think Alliance organisations have realised that they have the capacity to function well with the people they have, without the need for a recruitment drive in countries outside of their own context. In one particular country that I will not mention by name, it was always thought that individuals serving in their organisation did not have the capacity to raise their own financial support. So everyone in this organisation is, in a sense, salaried. But during COVID, another organisation in that same country started figuring out different ways of relating to the church. They are now growing through individuals who are finding it possible to raise support in their own nation.

This is just one example of how we are going to see multiple approaches taken to the use of personnel in Bible translation. It is dynamic, and it opens vast potential as we look forward to more effective placement of people serving in mission. I think our approach to Bible translation will become more diverse, as more players step into the space of Bible translation, and as we grow in the understanding of the contexts we are operating from.

The church is already there

One other discussion topic that stood out to me from these meetings is the role of the church in Bible translation, specifically as it pertains to people. We heard from some of our Alliance organisations that are churches, or churches heading up translation programs or training. There are so many different ways they are involved. One thing we heard was: Don't try to take the church to the field. The church is already there. Come alongside us and help us in our Bible translation initiatives.

This opens a different way for us to perceive how we are responding to people who want to be involved in Bible translation. In the past, we in a sense removed them from the church and made them workers of an organisation. The call for Alliance organisations to come alongside the church and participate with the church in Bible translation is growing louder.

There are so many aspects to this. If the church gets more involved in Bible translation, is there a role for the Alliance to play in equipping and assisting the church, working alongside the church as they participate in Bible translation?

This is God's doing

I also think, of course, that we are witnessing a God moment. Globally, look at the number of churches stepping into the space of Bible translation—some of which we bypassed in our previous approaches. This is not something we as the Alliance have orchestrated. This is God's doing. I think we are seeing an expanded vision and reality of what God is doing in this world.

The church in Ethiopia is engaged in the translation work in their country.



We look at the continued migrant issue. In many places this is cataclysmic, for the countries these migrants are leaving and for countries where they are moving to. The Alliance Leadership Team and I have just experienced a celebration in Ethiopia where we saw how Wycliffe Ethiopia has embraced the diaspora. They did not just find ways of getting the diaspora involved in Bible translation within Ethiopia, but they are also helping them to participate in Bible translation wherever they have settled.

A church denomination in another African country is showing interest in becoming part of the Alliance. They have 60 bishops, 60 different areas within this denomination across their country. And they are all interested in being part of Bible translation. In some ways they are already doing it. So it's nothing that we have done. This is God's doing—raising a church, raising a diaspora that is interested in his mission.

Kingdom opportunity

Please understand that I am not calling for change or shifts to take place. They are already taking place, and we must find ways to respond. In counseling, we say never let a fight go to waste. There's always something good that can come out of a spat in a marriage. I do not say this lightly—but in the long term, with the global instability we face today, I believe we will see what all of this shakeup means within the kingdom of God, and what benefits can come out of it.

God is at work in his world. We continuously need to read what is happening and find how and where he is working, so we can participate with him as he builds his kingdom. What a privilege to face this together as an Alliance.

In God's grace and peace,

Stephen Coertze

Stephen Coertze
Executive Director
Wycliffe Global Alliance

Our growing funding model

Until June 2020, we worked under a funding model where each Alliance organisation gave 0.35 percent of their funds to the Alliance as an annual contribution. Plus, organisations gave 1 percent of member funds that followed the placement of their personnel. As of June 2020, that model came to an end. Part of the new model is to work with a tiered funding system, where organisations (according to their income) fall in a certain tier and pay an annual fee. These fees comprise roughly 50 percent of the Alliance's income and cover our basic operations. The remainder consists of projects we are making available for Alliance organisations to help fund. These are collaborative, forward-looking areas we need to explore together as an Alliance.

As we grow into this new way of funding, the Alliance Leadership Team and our project funding team have approached specific organisations we believe could completely or partially fund specific projects. (We are in the process of creating space on our website to make project funding needs known to all Alliance organisations.) This reflects our value system, that each Alliance organisation has the capacity and the opportunity to participate in the life of the Alliance.

We have never done fundraising as an Alliance, so this approach is new for us. We are growing into it and learning along the way. But we are grateful for the distance we have come thus far, and for the generosity of Alliance organisations. We have seen contributions come through official project requests, but then we have also seen Alliance organisations stepping up, asking "Where is there a need that we can contribute to?"

