



WYCLIFFE GLOBAL
ALLIANCE

**Annual Report
2024**

From the Executive Director

Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.

Revelation 7:9-10 NIV

Each day of the Global Gathering, we saw a powerful picture of the global body of Christ worshipping our great God together. We could only wonder how God viewed this. What is the picture that he saw? In such a diverse community of people, gifts and callings, only he could unite us all on equal footing.

I am so grateful for the incredible experience God gave us in Johannesburg, and throughout the world as people participated online. For this Annual Report, please allow me to draw from (and contextualise slightly) my opening and closing remarks at the Global Gathering. I believe the activity of that week will remain deeply relevant as we assess where we have been as an Alliance, and where we are headed.

A Turbulent Season

It is important that we lay down some markers as to what has shaped our reality over the last four years. In 2020, the whole world came to a standstill. Its foundations were shaken by the coronavirus pandemic. We remember colleagues, family members and also friends who lost their lives or were otherwise deeply impacted by the pandemic. On the heels of the pandemic, we witnessed the scourge of war, such as seen in Russia-Ukraine; Sudan; Israel-Gaza and the growing, wider conflict in the Middle East.

We have further experienced upheavals of various kinds in many parts of the world. These include new geopolitical alliances; weak or collapsing economies; droughts, abnormal flooding and landslides; global

Greetings, Friends, in the Name of Jesus!

As I look back on 2024, my mind goes to a particular scene during the Alliance's Global Gathering in Johannesburg. We were all gathered for worship on Sunday morning, and there came a point when people came to open microphones to exalt God, pray or sing in their own languages.



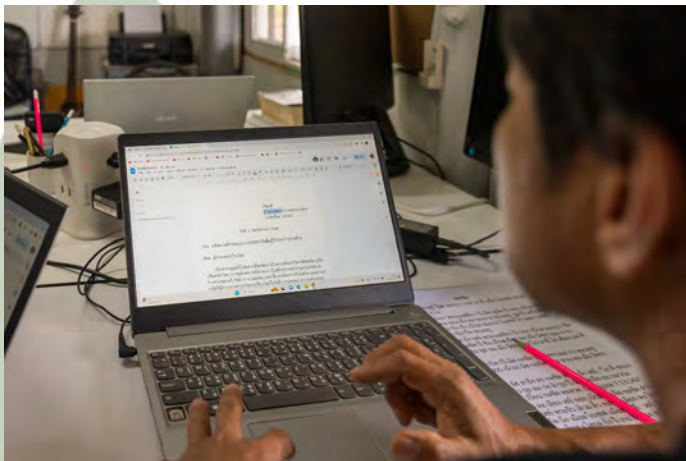
Penisimani Moli (Tonga) praying in his own language.

During those moments, the space between heaven and earth felt especially thin. It was as if we were touching heaven, and God was touching us. It was a small yet vivid preview of the scene the apostle John described in the book of Revelation:

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

dispersion of communities; and a number of other realities that constantly impact daily life, people and ministries. Keep in mind that on the African continent alone, over the past four years there have been approximately eight coups. It is a continent in dire need of God to do something.

In the midst of these realities, God continues to equip, encourage and give us direction. In most cases, the Bible translation movement has flourished, not only in spite of, but also because of such situations. Many new translation programs have started. In the not-too-distant future, we will see Scripture translation taking place in almost every language that needs it. That is something to celebrate.



A translator from the Eastern Lawa Bible translation team working on his laptop computer.

Celebration of completed translations continues, too. More organisations have become involved in Bible translation—often with bold, new initiatives. There is greater realisation of the valuable contribution that local communities are making towards Bible translation. The polycentric nature of the Bible translation landscape has continued to expand. We see more local initiative in Bible translation ministries. On multiple fronts, new innovations are being explored in areas such as translation training, equipping of mother tongue translators, and consultancy. Organisations generously assist one another where needs arise.

Meetings and events are conducted in different, yet more constructive, ways. We are bridging geographical constraints with virtual platforms – and this provides opportunity for

an unprecedented number of individuals to participate and connect with one another. Technologies such as artificial intelligence are developing at a ferocious pace, offering new opportunities and new challenges for Bible translation. For many individuals and churches, their understanding of God’s mission has expanded, and new ways of participating in that mission have become possible. Bible translation movements across the world continue to flourish in spite of the season in which we live.

There is so much to take in, and from so many directions. It can all feel overwhelming at times. And yet, this volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world does not define us. God, who led and brought us to this point, is the same God who will continue to be with us as we navigate what lies ahead of us.

Our Values Displayed

We are bound together by our Alliance Vision statement that we desire to see individuals, communities and nations transformed through God’s love and Word in their languages and cultures. We nuance this vision with our Alliance values. Each day of the Global Gathering focused on a separate value.



On each day of the Global Gathering, cards displayed individual values of the Alliance.

