

# WYCLIFFE BIBLE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY TRANSLATORS

## Language Surveyors

"Being a language surveyor is like being a scout. It's going out to inspect the land and bringing back a report so that, someday, the Lord may send in Bible translators."

—Larry Seguin, former language surveyor



For details of a number of specific opportunities visit <[www.wycliffe.ca/help](http://www.wycliffe.ca/help)>.

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



Partners in Bible Translation

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**D**o you enjoy being a trailblazer, doing research to lay the foundation for important follow-up ministry? How about adventurous travel, sometimes to remote places? If so, the Bible translation effort needs you!

Language surveyors are crucial to Wycliffe's goal of seeing God's Word translated for people in their heart language. You could be part of the team that helps kick-start this ministry for Bibleless people groups.

### The Need

The first step in the Bible translation process is determining which language groups don't have, but need the Scriptures in their language. About 40 per cent of the world's 6,900 languages have not yet been assessed. In order to meet our faith goal of starting a translation project in every language by the year 2025, Wycliffe needs these languages surveyed by the year 2020. We must double our current language survey team—to 120 individuals.

Language survey is at the cutting edge of frontier missions. Survey results can benefit not just Bible translation, but other agencies interested in unreached people groups.

### What's Involved

Surveyors do basic sociolinguistic fieldwork, collecting solid data to answer vital questions: How closely are dialects and languages related? How many translations are needed in a country or region? Where and how should translation projects be started?

Language survey specialists plan research trips. Then they travel extensively through a language area, typically comparing word lists and using stories on tape to test how well people in various places understand one another, and the trade or national language. They handle equipment and recording data, meeting and working with a lot of people from different cultures. After a trip, they write up the results of their findings. Surveyors work long hours, often under rugged conditions. Single young people or childless couples are ideal for the task.

### Qualifications & Training

Surveyors need to be committed Christians, active in their local church and willing to serve God where He sends them. Normally, surveyors should have a post-secondary degree. Knowledge of sociolinguistics, scientific methods or statistics would be a bonus, but training is given. They should be prepared to make an initial commitment of at least 2-3 years. Successful applicants will be required to raise financial support from interested friends, family and churches. Training and resources are provided for this.

Is God prompting you to help determine who in the world needs Bible translation? For more information, contact us today.

*Translating Scripture, Transforming Lives*