Global People Conversation

Global People Conversation addresses new realities

*Hannes Wiesmann
Assistant to the Executive Director*

We are witnesses to profound and ongoing changes in the world, mission contexts, and how the global church desires to participate in God's mission. New approaches in the Bible translation movement are showing great promise, but Alliance organisations are also increasingly aware that older models and concepts regarding involvement may not meet current or future needs.

The Global People Conversation raised pertinent questions and created an environment where the Alliance's global community could identify and speak into key issues. In each of the Alliance's four regions, consultation participants explored the diverse contexts and perspectives of the global Bible translation movement and considered new ways of contributing.

A fifth consultation, with delegates from each region plus ALT members, looked at the findings. The guiding metaphor of an ecosystem helped them grapple with the complexity of the topic, see opportunities rather than problems, and appreciate God's integral involvement and care. This approach also brought focus to the Bible translation movement as a part of the larger global church ecosystem. Participants realised that,



while there were no easy next steps or answers, there were many excellent insights, new ideas and opportunities for further exploration. A [document](#) captures key learnings from the conversation.

With 120 participants from 75 organisations, the Global People Conversation strengthened the Alliance's competency in missiological reflection as well as providing an opportunity for exploration of a vital topic.

PURPOSE, MISSION, VISION and CORE VALUES

Purpose

The Wycliffe Global Alliance exists to see individuals, communities and nations transformed through God's love and Word expressed in their languages and cultures. It is a network of approximately 105 organisations working in more than 2,000 languages. A Covenant/Statement of Commitment, signed by each Alliance organisation, sets out the basis of our relationships.

Mission

In communion with God and within the community of his church, the Wycliffe Global Alliance contributes to the holistic transformation of language communities worldwide.

Vision

Individuals, communities and nations transformed through God's love and Word expressed in their languages and cultures.

Core Values

- * **The Glory of God among the Nations:** Living and serving to God's glory so people of all nations might know and glorify him.
- * **Christlikeness:** Following Christ's example in who we are and what we do.
- * **The Church as Central in God's Mission:** Believing the Church is created, called and equipped by God to disciple the nations.
- * **The Word Translated:** Trusting God to transform lives through his Word translated into the languages and cultures of the world's peoples.
- * **Dependence on God:** Depending on God and his sufficiency to equip and sustain us.
- * **Partnership and Service:** Partnering interdependently as an expression of the unity of believers. Serving in community through holistic ministry that facilitates translation, access and application of God's Word.



The Journey Concept

**Rethinking
Organisational
Strategy in the Global
Context of God's Mission**

**Dr Susan
van Wynen**

Consultant for
Strategy



With input from more than 50 church and mission leaders from 36 nations, *The Journey Concept* encourages leaders within church and mission movements to move beyond the popular and highly influential strategy models founded in military, industrial-age, and competitive thinking. *The Journey Concept* addresses the need for a theologically and missiologically sound approach to strategic thought and practice that is community-focused, appropriate, and applicable in our ever-changing global and local contexts. The journey concept is not a model, but a mindset that draws from Scripture, story, history and a wide range of cultural experiences. It focuses on journey as reality and metaphor and seeks to help organisation leaders, and anyone participating in God's mission, navigate continuous change and multiple contexts and cultures with grace and discernment, while remaining firmly grounded and growing in God and his Word.

It presents the journey mindset as a missiologically and theologically inspired approach to both the philosophical and practical aspects of organisational strategy and planning. Developed and put into practice by Alliance leadership over the past decade, and now described in print, we hope it is an encouragement to many as they seek to both follow and lead well.

Electronic and hardcopies can be purchased through [Regnum Books](#).



Alliance Leadership Team

A small core team and a diverse group of consultants help shape and nurture the direction of the Alliance, participate in key networks and partnerships and provide accountability.



