

Chapter 1: Introduction to Wycliffe Associates

Objective: Participants will understand our vision and mission and consider whether those match their own goals.

Core Concepts:

- Bible translation has traditionally been done for people groups by foreigners.
- Wycliffe Associates (WA) was established to assist translators.
- Research has shown that native speakers can create a more natural and accurate translation, and complete it faster than foreigners.
- WA now partners with local churches to empower native speakers to translate the Bible.
- Our Vision is “A Bible in Every Language.”

For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?” Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?” But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it (Deut. 30:11-14).

Intro:

We want to welcome you into a partnership with Wycliffe Associates! We are so excited to serve you and your local church through Bible translation tools and resources! We want to start by sharing a little bit about our ministry.

Ask:

- **What do you think when you think of Bible translation?**

Most people think of foreigners who go to places far from home to help translate Holy Scripture into a language that has none.

Wycliffe Associates (WA) History—Why?

- Wycliffe Associates was established in 1967.
- Bill Butler, Dale Kietzman, and Rudy Renfer were friends of Bible translators.

Time: 15-30 min.

Workbook p. 1

Materials:

- ✓ Slide Deck T3.Slides_01_Intro.to.WA
- ✓ Bible with place markers

Teacher’s Notes:

For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?” Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?” But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it (Deut. 30:11-14).

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(on screen as people enter and during introductions)

Wycliffe Associates



Wycliffe Associates History

- Wycliffe Associates was established in 1967
- Purpose was to provide practical assistance to translators globally
- Allowed Translators to focus on Bible translation work

- They were concerned that Bible translators were spending more and more time on non-translation necessities, such as accounting and building maintenance, and more.
- Their purpose was to provide practical assistance to translators globally.
- This allowed translators to focus on Bible translation work.

WA History—How?

- Christian believers volunteered a wide range of skills to assist Bible translation work around the world, such as: administration, designing and building, maintenance, and development of technology.
- Freed translators to focus on Bible translation rather than other necessary activities.

WA History—Urgent need for translation led to a new solution

- In 2014, Wycliffe Associates developed and tested a new Bible translation method.
- Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation (MAST)
- The MAST process is informed by studies in linguistics, education, and psychology.
- MAST equips national translators to translate the Bible into their own heart language.
- The local church (all the churches in each language community) has a central role in MAST Bible translation for their own language.
- MAST harnesses the ability within the local church.
- Teamwork and collaboration support a clear and accurate translation.

Impact Story:

In 2014, a pastor from a small language community of the Himalayas hiked into the city to meet with WA missionaries about getting Scripture in his language. This young pastor shared his exciting discovery: they could launch the translation project themselves, with WA training and support!

The pastor and his brother began to translate - and to recruit other believers to join them.

Later that year, a group of 13 gathered for training and translation of Scripture using the new MAST Nationals translation process.

Notes:

Wycliffe Associates History How?

- Volunteers offered a wide range of skills to assist Bible translation work globally
 - Administration
 - Construction
 - Maintenance
 - Technology
 - Infrastructure
- Translators could focus on Bible translation rather than other activities

Wycliffe Associates History Urgent Need Called for a New Solution

- In 2014, Wycliffe Associates developed and tested a new Bible translation method
- MAST—Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation.
- MAST equips national translators to quickly translate the Bible clearly and accurately



2014

First MAST translation event

Mother-tongue
translators trained
in this new
methodology



Within 2 weeks, this group had translated and checked almost half of the New Testament. They continued to work, finishing their New Testament in less than 2 years.

This process, the MAST process, has made translation faster, more accurate, and more natural than any previous method.

We've now shifted our focus to training translators in this new method. We provide free, open-license resources to translators around the world. And we'll soon be offering these resources in the gateway languages!

At Wycliffe Associates, our vision is a Bible in every language. We can't do it ourselves. So how can we achieve this?

We train and equip believers like you in Church Owned Bible Translation.

When you as a Church train and equip language groups, you're following the Great Commission.

Exercise:

Please take a moment to discuss and write your team's vision.

Notes:

Focus shifted to training translators in MAST method

Now providing free, open-license resources to translators around the world



Wycliffe ASSOCIATES

VISION:

A Bible in Every Language

Advancing Church-Owned Bible Translation through free training and tools

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Matthew 28:19-20

2nd Corinthians 9:6-15

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

But this I say: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ¹⁰As at each one gives as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ¹¹And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. ¹²As it is written:

"He has dispersed abroad; He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁹Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness. ¹⁰Make you are enriched in everything for all liberality, with causes transacting through us to God. ¹¹For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God. ¹²While, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men. ¹³And by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁴Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Matthew 28:19-20

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. ²¹Amen.

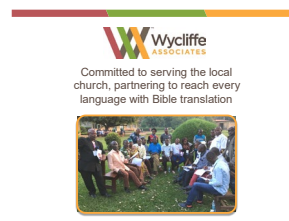
Allow time for them to write on paper or in their Workbook (p. 3).

Discuss:

- **How does our vision line up with yours?**

Notes:

Ask them to share the team vision they've written.



Confirm:

Wycliffe Associates is committed to serving the local church in achieving and spreading Bible translation to every language. Participants have considered whether WA's vision and mission match their own.