



**THE
FINISH
LINE**

Pacific
2011



Wycliffe®



DEAR FRIENDS,

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

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

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

Village elders explained:

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

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

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

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

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

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Creson". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Bob Creson
President
Wycliffe USA



FINDING HIS WORDS AGAIN

It was three in the morning, and the lights were on. Someone was walking around the guesthouse.

Taitus, a national Bible translator, was staying at the Bible Translation Association offices in Ukarumpa, along with his sister Fesi and her husband Rumu, far from their village home in Somba Siawari. They had completed a week long translation workshop and planned to spend extra days in town.

That night in the guesthouse, Taitus was suddenly awake, and aware of a thief.

A man had broken down the door and was now inside. Upon seeing the intruder, Taitus thought first to defend himself and his family members. But the man's face was covered and he seemed unafraid. In his hand, he clutched a machete. Taitus backed away.

Rumu and Fesi came into the room and the man charged at them. They fled and hid in the bedroom. Undaunted, the intruder grabbed two laptop computers and left.

And just like that, in the dark of night, all their hard work was gone.

A year of translation work was on those computers. Several books of the Bible were drafted and ready to send for checking. Now they were lost. Discouragement overwhelmed the small translation team. They felt like a part of them had been snatched away.

Together they wondered, "What is God showing us?" Even though they were afraid, they thanked God that none of them had been hurt and prayed for the man who stole the computers. Maybe God would bring the man to Jesus through this. They also prayed that somehow God would bring back their computers.

He answered in ways they never expected.

A year ago, some colleagues who had worked with Taitus, Rumu, and Fesi had noticed their decade-old computers. Unknown to them, these colleagues had already sent new laptop computers in the mail, to be delivered to a translation team in need. Only three days after the robbery,

the translation team learned of the gift and their colleagues' wishes for them to have the new laptops. All they had to do was go to the post office to pick them up. Shocked and amazed, they realized God had answered their prayers months before they had even prayed them!

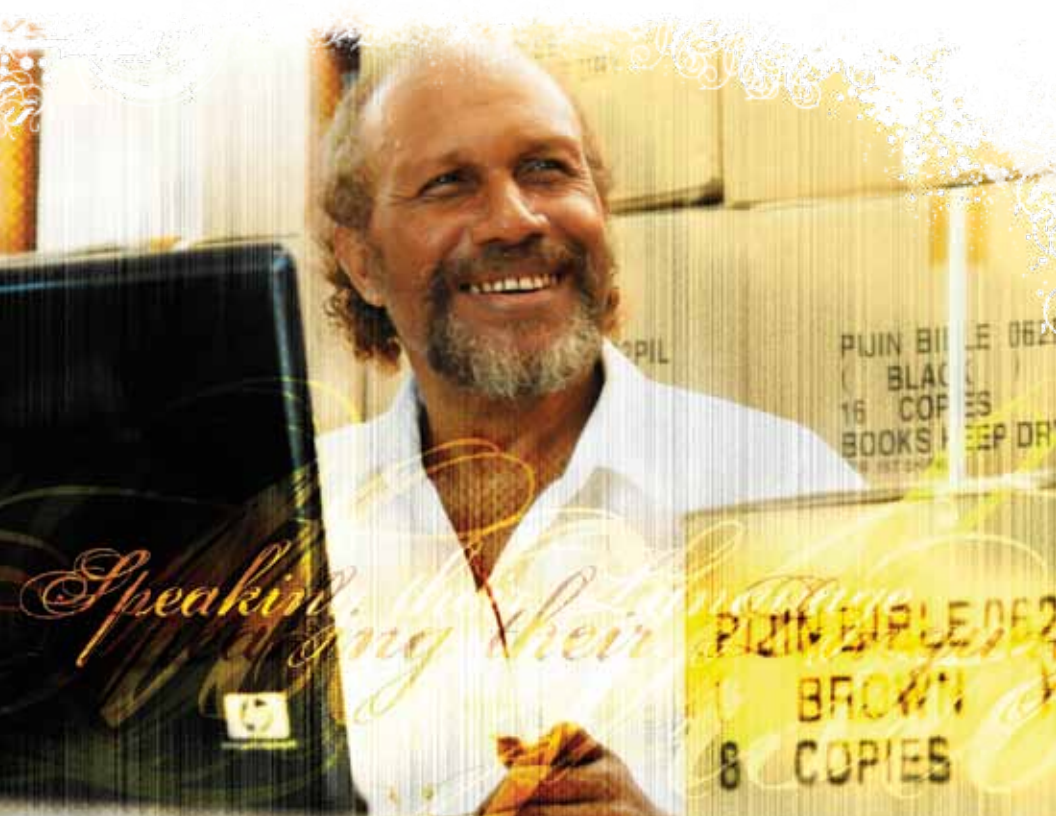
And He wasn't finished.

