

WYCLIFFE BIBLE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY TRANSLATORS

Literacy Specialists

"When I consider what God has accomplished through me in helping many people groups to prepare for receiving the translated Word of God, I must say . . . it's been worth it all."

—Gertrude (Garrett) Nicholas,
former literacy specialist, Papua New Guinea



For details of a number of specific opportunities visit <www.wycliffe.ca/help>.

THIS IS A TOP TEN
PERSONNEL NEED
THIS IS A TOP TEN



Partners in Bible Translation

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Do you enjoy teaching and passing skills on to others? Are you concerned for the marginalized people of the world? If so, God may be calling you into the Bible translation effort as a literacy specialist.

Literacy workers are essential to Wycliffe's goal of seeing the translated Scriptures transform people. Translation gives the Book, but literacy opens it!

The Need

Reading and writing opens doors. Literacy is a foundational skill. It gives entrance to the universe of books, to the Internet and to the Bible in a person's mother tongue. Reading means access to information, to instruction. Writing provides a means for expression and a method for preserving culture and sharing information.

Sadly, however, more than one billion people on earth are illiterate: two-thirds are women, 98 per cent live in developing countries, 43 per cent speak lesser-known, minority languages. In almost all cases, it is the poor and marginalized who are trapped in material and spiritual poverty because they cannot read.

Hundreds of literacy specialists are needed in Wycliffe to work with local community members to promote literacy. In many language programs, this literacy effort needs to go on side by side with Bible translation.

What's Involved

Literacy specialists serve in language groups around the world, endeavouring to establish literacy as a community value. They help to develop beginning readers (primers). Literacy specialists develop a program and materials to teach people to read and write. Eventually, they train the local people to become teachers, so they can take over leadership and responsibility for the literacy program.

Literacy specialists are rewarded to see reading born in men, women and children, as each printed syllable and word finally comes alive. Many go on to read the Scriptures for themselves and others.

Qualifications & Training

What does it take to be a literacy specialist? The following are valuable: a love of teaching skills to others; concern for the marginalized; flexibility and tolerance; ability to organize and manage people; commitment to being a team player; and enthusiasm for learning new languages and cultures.

Literacy specialists need linguistic training because they may work with a language that has not been completely analyzed. Specialized training is available through the Canada Institute of Linguistics, at Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C. <www.canil.ca>. Successful applicants will be required to raise financial support from interested friends, family and churches. Training and resources are provided for this.

Perhaps the job of literacy specialist is a good fit for you. For more information, contact us today.

Translating Scripture, Transforming Lives