Community

Right from the start of Global Gathering, we were reminded by Pastor Simon Mwangi from Nairobi that friendship is for free, because God paid for it. This is a friendship based on

Jesus' model of humility, sacrifice and reconciliation. Over the course of the week, we witnessed a hunger and desire among our Global Gathering participants to collaborate from a perspective of friendship within the Bible translation movement. May we all proceed together in a posture of humility and inclusion, paying particular attention to voices that have not been heard in the midst of power dynamics.

The Church as Central to God's Mission



Men and women worship God at a church in Taiwan.

We noted the Alliance Board statement affirming that Bible translation is the ministry of the church. I am still struck by the public invitation given that day by Pastor Marcos Agrippino from Brazil that Bible translation agencies must come home — come back to the church, and take the church with us to the ends of the earth. We were reminded that God has created and called his church for his mission, and that Christ proclaims that he will build his church. We were challenged to work as part of the church in our ongoing response to Bible translation.

Translation of God's Word

This of course is our constant Alliance focus. Yet, as one of our participants reminded us, we should not get so caught up in the work and progress of Bible translation that we miss the true content and power of God's Word. In our

various discussions we discovered that there are multiple developing approaches that can assist the ministry of Bible translation.

Then came Saturday evening. I think it is safe to say that those who were there will never forget the South African ensemble ALIVE in Kaaps as they illustrated one of these approaches. Perhaps the best way to describe this incredible evening was holy joy. We witnessed how Scripture put to music can be used for evangelism, liturgy, worship, restoration of dignity, healing and transformation.

Glory of God Among the Nations

I've already mentioned Sunday morning. As we celebrated Sabbath together in singing and prayer, this joyful celebration provided a vivid reminder that God is present every bit as much in our rest as in our work.

Earlier that morning, some of us met with a few of our Indonesian friends. They were clear in their minds — that their calling into Bible translation was not just for the sake of the existing church, but that God's glory will be revealed throughout the nation of Indonesia.

The day before, some of my team and I had the privilege to meet with colleagues who are right now leading Alliance organisations in the context of war. The one question that keeps resonating is this: How long, O Lord? When will this come to an end? We were reminded of our organisation in Sudan, which has lost everything. Let us continue to pray for all of those whose lives and work have been upended.

Dependence on God

We are reminded of our own fragility, as we serve our omnipotent God. What are the issues in your organisation that remind you—maybe painfully—that you can only succeed

through the grace of God? In this broken, uncertain world, this ministry can only be fulfilled in complete dependence on God.

Christlikeness

This was the overarching value for every moment of the Global Gathering, because it relates beautifully and completely to the other five values. We saw Christlikeness in the content of our table discussions and stage presentations—particularly in a concept we called linguistic hospitality. Interpreters, printed materials and slides all helped everyone to feel included and valued. Among delegates, a posture of humble generosity pervaded; no one seemed unapproachable regardless of organisation or position.

As an Alliance, made up of multiple Bible translation movements within the body of Christ, the success of Bible translation ministry will depend on how well we grow together in Christlikeness.

Further, in boldness we will hone newly discovered approaches to Bible translation — to ensure quality and timely translations that lead to transformed lives. We will remain focused on training and equipping Bible translators and improving consultancy to ensure quality translations. We will advocate for whole Scripture translation - both testaments. As for the church and its central role in Bible translation, we will come home, and we will take the church with us to the ends of the earth. And we as an Alliance will help each other to serve effectively, as each of our organisations is uniquely gifted by God to provide leadership, influence and service in Bible translation movements.



Stephen Coertze

Stephen Coertze
Executive Director
Wycliffe Global Alliance

Bold Humility

On the Gathering's opening morning, I referenced the throne, crown and sceptre as worldly metaphors of power, and encouraged us to align rather with the metaphors of the cross: the crown of thorns, the broken vessel, and the seed that dies in the ground. On our last day together, I mentioned these again, and then spoke of the concept of bold humility. In Matthew 28, Jesus proclaimed, "all power in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go ...and make disciples". For this reason, we can approach our ministry with utter boldness. But for the same reason—because all power belongs to Christ and he sends us into his mission, we must also approach our ministry with humility. If we can find the balance of this bold humility, we will see nations transformed.

God has uniquely gifted each Alliance organisation to provide leadership, influence and service to Bible translation movements across the globe. We honour the selfless and unique contribution each of you, together with your staff, members, boards, constituents and partners, are making to the ministry of Bible translation.

I think of the wise words spoken at the Global Gathering by my colleague and dear friend Bryan Harmelink:

"We are not trying to change the Bible translation movement. We are just trying to respond appropriately to the changes we see in the world, and how God appears to be working."

Let us join God in his mission. And may what we learned and experienced together in 2024 serve as a marker for our conversations and our development in the years to come.