They took the new computers to their IT department to install the programs they needed, and while they were there, it was discovered that an older computer they had turned in for a data transfer still had all the past year's work on it! Miraculously, it had been preserved, and all of it was recovered.

Their hearts filled with praise to God! Together, the translation team reported, "We thanked Him for giving us more than we ever imagined was possible. And now, we can't wait to get back to work, translating His mighty Word so that people in our village can know His power!

"We can't stop praising our Lord...we just can't!"

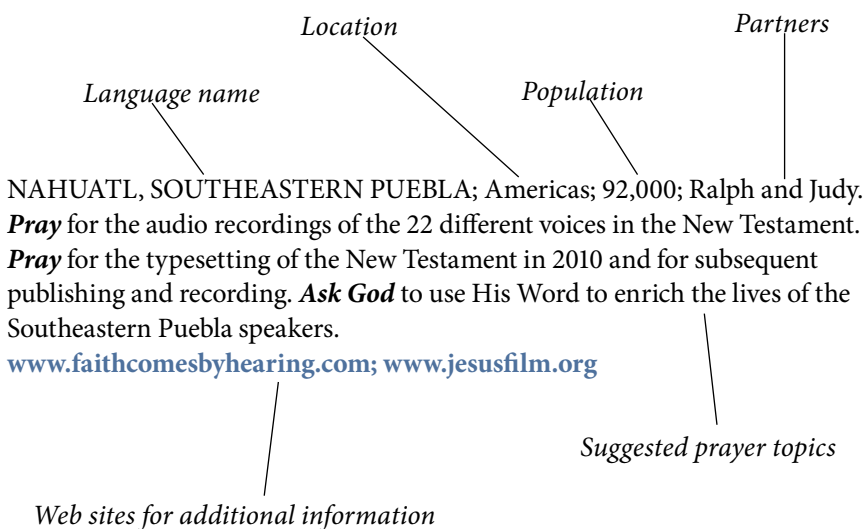
Taitus, Rumu, and Fesi are national translators and literacy workers with the Bible Translation Association of Papua New Guinea.



HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

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

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





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HOW DO I PRAY FOR TRANSLATION PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION?

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

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE

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

PRAY FOR THE PROCESS

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

PRAY FOR PROTECTION

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

PRAY FOR THE PRINTING

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

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

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



The Language of the Heart

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

AUSTRALIA

ARRERENTE, EASTERN; Australia; 3,820. **Pray** for the production of an audio recording of the Eastern and Central Arrernte Dictionary. There have been many frustrating delays, and the team hopes to complete it soon. **Pray**, too, for the translators working to finish Scripture translation within the next few years. **Pray** for good concentration for team members and steady progress through the remaining consultant checks.

➔ NUNGGUBUYU; Australia; 360; Anglican Church, United Bible Society. Dedicated on September 4, 2010.

➔ YUMPLATOK; Torres Strait Islands, Australia; 23,400. Dedication scheduled for July 2011.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

ISLES OF THE SEA cluster project—CAROLINIAN, CEMUHĪ, PUKAPUKA, KAPINGAMARANGI, NUKUORO (Old Testament), and PAICĪ languages; various Pacific Islands; 34,300. **Praise God** for the translators and consultants involved with these projects. **Pray** for endurance and strength for all of them as they work to publish New and/or Old Testaments during the next three years. Some of these workers have been trained in audio recording and editing; **pray** that they will use these skills to produce audio versions of translated Scripture that will greatly impact local people. **Praise God** that these projects enjoy support from the communities. www.theseedcompany.org

20 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

➔ AGARABI; Papua New Guinea; 27,000. Dedication scheduled for May 2011.