Dr Stephen Coertze

Executive Director

South Africa



Martijn de Vries

Director of Operations

Switzerland



Phil Prior

Director for Communication

United Kingdom



Wairimu Irungu

Africa Area Director

Kenya



Hannu Summanen

Chief Financial Officer

Finland



Dr Paul Kimbi

Consultant for Bible Translation Programs

Cameroon



Dr David Cárdenas

Americas Area Director

Columbia



Hannes Wiesmann

Special Assistant to the Executive Director

Switzerland



Dr Susan Van Wynen

Consultant for Strategy

United States



Simon Wan

Asia-Pacific Area Director

(Until December 2023)

Singapore



Dr Bryan Harmelink

Director for Collaboration

United States



Jo Johnson

Consultant for Prayer Advocacy

United Kingdom



Ruben Dubei

Europe Area Director

Romania

The Board of Directors gives input to and provides governance for the Alliance. Each Alliance organisation has its own leadership and board, but all seek to work inter-dependently and value the Alliance community for friendship, partnership, spiritual and other practical forms of mutual support.

Board of Directors



Agnes Lid

(Chair)

Norway



Marco Herrera

(Vice Chair)

Mexico



Susanna Muntz

Canada



Joke Haaijer

Netherlands



Matt Dawson

(Secretary)

United States



Dr John Chestnut

United States



Prof Jayne Mutiga

Kenya



Hannu Summanen

(Treasurer)

Finland



Rev Dr Bambang Widjaja

(Until March 2023)

Indonesia



Su-Ling Ng

Singapore



Héber Negrão

Brazil



Emmanuel Keyeh

Cameroon



Rob Lovatt

New Zealand

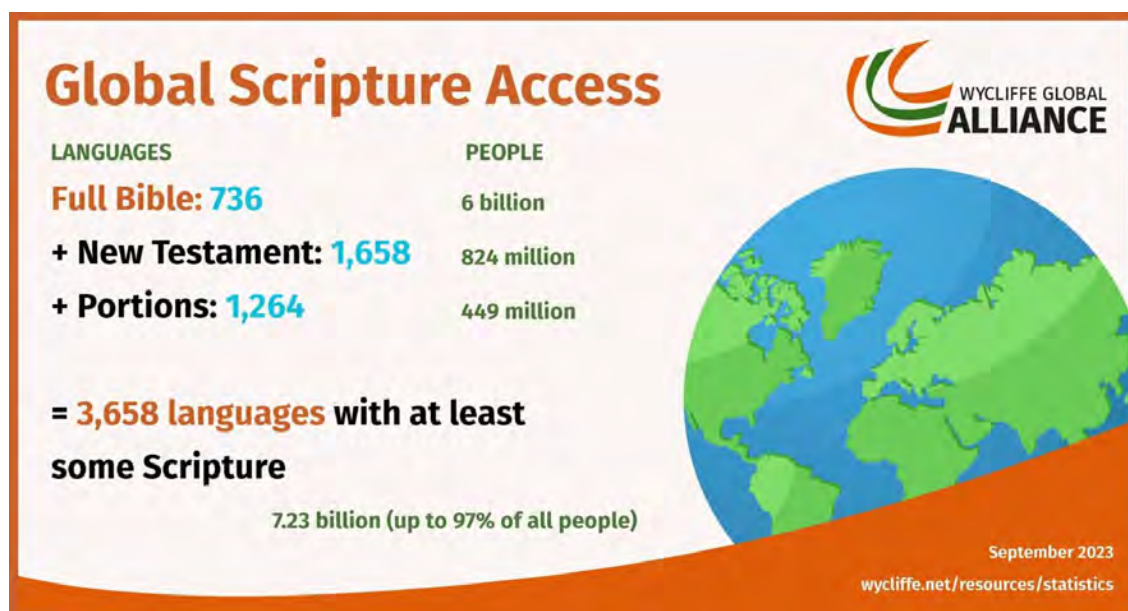
Global Scripture Access

Bible translation movement shows big progress

After a predictable slowdown during the first two years of the pandemic, the global Bible translation movement saw major advances in the past year — with Asia and Africa leading the way.

Today, more people speaking more languages have access to more of the Bible than at any time in history, according to ProgressBible. Up to 97.4 percent of all people in the world have access to at least some Scripture, with up to 80 percent having the full Bible and 91 percent having at least the New Testament. These numbers are rising rapidly. In the past year alone:

- 60 million more people have access to the full Bible in the language they know best.
- 27 million more people have access to the New Testament.
- And, Bible translation work has begun in 356 more languages.



Area Reports



Africa

Wairimu Irungu
Africa Area Director

From 22-26 May 2023, the Wycliffe Global Alliance Africa area gathered for a conference at BTL CICC Ruiru, Kenya. It was the first such conference since May 2019, before the pandemic. What a great joy to be together again! The more than 70 participants included Alliance organisation directors, board chairs and language programs managers, plus the Africa Area team and representation of partners serving in the Bible translation movement and the church.