PURPOSE, MISSION, VISION and CORE VALUES

Purpose

As a community of participants in God's mission, the Wycliffe Global Alliance offers leadership, influence and service within Bible translation movements.

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.

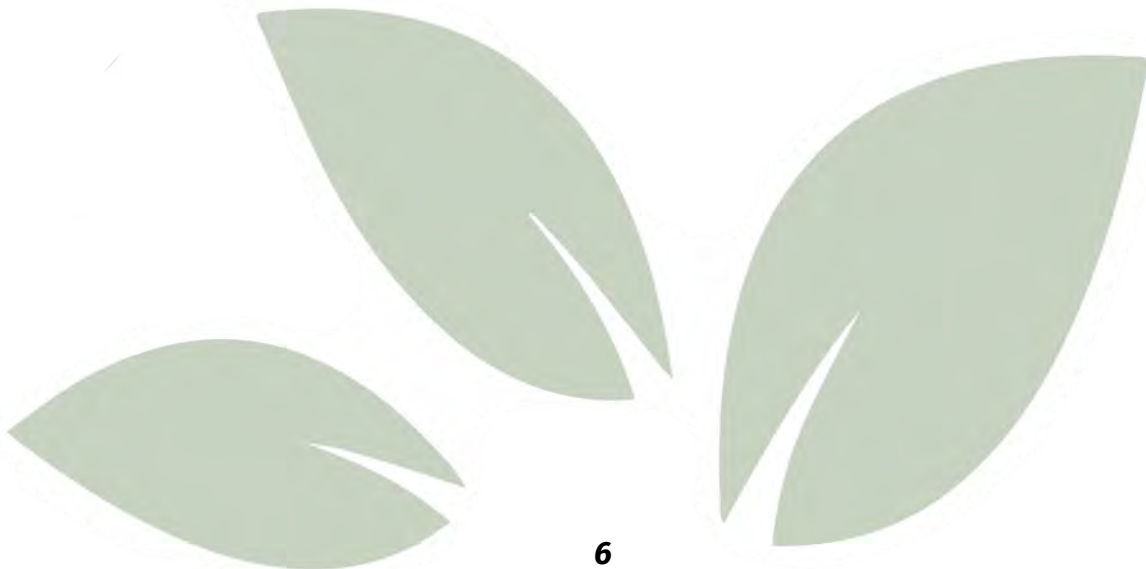
Christlikeness: Following Christ's example in who we are and what we do.

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.

Community: Serving in community as an expression of the unity of believers and as interdependent participants in holistic ministry that facilitates translation, access and application of God's Word.



Global Gathering 2024



WYCLIFFE GLOBAL
ALLIANCE

GROWING TOGETHER

GLOBAL GATHERING 2024

Held in South Africa from 31 October to 4 November, Global Gathering 2024 brought together 188 delegates representing 78 Alliance organisations. Focused on the theme of 'Growing Together', the gathering gave participants a joyful experience of the rich diversity and unity that makes up the Wycliffe Global Alliance.

For more than half of the participants, Global Gathering 2024 was their first experience at a global event of this kind. The atmosphere was friendly and warm from the outset, helping participants to quickly connect and share meaningfully. This connection was particularly rich within the purposefully diverse table groups. While plenary sessions were translated into four languages, the table groups relied on 'linguistic hospitality', which was readily offered and embraced.

Simon Mwangi from Nairobi inspired with his daily meditations on the core values of the Wycliffe Global Alliance.

Plenary sessions, regional meetings and workshops addressed emerging trends and concerns in global Bible translation movements. The centrality of the church in Bible translation movements was emphasized repeatedly, underscoring its critical role.



Jet Rense and Thiadora Kantjai (GKST, Indonesia) pointing at the logo of the church denomination they serve with.



Table groups working on the key points of their reflection.

Throughout the gathering, moments of worship, prayer and reflection set the tone and resonated deeply with attendees. Pastor

For many, the Sabbath celebration was a particular highlight. On Saturday evening, participants enjoyed an exuberant concert by the South African choir Alive in Kaaps, who performed translated Psalms in their local language. This event demonstrated the profound impact that vernacular music can achieve and expressed 'holy joy'.

Global Gathering 2024 strengthened the community of the Wycliffe Global Alliance in ways that only a face-to-face meeting can

accomplish. Participants identified many tangible initiatives to collaborate with each other. Now, it is up to all of us to ensure that the seeds sown during this gathering will bear fruit in God's kingdom in the years to come.



H. Wiesmann.

Hannes Wiesmann
Assistant to the Executive Director



The congregation worships together.



Above: Alessandro Esposito (AITB), Rence Law (Hong Kong) and Angelika Marsch (Germany) share a happy moment together.



James Poole (left), Chris Winkler (second from left), Andy Bell (second from right) and David Steinegger (right), the delegates from UK having a photo shot with Samuel Monney and Sylvester Kwame Nkrumah, the delegates from GILLBT.