AROP-LOKEP; Papua New Guinea; 3,020. This translation project involves two dialects: Poonoo and Lokewe. **Pray** that the Poonoo New Testament will be typeset in 2011 and that over the next year all final checks will go well. **Pray** for improved literacy among community members and that local schools in the area will effectively meet the educational needs of both the young and the old. **Ask God** to provide a team of Lokewe speakers to adapt the Poonoo New Testament to their own dialect.

BAHINEMO (Inaru); Papua New Guinea; 550; New Tribes Mission. In this project, a team is translating parts of the Old Testament for a volume of Scripture portions. **Pray** that the translators will achieve their goal of publishing it in late 2012. **Pray** for more consultants to come alongside and assist by checking the final drafts. http://www.ntm.org/wp/jay_franicevich

BARIAI; Papua New Guinea; 1,380. **Pray** for those preparing the Bariai Scriptures for typesetting. **Ask God** to protect their work and help them to overcome any obstacles. **Pray** that His Word will shine brightly into the Bariai community.

➔ BOLA; Papua New Guinea; 13,700. Dedication scheduled for June/July 2011.

DOM; Papua New Guinea; 12,000; New Tribes Mission. **Pray** that translation workers and others will work together to check the overall comprehension level of the material. **Pray** for consistent attendance for those meeting to check and discuss the translation. **Pray** for unity among the team as they resolve any orthography issues within the next year. The team hopes to print the manuscript in 2013. http://www.ntm.org/wp/jim_burdett

➔ HARUAI; Papua New Guinea; 2,000. Dedicated on April 18, 2010. www.lbt.org

➔ HOTE; Papua New Guinea; 2,240. Dedicated December 2010.

KONAI; Papua New Guinea; 600. **Pray** for this team as they prepare for typesetting in May 2011. Already, community members are looking forward to celebrating completed Scripture at a dedication ceremony in 2012.

➔ KUNI-BOAZI; Papua New Guinea; 4,500. Dedication expected in 2011.

➔ LOTE; Papua New Guinea; 5,500. Dedicated on January 9, 2010.

<http://pacificbible.blogspot.com/2010/09/png-sil-aviation.html>

MAIWA; Papua New Guinea; 1,400. **Pray** that nothing hinders this team's effort to revise their translation prior to typesetting in February 2011. **Ask God** to protect this project from long delays so it might be completed by 2012.

MALEU-KILENGE; Papua New Guinea; 5,200; New Tribes Mission. **Ask God** to provide for the needs of this team as they work to finish the final stages of the translation, including consultant checking, text preparation, and the publication process. www.ntm.org

➔ MANDARA; Papua New Guinea; 2,500. Dedicated on May 20, 2010.

MARING; Papua New Guinea; 11,000. **Pray** for the two translators and the consultant, who have faithfully worked on this project for many years. There remains much to revise, so **pray** that they will accomplish much before typesetting begins in February 2011. A dedication celebration is projected for early 2013.

MENYA; Papua New Guinea; 20,000. **Praise God** for growing interest among Menya speakers to learn to read their own language. The Menya translation team is moving forward with final checks and revisions to the text. **Pray** for perseverance for them as they work, and **pray** that consultants will be available as needed.

MESEM; Papua New Guinea; 4,000; Assemblies of God World Missions. **Pray** for the Mesem translation team as they work toward publication by 2012. **Pray** for them in light of this Scripture: "Don't worry about anything; instead, **pray** about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7, NLT). www.vanaria.org
<http://themesemnewtestament.blogspot.com/>

➔ MINIAFIA; Papua New Guinea; 3,470. Dedicated on February 26, 2010.

<http://bta.monsoonhub.org/node/96>

➔ MOLIMA; Papua New Guinea; 4,010. Dedicated on July 27, 2010.

MUTU; Tuam Island, Papua New Guinea; 3,500. **Praise God** for providing a quiet setting where translators can concentrate as they carefully finalize and proofread in preparation for printing. **Pray** for financial provision for printing costs and for wisdom in planning the details of the dedication and distribution anticipated in 2011.

➔ NEHAN; Papua New Guinea; 6,500. Dedication scheduled for January 15, 2011.