Attendees from around Africa attended the Area Gathering in May 2023.

The gathering's theme was 'Responding to the Emerging Realities in the BT Movement.' A featured Scripture was 1 Chronicles 12:32 – 'And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.'

We live in a time when change is taking place exponentially and new trends keep emerging. Therefore, it is important not only to reflect on the emerging realities brought about by these trends, but also their impact and our response. We must be wise like the children of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel ought to do. We explored both internal and external trends that impact Bible translation and various responses to them.

A key statement was made by Dr Stephen Coertze, Executive Director of Wycliffe Global Alliance: 'All trends are not necessarily good. We can waste time chasing certain trends that could be money and time chasers. ... Some can endanger us in our ministries.'

Stephen highlighted the importance of looking at emerging realities and trends through the Alliance foundational statements – Vision, Mission, Purpose and Core Values.

The gathering started in an unconventional manner – a session on trauma for leaders. This was based on the realisation that not only did the COVID-19 pandemic bring about



Africa Area board chairs and directors gather at the Area Gathering.

trauma, but many Alliance organisations in Africa come from countries faced with political instability and strife. Many have suffered much trauma due to direct or indirect loss. Through the trauma healing session, testimonies arose of how the participants were ministered to, and healing began as they were able to deal with issues that were heavy on their hearts. This allowed many attendees to start the Africa Area gathering feeling much lighter.

What stood out during the entire gathering was good participation, friendship and collaboration between all the participants ... a sense of belonging and identity ... synergy and willingness to support and collaborate with each other.

Prayer Advocacy

One key area is prayer. We are thankful to God for Zac Manyim of Cameroon for rallying together prayer for Alliance organisations in Africa. As a result, prayer coordinators of most of the Alliance organisations were identified and have been receiving the appropriate coaching on how to prepare articles for *Streams of Prayer*. More prayer requests than ever are going forth from Alliance organisations and prayer generated for them through *Streams of Prayer*. Praise be to God!

Global People Conversation – Africa, August 2023

We collectively discerned the gifts that we have as an Africa Area. These include the identification of Africa being young (65 percent of Africans are under age 25); and the vibrancy of the church in Africa. These are gifts we should leverage in order to be a blessing to other areas in the Alliance.

The fun around the discussions was so deeply entrenched in the participants that their final summary letter to other Alliance areas and organisations was presented in the unique and fun manner of song and reading the letter! We are ready to give to and receive from the other areas as well.

Francophone Initiative

Francophone Initiative is a partnership among five organisations serving together in the Bible translation movement with the aim of reaching out to churches, pastors and theological seminaries for the purpose of advancing Bible translation.

The consultation of the Francophone Initiative took place from 6-8 August 2023 in Togo, under the theme 'Rites, symbols, songs and dances in the light of the gospel'. The aim of this meeting was to encourage theological reflection on African cultural practices by identifying points of expectation in order to promote better appropriation of the message of the Bible.

The consultation brought together people from various backgrounds in Africa and elsewhere. It enhanced the beauty of diversity – expressed in worship and reflections on culture, the Bible and its effectiveness in relation to Bible translation.

Revelation 7:9-10 tells us that the crowd that will worship the Lord will come from ‘every nation, tribe, people and language.’