Dessy Pello (Singapore) prays in a regional session.



Rev. Simon Mwangi (Kenya), the plenary speaker.

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 for 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



Ruben Dubei

Europe Area Director

Romania



Dr Bryan Harmelink

Director for Collaboration

United States



Jo Johnson

Consultant for Prayer Advocacy

United Kingdom

Nicky Chong

Asia-Pacific Area Director

Singapore

Board of Directors

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 encouragement and other practical forms of mutual support.



Agnes Lid

(Chair)

Norway



Marco Herrera

(Vice Chair)

Mexico



Susanna Muntz

Canada



Joke Haaijer

Netherlands



Matt Dawson

(Secretary)

United States



Dr John Chesnut

United States



Prof Jayne Mutiga

Kenya



Hannu Summanen

(Treasurer)

Finland



Fook Meng Wong

(Appointed May 2024)

Malaysia



Su-Ling Ng

Singapore



Héber Negrão

Brazil



Emmanuel Keyeh

Cameroon



Rob Lovatt

New Zealand

Area Reports



Africa

Wairimu Irungu
Africa Area Director



Wycliffe Africa Area team: from left, Dr Matthew Bore, Dr Paul Kimbi, Zac Manyim and Wairimu Irungu.

Impact of Prayer

Alliance organizations across Africa are joining forces to demonstrate the power of unity in Bible translation and ministry efforts. Through collaboration, we effectively share resources, expertise and encouragement, strengthening the impact of our mission.

Prayer is at the heart of this work, serving both as a foundation and a driving force, shaping our decisions and deepening our dependence on God. We believe that prayer is a source of strength and encouragement, sustaining our efforts and opening doors for meaningful partnerships. For Wycliffe Ethiopia, prayer has played a crucial role in sustaining the team, fostering collaboration

and empowering the successful completion of projects. Through prayer, we witness God's faithfulness as he transforms lives and advances his kingdom.



Ansie van der Merwe, Wycliffe South Africa Prayer Coordinator, and Zac Manyim, Africa Area Prayer Advocacy Coordinator

Support to Alliance Organisations in Project Management

As part of the effort to strengthen the capacity of Alliance organisations in Africa to raise and manage project funds, Africa Area conducted a project funding management training for 18 project leaders from ACOTBA SUBO, from 27-30 May 2024 in Gemena, Democratic Republic of Congo. The training focused on the development of projects and project reporting. As an outcome of the workshop, participants developed 10 projects based on the existing needs.



Participants in a discussion session during the project management training held in Gemena, DRC.

Collaboration in Bible Translation

Consultant Development and Management Committee

The committee's wider meeting took place with participation of some consultants from Africa, an SIL-led group with the participation of Dr. Paul Kimbi of the Wycliffe Global Alliance and its Africa Area, and other agencies to support effective development and management of consultants. Key topics included group mentoring, ongoing professional development for consultants, management and tracking of consultants and disseminating learning about initiatives among the practitioner community.

Currently, about 20 consultant initiatives are being tracked.

Francophone Initiative Seminar



Francophone Initiative seminar in Jacquesville, Cote D'Ivoire, December 2024

Training of professors from Cote d'Ivoire theological institutions took place 24-28 November at Jacquesville, a small town located about 100 kilometres from Abidjan, the capital city. The course book *La Traduction de la Bible et l'Eglise: Enjeux et défis pour l'Afrique Francophone* (Bible Translation and the Church: Issues and Challenges for

Francophone Africa) served as the main training material. For several months prior to the training, there was advocacy for prayer and vision sharing on Bible translation in all these institutions. Forty-four participants attended the workshop from 35 theological institutions across Cote d'Ivoire. The five trainers for the workshop came from Wycliffe Global Alliance (Dr. Paul Kimbi from Cameroon), three from Universitarie d'Alliance Chretien de Cote d'Ivoire and one from United Bible Society Cote d'Ivoire.

Church and Bible Translation

Wycliffe Benin's 20th anniversary celebrations in September 2024 were graced with a new collaboration among Parklands Baptist Church (PBC) of Kenya, Wycliffe Benin and various churches in Benin. It arose from collaborative meetings that began through Pastor Andrew Machina from PBC and Wycliffe Benin. We look forward to seeing this partnership grow and impact God's kingdom and the Bible translation movement in Benin.

Impact of Governance Training, Monitoring and Evaluation



From left: Eboh Chukwudi Christopher, NBTT staff; Daniel Dedji, Wycliffe Benin Director; Wairimu Irungu, Africa Area Director; Patience Toma, NBTT Executive Director; and Pastor Andrew Machina, Parklands Baptist Church.