NEW IRELAND cluster project—BAROK, KANDAS, KONOMALA, LABEL, LAVATBURA-LAMUSONG, NALIK, NOTSI, PATPATAR, TANGGA, FENI, FANAMAKET, BUTAM (IAKET), SOKAREK, HINSAAL, and SOKIRIK languages; Papua New Guinea; 31,850. **Pray** for these fifteen language groups as they strive at various levels to complete New Testaments in their languages by 2014. Many of the translation teams must contend with circumstances such as limited health services and dangerous boat travel, so **pray** that God will protect them at all times.

www.theseedcompany.org

NIMO; Papua New Guinea; 350; New Tribes Mission. **Pray** for typesetting to start in 2011. **Pray**, too, for the plans and preparations for a Scripture dedication in 2012. Now that literacy materials are in the people's hands, **pray** that learning to read and write their own language will enhance every facet of their daily lives. www.ntm.org

OGEA; Papua New Guinea; 2,210; PNG Bible Translation Association. **Pray** for everyone involved in the typesetting process for this long-awaited translation. **Pray** for the community as they use God's Word to illuminate their pathways: "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105, NLT). <https://bta.monsoonhub.org>

➔ PELE-ATA; Papua New Guinea; 2,000. Dedication scheduled for April 2011.

PINAI-HAGAHAI; Papua New Guinea; 600. **Pray** for advisors who are working remotely to assist the translation team with New Testament books from Romans to Revelation. **Praise God** for the MegaVoice device that provides the translated Gospels and Acts in an audio format. **Pray** that as the Pinai-Hagahai people hear and read God's Word, they will desire more of Him. www.megavoice.com

POLYNESIAN OUTLIER cluster project—NUKUMANU language; Papua New Guinea; 700. **Praise God** for the progress made on the testing and consultant-checking steps to get the New Testament ready for publication. **Pray** for this team in light of the following verse:

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing” (James 1:2–4, NLT). www.theseedcompany.org

➔ POLYNESIAN OUTLIER cluster project—TAKUU language; Papua New Guinea; 1,750. Dedication scheduled for December 2010. www.theseedcompany.org

SIAWI; Papua New Guinea; 220; New Tribes Mission. The team expects to have the translation ready for printing in early 2012. **Praise God** that eleven Christians are committed to completing the Siawi New Testament. **Pray** that they will make good progress and that a consultant for the project will remain healthy. **Pray** that the Scripture’s teaching and discipleship will be well comprehended and applied. www.ntm.org

➔ SURSURUNGA; Papua New Guinea; 3,000. Dedicated on August 15, 2010. <http://wycliffeusa.wordpress.com/2010/08/31/the-people-of-tantamount-worth-trailer/>

TÀY; 500; Papua New Guinea. **Pray** for good health for this translation team. **Pray**, too, that they will be able to continue their work without spiritual attacks or distractions designed by the enemy. Their goal is to finish the translation within the next three years. **Pray** that local churches will use these Scriptures to transform the lives of local people. www.pbtpng.org

TEREI; Papua New Guinea; 26,500. **Pray** for peace in this region, where a ten-year civil war continues to affect the lives of many. A translation consultant connected to this project will soon retire, and the main translator carries on, even while working in a full-time teaching job. Without **prayer** and God’s full intervention, how will this project cross the finish line? **Pray** for God to move mightily so these communities will know His truth!

WARAN; Papua New Guinea; 3,000. An ambitious strategy to finish within the next three years will certainly require God's hand at work in all things. **Pray** that the translation team will maintain a good balance between family relationships, translation work, and their main profession of tending gardens. **Ask God** to provide for all their needs. www.pbtpng.org

→ YOPNO; Papua New Guinea; 7,200. Dedicated on August 7, 2010.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

NORTH MALAITA IG cluster project—BAEGGU and BAELELEA languages; Solomon Islands; 16,700. Translation teams expect to typeset the New Testament in these two languages by March 2013. In this remote area, there are few roads, phones, or radios, and computers have frequently malfunctioned. **Ask God** to help these teams overcome these transportation and communication obstacles. www.theseedcompany.org

20 VANUATU

EPI cluster project—BAKI, LAMENU, and LEWO languages; Vanuatu; 3,400. Literacy workers hope for good results from a recent literacy course. **Pray** for many in these language groups to understand how to read and write their own language. **Pray**, too, for an audio-recording project that was started to help grow enthusiasm for the arrival of the New Testaments. **Pray** that the finished recordings will spread interest in the translated Scriptures, throughout the local communities.