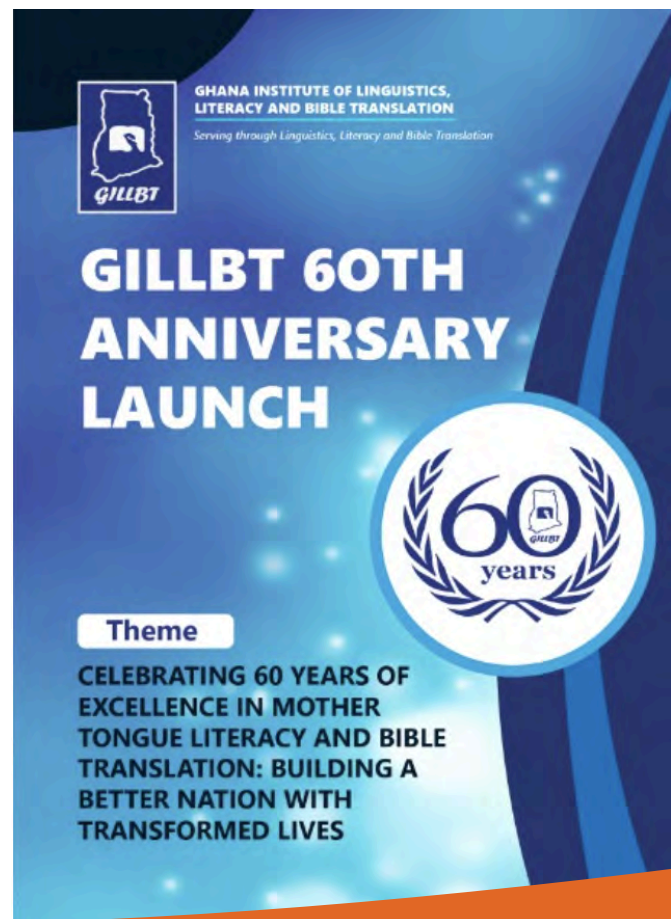
GILLBT marks 60th anniversary

The oldest Alliance organisation in Africa culminated its 60th anniversary celebration in December 2022. GILLBT – the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation, began in 1962.

Themed, ‘Celebrating Sixty Years of Excellence in Mother Tongue Literacy and Bible Translation; Building a Better Nation with Transformed Lives’, the diamond jubilee celebration stretched from June to December 2022.

GILLBT has contributed directly to the development of 39 Ghanaian languages. Of those languages, 14 have the complete Bible while 20 have the New Testament. In the area of mother-tongue literacy development, GILLBT is the largest contributor to the documentation and analyses of the minority languages of Ghana and has provided the University of Ghana with linguistics and anthropological materials in all of the languages GILLBT works in.

In contributing to safeguarding the rights and responsibilities of Ghanaians, GILLBT also translated the 1992 Abridged Constitution of Ghana into 24 local languages and has so far reviewed it for six of these languages. In partnership with the Federation of Women Lawyers, GILLBT also translated the Rights of the Ghanaian Child and Ghanaian Woman into selected languages. GILLBT also has enhanced the government’s poverty reduction initiative through its literacy programs and is also working with partner organisations to provide basic education in northern Ghana.





Americas

David Cárdenas
Americas Area Director

The work of the Americas Area team is inspired by the three focus areas of the Wycliffe Global Alliance:

- Bible translation (what we do)
- Collaboration (how we function)
- Movement influences (the context in which we operate)

BIBLE TRANSLATION

Strengthening training programs.

On 6 October 2022, Dr Bryan Harmelink spoke on the Theology of Translation at the Baptist Seminary chapel in Rio de Janeiro. Besides those present at the chapel, more than 300 seminary students watched the presentation online.

From 10–13 October 2022, a Bible translation training event (in Portuguese) with Bryan Harmelink was held at the Baptist Seminary in Rio de Janeiro with 33 leaders from 16 organisations participating. Among the leaders there were four co-facilitators (graduates of previous training with Bryan) that assisted in the training sessions. Besides using the material in training courses, participants said they plan to use it with their staffs, in church engagement and in relating to pastors.

Based on Bryan Harmelink's material, Marcos Agripino, Executive Director of APMT, Brazilian Presbyterian Cross-Cultural Missions Agency, presented on The Mission of God and Bible Translation at the Presbyterian Seminary 11–12 May 2023 in Brazil.

From 21–23 June 2023, DINAMIS, the Assembly of God (AOG) denomination in Colombia, held its National Meeting for Intercultural Mobilization. This is a three-day event held annually for AOG pastors and church leaders. The focus of this year's event was Bible translation. Bryan Harmelink was a keynote speaker and touched on the themes of The Theological Basis for Bible Translation and Language and Translation in the Mission of God.

From 29 August to 1 September 2023, a Bible translation training event for the Deaf translation teams in Brazil included participants from the three main organisations in Brazil that translate the Bible into LIBRAS (Brazil Sign Language). 19 Deaf translators and 15 hearing facilitators participated from the three organisations. With a few other participants invited as well as several co-presenters to assist Bryan Harmelink in giving the course, the grand total was 44. The event was not only an important time of learning but also a time of unity.