The report of Nigeria Bible Translation Trust (NBTT)

NBTT has come through a season of rebuilding itself. The capacity building of the NBTT Board through governance training by Alliance Africa Area Director Wairimu Irungu and a colleague yielded great benefits as highlighted by the NBTT Executive Director, Mrs. Patience Toma:

‘The Board Governance Training organized by Wycliffe Global Alliance for NBTT Board Members was a transformative experience that deepened the understanding of the NBTT Board of Directors and Trustees on good governance, leadership and mission fulfillment. Through insightful sessions, board members gained clarity on their roles and responsibilities, as well as the theological and missiological foundation of Bible translation. The training also rekindled unity among the two important boards of the Trust and strengthened NBTT’s partnership with the Wycliffe Global Alliance, equipping the boards with strategies to enhance collaboration, initiate relationships with other organizations and improve funding efforts. A key takeaway was the importance of maximizing time and opportunities in doing God’s work, reinforcing the need for intentional leadership and strategic decision-making. A highlight of the training was the prayer tour, where board members assessed and offered special prayers for NBTT’s facilities and identified critical areas for improvement.’

Scripture engagement activities, and the use of digital and oral Scripture engagement strategies.



Helen, Zac and Sizu at the Africa Scripture Engagement Conference

Global Gathering



NBTT Board and Africa Area Director during prayer walk preceding board training



Tefera Endalew (Director Wycliffe Ethiopia), Wairimu Irungu (Wycliffe Global Alliance - Africa Area Director), His Grace Archbishop Kondo (Board Chair ECS -TD, Sudan)

Engaging with Scripture

Africa Scripture Engagement Conference – Nairobi, Kenya February 2024

As a member of the planning committee of the Africa Scripture Engagement Conference Committee and a facilitation team, Zac Manyim presented on the importance of church involvement in Scripture engagement. The conference highlighted the huge need of training and developing Scripture engagement workers, the need to fund

The value and joy of community was experienced during Global Gathering. Highlights for Africa Area included the joy of being together, renewing and making friendships and encouraging each other as we serve in Bible translation. Many Alliance organisations in Africa serve in contexts that are or have gone through unrest. The opportunity to be together and strengthen one another brought great joy!

Youth and Bible Translation

The regional meetings during Global Gathering allowed Africa Area participants and guests to explore the topic of Youth in Bible Translation, one of Africa Area's strategic initiatives. The two questions explored were:

- 'What would a youth movement in Bible translation look like in Africa and beyond?'
- 'What would it take to make this a reality?'

Examples of the feedback from participants:

- 'We envisage a movement of young leaders that comes from local to global levels. And Bible agencies can support this by providing the needed resources.'
- 'A movement of youth needs to be built by the youth.'
- 'We should get the youth to strategic levels. We realised that while we talk about them, we leave them out of decision-making platforms like leadership and board settings.'
- 'Organisations that have succeeded tapped on the youths while they were still in the university. We need to do that.'





Americas

David Cárdenas
Americas Area Director

The National Bible Translation Roundtables in Latin America.

National Bible Translation and Scripture Use Roundtables.
Photos: David Cárdenas

	Brasil		Venezuela		El Salvador
	Colombia		Perú		Bolivia
	México		Nicaragua		Panamá
	Guatemala		Ecuador		Paraguay
			Argentina		Rep. Dominicana

14 mesas, +180 leaders, +160 orgs.

Starting in 2018, The Wycliffe Global Alliance has pioneered a collaborative model of national roundtables in Latin America called MESAS of Bible Translation and Scripture Use (Misión, Estructura, Salud, Acción; in English mission, structure, health and action). At each national table, Alliance organisations, Bible agencies, mission organisations, denominations, churches, indigenous communities and missionary networks build a culture for working together in Bible translation based on values such as

friendship, trust and respect, with over 180 leaders from more than 160 organizations. This year, roundtable participants worked together on various strategic elements of Bible translation ministry, sharing activities, advancements and new initiatives, organising and interpreting information on Bible translation needs, exploring and experiencing collaboration, cultivating a biblical culture of generosity, and planning and executing joint projects, among others.

The Peripheral Team (a regional facilitators team) sought to cultivate a culture characterized by 10 values critical to effective collaboration: cultivate friendship, treat with respect, honor diversity, practice dialogue, build in-depth trust, promote unity, facilitate linguistic hospitality, collaborate well, refuse to compete and duplicate, and give and receive generously.

Today we can affirm that the work climate of national organisations and even several international ones, is characterised by greater friendship, trust, dialogue, coordination and collaboration.

This MESA Culture concept was presented at FOBAI 2024 and used as a way to practice polyphony during the group's breakout sessions.

A regional Data Task Force also was enabled to start a process to help the roundtables organise, interpret, make decisions and share their information contextually.

