

Video Script Chapter 1: Introduction to Wycliffe Associates

Video 1.1:

When we talk about 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.

Let me share with you how Wycliffe Associates has moved from that model to a more church-centered approach.

First, let's talk about WHY Wycliffe Associates was established.

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

How did we support Bible translators?

- 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.
- The volunteer services freed translators to focus on Bible translation rather than other necessary activities.

Eventually, an urgent need for translation led to a new solution.

- In 2014, Wycliffe Associates developed and tested a new Bible translation method.
- We call it Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation (or 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.

Let me share one account of MAST in action.

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.

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.

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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.