A Bible Translation Material Development Workshop, based on the themes from the

Languages and God's Image course, was held from 4-7 September 2023, with 19 leaders from 16 organizations. The goal was to develop materials for lesson plans for each topic for a complete course, a one-day workshop to be used by seminaries and training centers, and materials for children to be used in Sunday schools and other Bible teaching opportunities.

OBT Forums. In order to help leaders in the organisations learn more about oral Bible translation, two virtual forums were provided about working models such as FCBH model and the translation experiences of YWAM and SIL Mexico.

COLLABORATION

National Bible Translation Roundtables in Latin America. The Mesas (tables) are a model of community and collaboration that involves multiple organizations and voices, with the purpose of advancing the task of Bible translation and the use of the Scriptures.

This model has been developing since 2018 and currently has tables in 12 countries, bringing together more than 160 leaders from more than 140 organisations. Most Alliance organisations in the Americas participate.



Roundtable facilitators from 12 countries gathered to hear how they can be a model of community and collaboration.

The concept of roundtables has been useful as it uses the concept of a 'third space' as a neutral and shared space, serving as a safe place to dialogue and develop values that allow a community of leaders to serve as friends in trust.

A roundtable proposes a culture of collaboration with essential values such as trust, friendship, respect, listening, honoring diversity, not competing, not duplicating and generosity.

In 2023, the model of roundtables in Latin America helped to affirm the value of dialogue, polyphony, friendship and respect as a prelude to collaboration in the task of translating the Bible and the use of Scripture.

Our area team and the peripheral team supported the facilitation of annual retreats for the roundtables of Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, El Salvador and many face-to-face and virtual meetings and activities.

Dialogue Table for the Alliance organizations in Central America. Leaders of the organisations facilitated a meeting on sign language Bible translation projects in Central

American countries to learn about needs and opportunities for support and collaboration.

Collaboration with COMIBAM. From 7-9 March, COMIBAM held a Latin American consultation on Unreached Ethnic Groups. The MOU between Wycliffe Global Alliance and COMIBAM was presented publicly and signed by their executive directors. The collaboration MOU is contributing to the strengthening of the national Mesas, the participation of the church in Bible translation and the support to the Alliance organisations in each country.

INFLUENCES

Children and Bible translation. Five virtual meetings were held with representatives of Alliance organisations working with children in the churches, with the purpose of exchanging experiences and materials, as well as promoting collaboration.

Prayer. Six bimonthly meetings were held with the prayer coordinators with an average participation of six people at each meeting. In addition to praying for personal and organizational requests, several group members talked about various topics and reflections, such as: prayer models to mobilize the church to pray for unreached people and ethnic groups; the prayer of love and decision; generosity; and the meaning of the gifts (gold, myrrh and frankincense) that the wise men gave to Jesus.

Indigenous leadership. We accompanied several meetings organised by indigenous networks and ministries to highlight the value of the Word of God. We encouraged the national Bible translation roundtables to ensure inclusion of indigenous voices.

People. Several ZOOM events were facilitated between leaders of the Alliance organisations interested in receiving and sending people to other organisations in the Bible translation movement.

WYCLIFFE CARIBBEAN

A celebration on 21 February 2023 marked International Mother Language Day with the launch of the first three Old Testament books (Jonah, Ruth and Esther) to be translated into Belize Kriol, Jamaican Creole and Islander Creole of San Andres. They are part of the Western Caribbean Creole Old Testament translation project. The celebration was held in Kingston, Jamaica, with all three translation teams attending.

Successful Taste of Translation workshops were held in Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Involvement of children in the community testing of Genesis was mutually beneficial.

Wycliffe Caribbean's 33rd Anniversary Celebration church service was held 25 June 2023, and the annual Pastors & Church Leaders Breakfast on 1 July 1 2023.

A visit with the San Andres translation team, church, and community leaders discussed Bible translation, language, culture and the impact on the community.



Asia-Pacific

Tony Chan
Associate Director for Administration Services

One focus of the Asia-Pacific Area is strengthening fellowship, care and concern for each other in the Bible translation movement. Progress toward these goals is made by regular meetings with the relevant partner and Alliance organisations:

ZOOM Meetings

- Monthly area coffee chats with Alliance organisation directors have led to shared projects and other activities.
- Leadership team meetings between Wycliffe and SIL teams in the Asia-Pacific Area strengthen participation and partnership.
- Regular collaboration meetings with representatives of organisations with a stake in reaching unengaged, unreached people groups in East Asia enable fanning the flames in preparation to return to field work in East Asia.
- The monthly inter-area prayer meeting develops friendship and sharing among staff in the Alliance's four areas of the world and facilitates communication and working together remotely.
- Translation consultants gather every two to three months, simply to talk and pray together. Seminars and training include working cross-culturally with mother-tongue translators; Hebrew poetry; translating Old Testament passages.