If you want to know more about this project contact: david_cardenas@wycliffe.net

Training on Language and Bible Translation in the Mission of God

It's exciting to see the Lord using the Language and Translation in the Mission of God (LTMG) course. Highlights for 2024 include seeing the course have an impact with denominational pastors, indigenous leaders, mission leaders and students in centres of training. Also, the course materials were adapted for use with children.

This year, several training activities have been taking place for leaders of ministries, organisations and churches that are part of the Alliance community.

In 2024, the following activities were facilitated:

LTMG course with 40 leaders of the Assembly of God (Brazil).



*Participants in the course, Language and Translation in the Mission of God.
Photo: Hugo Tello*

Workshop for the development of materials based on the LTMG course for training centers and for children with 16 participants (Colombia).

LTMG course with 21 participants and 10 facilitators, including several indigenous leaders and translators from Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Paraguay, and Ecuador (Colombia).

Training on LTMG with 24 main leaders of the indigenous movement (CONPLEI). (Brazil)

LTMG event at the Word of Life Missionary Institute. The students received credit for the course as part of the missiology course. (Brazil)

All class materials needed (lessons plans, student materials, etc.) have been developed for the LTMG Course.

If you want to know more about this project contact: doug_baughman@wycliffe.net

The concept of the Journey as a way to rethink organisational strategy

Four sessions on the Journey concept were held: *The Journey, the Wycliffe Global Alliance and You; Spiritual Foundations of the Journey;*

CONVERSATIONS:
The concept of the journey as a way to rethink organizational strategy

Aimed at staff and board of directors of organizations

A SERIES OF 4 MEETINGS:

Station 1:
The Journey, the Wycliffe Global Alliance and You
 October 17, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Colombian Time

Station 2:
Spiritual Foundations of the Journey
 February 8, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Colombian Time

Station 3:
Cultural and contextual relevance of the journey
 May 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Colombian time

Station 4:
Stories of our journey, practical application of the principles of the journey
 August 15, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Colombian Time

WYCLIFFE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

zoom

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FACILITATOR:
 Dr. Susan Van Wynen
 Strategy Consultant at the Wycliffe Global Alliance

Cultural and Contextual Relevance of the Journey; and Stories of Our Journey: Practical Application of the Principles of the Journey. About 90 representatives of the Alliance and partner organisations joined the sessions, led by Susan Van Wynen, the Alliance’s Consultant for Strategy.

Wycliffe Caribbean leaders shared what they learned regarding the Journey concept such as, ‘This concept is providing a framework for the new way of operating. Persons are discovering new skills or having the opportunity to participate in new ways. Maybe (there is) less dependence on structure and more emphasis on valuing the contribution of each person. The place of prayer becomes more central in decision making.’

Children and Bible Translation Roundtable

Several ministries and organisations in the community of Wycliffe Global Alliance promote the importance of children knowing about Bible translation and the impact of the Word of God in their lives. Online sessions were developed in 2024, including:

The Scriptures within Reach of Children by Maná, Museum of the Holy Scriptures, Mexico (50 participants)

Growing Together: The Experience of the Semillero Infantil by SIMI/DNM, Assemblies, Peru (18 participants)

Children and Bible Translation, Teaching Tools by DINAMIS, Assemblies of God, Colombia (20 participants)

Creating a Third Space: the Latin America-wide Roundtable



Members of the Latin American-wide Roundtable.
 Photo: David Cárdenas

Historically, Wycliffe Global Alliance and SIL Area Directors in the Americas met to maintain a relationship of cordiality, fraternity, collaboration, and to exchange of information. The Alliance and SIL Americas Area Directors agreed to take a step to transform this historical dialogue space into a ‘third space’ for friendship and regional collaboration. This group of regional leaders from the Americas represents 13 Alliance organisations and partners including Seed Company, Faith Comes by Hearing, Wycliffe USA-Global Partnership, JAARS, COMIBAM, YWAM, Latin America Bible translation roadmap of Bible Societies, the Three Waves Movement, Biblica, Bible League, Ethnos360 (formerly New Tribes), and Jesus Film. They met last year as a roundtable to talk about understanding of where the group sees Bible translation movements going in Latin America; the practice of polyphony in the movements; the Bible Translation Congress to be held in 2026; training in Bible translation and Scripture engagement roles;

understanding and listening to the church and local voices with regard to the availability of Bible translation data; collaboration; and other topics.

Scripture engagement dialogues

Two virtual dialogues were held with 24 leaders from Alliance organisations, and the facilitation of Dr. Paul Kimbi (Consultant for Bible Translation Programmes) from Cameroon. The reflections contributed to a missiological exploration of Scripture engagement. The premise of the last conversation was that ‘God is not primarily concerned with producing a book or a text, even if it is inspired. God is concerned with building a people, a nation and a kingdom.’ We look forward to further meetings where we can exchange experiences and collective learning between the areas of Africa and the Americas.