WHAT'S NEXT?

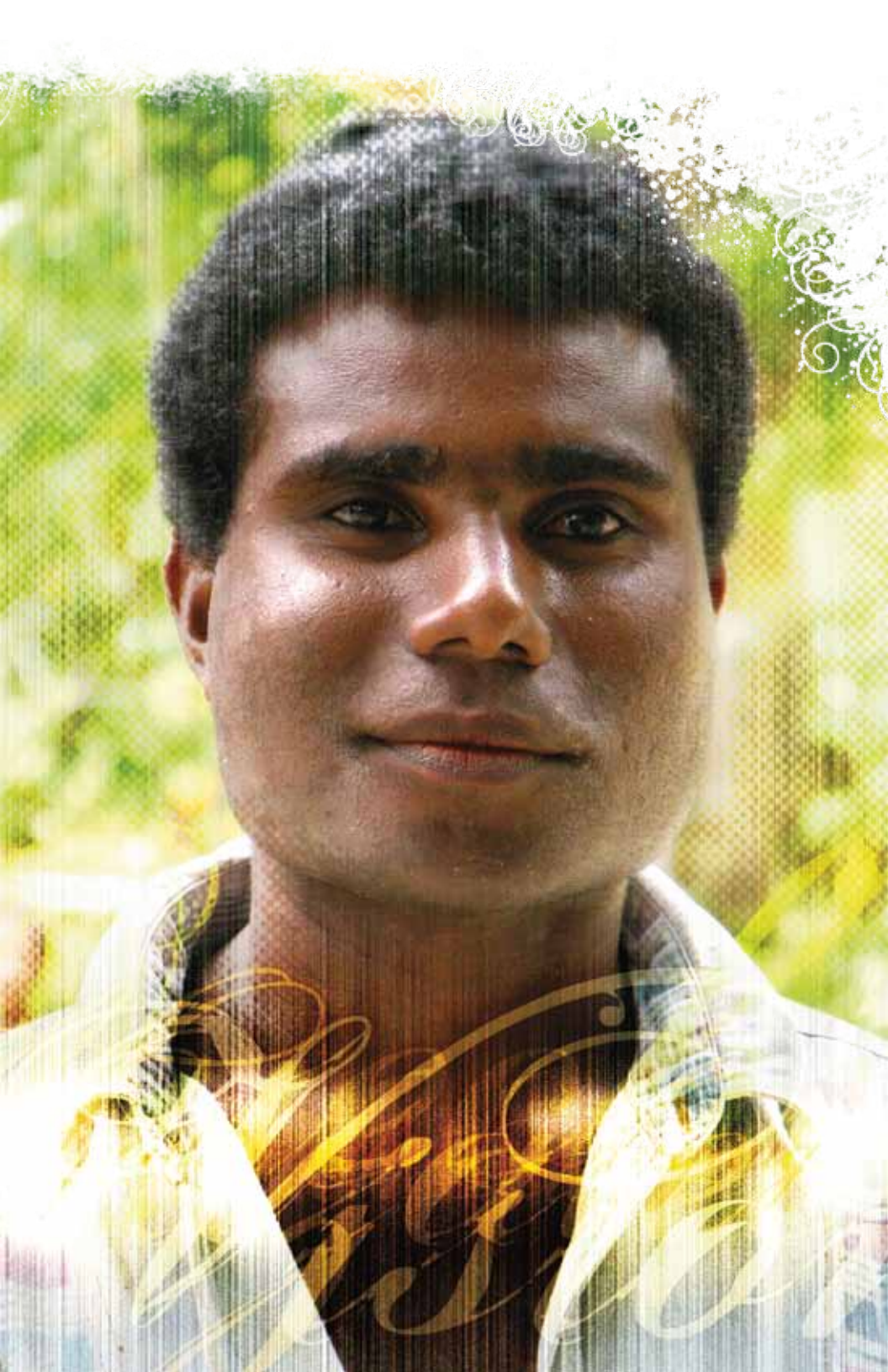
Choosing to spend time in prayer for the language projects presented in *The Finish Line* is hard work as well as heart work. Once people make this investment in the building of God's kingdom, they are likely to ask the question, "What's next?" Many want to expand their involvement into the areas of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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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