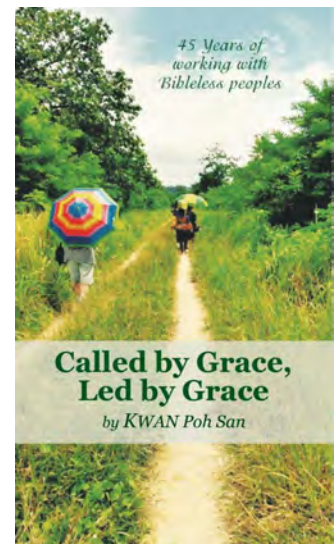
Conferences and Meetings

- Moodle Introduction Workshops. The first brought together course developers and training managers to understand Moodle. The second helped people to start developing courses.
- Seventy people gathered at the Area Conference, November 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. After three years of Zoom only, participants renewed physical fellowship and shared encouraging reports of ministry growth in spite of pandemic restrictions.
- David Gela participated in the South Pacific Bible Forum, October 2022 in Nadi, Fiji.
- The area held the regional Global People Conversation, July 2023 in Malaysia.
- The Alliance, with SIL, participated in the Arise Asia! Conference, July 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. Organised by Lausanne Asia, the event attracted over 1,500 people ages 35 passionate about bringing the gospel to Asia and the world. Hundreds have committed to full-time ministry as missionaries and pastors and are being followed up with mentoring, mission trips and prayer.

- Old Testament Summit: In November 2022, a seminar organised jointly with Whole Word Institute and Singapore Wesley Methodist Church promoted use of the Old Testament in the church and the need for Old Testament translation.
- The Consultant Care Initiative (CCI) of the Area Consultant Taskforce (ACT) continues to supplement national translation consultants who receive a stipend only when they are engaged with a funded project. CCI supports consultants from TAP (1), Wycliffe Philippines (1), PNGBTA (2) and Kartidaya (4). Funding comes from donations received through Alliance organisations.
- Wycliffe Singapore celebrated its 40th anniversary with the release of a book by Kwan Poh San: *Called by Grace, Led by Grace*.
- Wycliffe Thai Foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary and dedicated its new office building, October 2023 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Staff transitions during 2023 - Asia-Pacific Area office

- The departure of Simon Wan, Area Director, on 31 December 2022 impacted the team significantly. Simon returned to Wycliffe Singapore as Church Engagement Director.
- Nicky Chong was appointed as Area Director, effective 1 January 2024.
- Marnix Riupassa, Director for Organisation Development Services, returned to Kartidaya to lead organisation development consultancy and services with Ripple Effect Team.
- Barry Borneman, Director for Language Programme Services, returned to Wycliffe Australia as training director.
- Evelyn Gan from Wycliffe Malaysia joined the area staff as Consultant for Oral Translation Strategies.



Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association

- Nelson Tapineng succeeded Tony Kotauga as Executive Director on 1 July 2023.

Wycliffe India

- Timothy Daniel stepped down as Board Chair and was succeeded by P.J. David.

Jerusalem Seminary

- Jerusalem Seminary became an Alliance organisation. With President Baruch Kvasnica on leave, Executive Vice President Woody McLendon is taking on the leadership role.



Europe

Ruben Dubei
Europe Area Director

Developing Participation Tables

To facilitate collaboration among the Alliance organisations in Europe, with the potential to go beyond Europe and even beyond the Alliance, we have set up what we call Participation Tables, based on the Participation Streams of the Alliance. These are (for now) virtual tables that usually meet every other month. The Alliance organisations in Europe delegated members to five tables that started meeting, with one table in the process of developing:

1. Communion with God
2. People
3. Generosity
4. Communication
5. Bible translation
6. Collaboration



Participation Tables will help facilitate collaboration among the Alliance organisations.