Wycliffe Caribbean Team Conference



*Oral Bible translation participants.
Photo: Wycliffe Caribbean*

Carlos Gomez from Global Partnerships and member of the Mesas Peripheral Team was a guest presenter, sharing the MESA concept – a Bible translation roundtable for stakeholders with representatives from:

- Street pastors
- Jamaican Sign Language team
- Jamaican Old Testament translation team
- Jamaican ethnomusicologist
- Social media advocates
- Caribbean team members





Asia-Pacific

Nicky Chong
Asia-Pacific Area Director

Dear friends: Warmest greetings to you. Since starting in March 2024, I have witnessed God's grace, power and love this past year working in and through the Asia-Pacific Alliance organisations. Here are some key areas:

The Church and Bible Translation

The church has been intentional and practical to meet the challenges of Bible translation in their contexts. Changing mission landscapes have drastically altered the church's roles in Bible translation. In places where language communities need the translated Word, churches are stepping up to lead in translation. Some are further along than others. The realisation that it's the church's responsibility to translate the Bible was brought home to a synod leader at Global Gathering 2024. Rev. Usman Kobak of GIDI,* with tears in his eyes, admitted that the churches he is leading in Papua must rise to the vision of Bible translation after being challenged by the Lord during the plenary sessions. He left GG2024 ignited by the Holy Spirit to share this vision with the 1 million members of his denomination.

**Gereja Injili Di Indonesia (Evangelical Church in Indonesia)*

Holistic Transformation

With the majority-world churches rising and moving out in cross-cultural missions locally and globally, holistic ministry is the key to sustainable effectiveness in carrying out God's mission. Bible translation cannot take a stand-alone approach to meeting the

language communities' needs. Mission agencies and churches are embracing a holistic or integral approach to missions. Alliance organisations realised they can no longer just send people to do translation. Rather, partnering with other agencies, sending coworkers to diaspora and/or refugee contexts and collaborating in holistic work is already the new normal. Alliance organisations like Wycliffe Taiwan are aligning themselves in this next lap of the journey in God's mission.

Collaboration

Partnership is nothing new. But this has been growing in strength in Indonesia among Alliance organisations and others working closely to meet the remaining language needs in the country. GaPAI*, the Indonesia Bible Translation Movement partnership, has gained momentum in collaboration among churches and agencies for the past three years. The collaboration includes sharing training resources, consultant development and accreditation. It is a joy to see Alliance organisation church denominations requesting help from other Alliance organisations to develop their coworkers to become effective in translation and related ministry. I witnessed firsthand the collaborative planning by five different entities working together to reach an unreached, unengaged people group in a particular region of Indonesia.

**Gerakan Penerjemahan Alkitab di Indonesia*

Next Generation

Are we prepared for the next generation? The awareness that engaging the next generation in mission is not just growing, but there is a momentum to review what we should do to engage them. Wycliffe Thailand, Wycliffe Singapore, SIL, several other partners and the Asia Pacific leadership hope to facilitate a mission discipleship programme to connect young people with Alliance organisations and others. It is a collaborative effort that needs much prayer, discussion, coordination and investment of leadership and time.



Thiadora,
young leader
(Indonesia)

Miracles

As the Global Gathering 2024 was drawing close, a number of delegates from Indonesia and the Philippines still had not received their visas to enter South Africa. The Filipino leader was literally minutes away from

check-in shutdown at the airport. By God's power in answer to much prayer, the e-visa finally came through and he was able to check in and board the plane. Seven Indonesian delegates travelled from other islands to Jakarta not knowing if they would get their visas. They arrived the day before God granted them the visas. Guess what? As they waited to get the visas before buying their tickets, the prices dropped after they got the visas! God did miracles for them to be at GG2024, so that together with other global church delegates they could worship and discern his will for Bible translation movements.



Dr Joseph Villaflor (ED of TAP) with Pastor Rene Bunsoy, chair of TAP's board. Bunsoy got his e-visa at the 11th hour at Manila Airport.



Indonesian delegates with interpreters and a few ALT members. They arrived in Jakarta the day before flying off, not knowing if they would get their visas.



Europe

Ruben Dubei
Europe Area Director

Greetings from the Europe Area! Despite facing various challenges, including the ongoing war in Ukraine, shifting political landscapes and rising ideological divides, God has been moving in powerful ways to contribute to Bible translation movements and bring glory to his name. These crises have, in many ways, awakened the church to engage more deeply in addressing life's tough questions and demonstrating the love of Christ in our troubled world.

This year has been filled with significant events and enriching conversations, and I have witnessed growth in the four focus areas I set two years ago at the start of my role: building relationships with God, our Alliance, the church and our partners and the Bibleless groups. I am incredibly grateful to God for his help throughout this busy year, especially given the small size of our team.

I'd also like to express my gratitude for the tireless support of my colleague, Bud Speck, who, despite relocating back to the US, continues to serve the work in Europe through virtual meetings. Thanks also to Stewart Johnson, whose extensive experience in Bible translation was invaluable this past year. Additionally, various members of the Alliance Leadership Team have offered their support, especially in facilitating several key meetings.

Highlights

Deaf and Roma Consultation, June 2024 – Bucharest

In June, European Alliance organisations, together with other partners, convened in Bucharest to explore how best to serve the Deaf and Roma communities in our countries. The gathering focused on understanding their unique needs and finding ways to translate the Bible into their languages. This initiative has already led to translation work beginning or being planned in several countries, and we thank God for the growing passion and love for these often overlooked groups.



Leaders from the Romanian Sign Language team lead participants in signing a song.

Affiliate Membership of the European Evangelical Alliance

During the European Evangelical Alliance's General Assembly, the Wycliffe Global Alliance was officially welcomed as an Affiliate Member. This strategic partnership comes at a pivotal moment, as the church's role in Bible translation becomes increasingly important. I now have the privilege of deepening relationships with leaders from the national

Evangelical Alliances across Europe and engaging in discussions about Bible translation needs both locally and globally.



At the European Evangelical Alliance's General Assembly, Wycliffe Global Alliance was officially welcomed.

Leadership Enrichment Program

Recognizing the frequent leadership transitions and the complexity of Bible translation movements, we launched a two-year Leadership Enrichment Program. This initiative offers monthly virtual meetings for leaders of European organizations. So far, 22 leaders have signed up, and together we are growing in our respective leadership roles as we serve God's call in Bible translation movements.

Inter-Area Prayer Time

The Europe Area is coordinating a monthly fellowship and prayer time with the other three Alliance Area teams—Africa, Americas and Asia-Pacific. This initiative keeps us connected globally, allows us to share updates and strengthens our prayer support for one another.

Participation Tables in Europe

Two years ago, I envisioned creating virtual 'tables' to connect the 19 Alliance organisations in Europe. These tables now exist, providing a platform for staff across various organisations to stay connected, share updates and learn together. We currently have six tables meeting regularly, focusing on these areas: Communion with God, Bible Translation, Church Collaboration, Communication, People, and Leadership Enrichment.

Anniversaries of Alliance Organisations in Europe

Several European Alliance organisations celebrated significant anniversaries in 2024:

Wycliffe Switzerland, 60 years.

Wycliffe Austria, 40 years.

Wycliffe Hungary, 25 years.



Cecilia Barabás, Director of Wycliffe Hungary, and Benjámín Bacsó, board chair, celebrate 25 years serving in Bible translation movements.

Conclusion

It was a year of growth, collaboration and deepened relationships in the Europe Area. Through God's grace and the collective efforts of our small yet dedicated team, we have seen progress in key initiatives and celebrated milestones that remind us of the impact of Bible translation and the work of the church. We are excited to see how God will continue to guide and empower us as we move forward into another year of service.

Finances

Fiscal Year 2024: October 2023 to September 2024

This report is based on preliminary figures from our financial reports. The Alliance's FY 2024 financial statements will be audited a little later than normal this year, in April.

All amounts are reported in U.S. dollars. Some amounts are rounded for easier reading. Exact amounts will be available in the Audited Financial Statement once it is published on our Finances page at Wycliffe.net.

Revenue

Annual contributed funds were \$865,000, up from \$650,000 in FY 2023. This was a significant increase and is mostly due to increased project funding income. In addition, the Alliance received contributed services from Alliance organisations as in previous years. This is based on the calculated value of labor performed by staff members assigned to work in the Alliance. The amount was about \$1.5 million in FY 2023 and remained the same level in FY 2024. Finally, FY 2024 interest and other income totaled \$178,000. This was a \$25,000 increase due to favourable developments in financial markets.

All of this brings the total revenue and support for FY 2024 to \$2,543,000, up by roughly \$200,000 from FY 2023. This was expected and part of our transition from assessment-based funding to project funding, which caused a dip in our funding in FY 2023. We are also using our accumulated reserves to help us transition through the funding change.

Expenses

Alliance expenses in FY 2024 are still waiting for some clarifications but the total estimate is about \$2.7 million, about \$140,000 higher than FY 2023. This includes the contributed labour of \$1.5 million, so direct operational and project expenses were \$1.2 million, an increase of about \$200,000 from FY 2023. This increase is mainly due to projects.

Net Assets

The Alliance's unrestricted net assets at the end of FY 2024 were about \$3.9 million and liabilities about \$150,000. This was a similar level compared to FY 2023. This position of fairly high reserves will help the Alliance as we develop our project funding to its required level over the coming three to four years.



Respectfully submitted,

Hannu Summanen



Front cover photo:
Alan Webster (right), Executive Director of Wycliffe South Africa, prays with
Noël Faton, Wycliffe Switzerland board member.
Photo by Jennifer Pillinger