The roles of these tables are to advance the Bible translation movement by building community and friendship; share resources, expertise and practical help; become a platform for partnership with others; offer training; and coordinate various projects.

Europe Area gathering

The Wycliffe Global Alliance held the Europe Area gathering in Bucharest, 16–20 October, which included one day for the directors meeting. Forty representatives from the area and the Alliance came together with the following goals:

- Develop our ability to listen to God together
- Understand our role as Europeans in the Bible translation movement today
- Build good connections for collaboration

At the end of our time together, we felt that our focus for the following years will be to **facilitate the relationship between churches and Bibleless groups in Europe and beyond**, in order to increase the vision and passion for the remaining Bible translation needs.

With this in mind, we have planned our next two meetings as follows:

1. **Church and Bible Translation Consultation** (4-6 June 2024 in Bucharest), facilitating the relationship between the church leaders and the Deaf and Roma groups in Europe.
2. **Eurasia Diaspora Consultation** (3-5 June 2025 in Germany), facilitating the relationship between the diaspora church leaders and the Bibleless groups in Eurasia.

We thank God for the vision and guidance he has given to us in Europe through the area gathering, and we ask you to pray with us for wisdom and strength to follow Jesus' lead.

Eurasia sign languages consultation

This consultation was not organised specifically by the Europe Area but I and a couple of other Alliance organisation leaders from Europe contributed and participated. It was a good collaboration between Deaf leaders and many organisations working with the Deaf; and a good practice to encourage the Deaf themselves to decide the way they prefer running such a consultation.

The consultation took place 11-15 April 2023 in Cyprus. It was an encouragement for the Deaf to develop collaboration for the start or continuation of Bible translation programs in their sign languages. About 175 people participated, mostly Deaf, from about 50 countries in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. There were Deaf from most of the countries in Europe with an Alliance organisation. The main message I heard is that the Deaf are asking for God's Word in their sign languages, and from my conversations with some of them I sensed the question of whether the Alliance is willing to collaborate to see that happen. This is a question that we have started looking into in Europe Area.



Established in 2016, the Romanian Sign Language Bible translation project consists of individuals passionate about providing the Deaf in Romania with God's Word. (L-R) Torok Loan, Legar Nicolae-Mihai, Bortos Ladislau

Fiscal Year 2023: October 2022 to September 2023

The Alliance Board of Directors approved the Alliance's Audited Financial Statements on 21 March 2024. In this report, all amounts are reported in U.S. dollars and some amounts are rounded for easier reading. Exact amounts can be found online in the [Audited Financial Statement](#). In FY 2023 the Alliance changed its internal financial reporting structures and simplified its accounting processes. This was in addition to our change of funding model.

Revenue

Annual contributed funds were \$649,000, down from \$740,000 in FY 2022. While this was a significant decrease, it was expected as this was the first year with our new project funding-based income. Instead of the previous assessment-based model, in which only a minority of Alliance organisations paid any additional funding beyond their annual fees, our new strategy is for all of the Alliance to collectively fund specific projects as they arise.

In addition, the Alliance received \$1.54 million in contributed services from Alliance organisations in FY 2023 – a decrease of \$560,000 from FY 2022. This is the calculated value of labour performed by staff members assigned to work in the Alliance. Finally, FY 2023 interest and other income totaled \$153,000. This was a \$62,000 increase due to favourable development in financial markets.

All of this brings the total amount of Alliance support and revenue for FY 2023 to \$2.34 million, down by \$611,000 from FY 2022. Again, this was expected as part of our funding transition. Because the pandemic reduced travel and other expenses for several years, we were able to collect sufficient reserves to take us through the funding transition.

Expenses

Alliance expenses in FY 2023 totaled \$2.56 million, about \$662,000 lower than FY 2022. This includes the contributed labour of \$1.54 million, so direct operational and project expenses were \$1.02 million, similar to FY 2022.

Net Assets

The Alliance's unrestricted net assets at the end of FY 2023 were \$4.0 million and liabilities only \$90,000. This was a similar level compared to FY 2022. This position of fairly high reserves helps the Alliance as we develop our project funding to its required level in the coming three to four years.

Respectfully submitted,



Hannu Summanen
CFO and Treasurer
Wycliffe Global Alliance



*God is at work in his world.
We are thankful for all that he has done through the
the Alliance this past year.*

*Back cover photo:
Baphuthi children dancing, South Africa*

