

The background of the entire page is a photograph of three young Buddhist monks. They are wearing traditional saffron-colored robes and are positioned on a set of wide, weathered stone steps. The monk on the left is sitting on a step, leaning back with his right arm resting on the stone wall. The monk in the center is standing on a step, leaning forward with his right hand on the stone. The monk on the right is standing on a step, looking directly at the camera. The background shows the intricate carvings and textures of an ancient stone temple structure.

EYE^{TO}EYE HEART^{TO}HEART

A Reflection on Wycliffe Bible Translators and Vision 2025

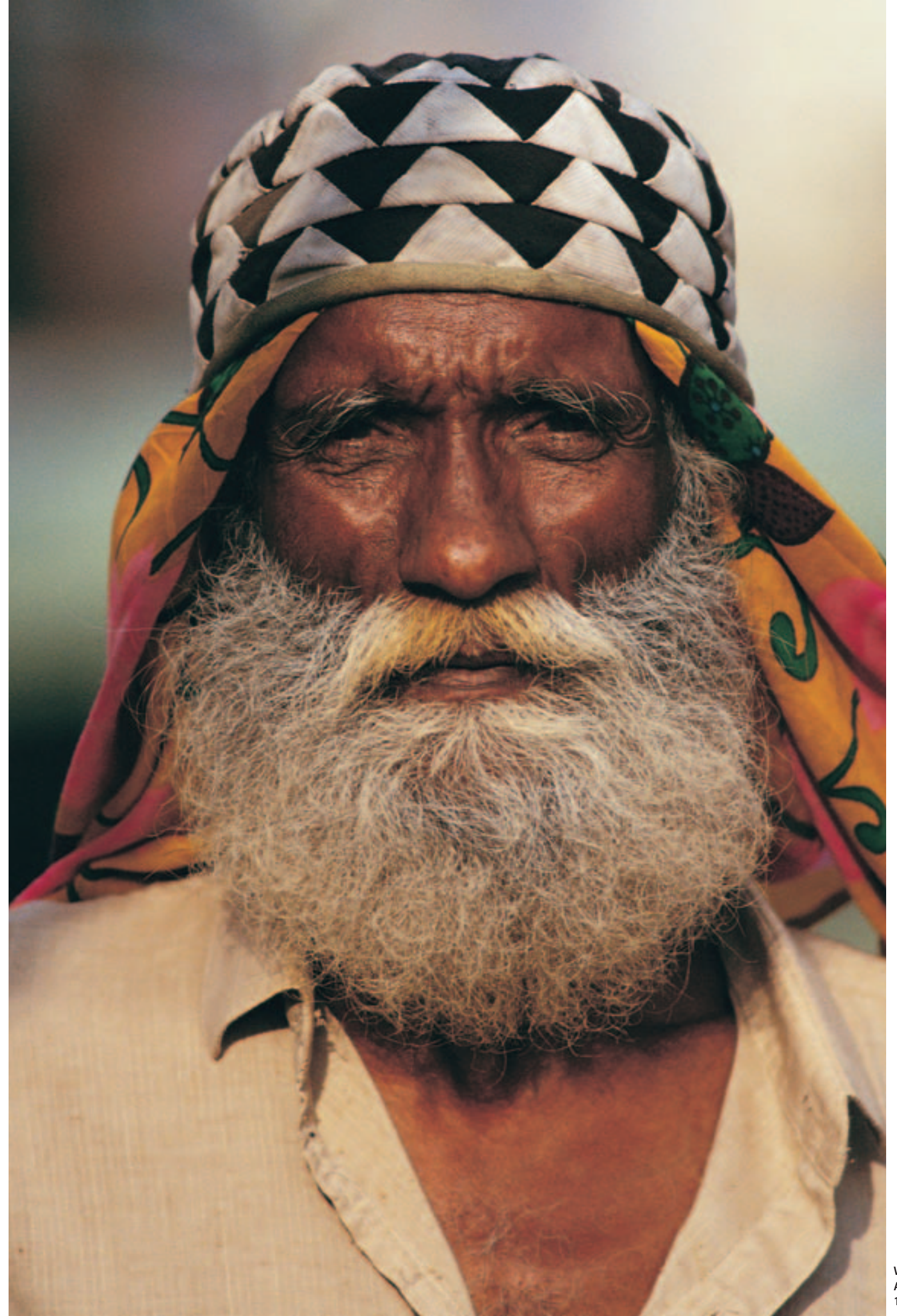
By Dave and Deborah Crough | Photographs by Dave Crough

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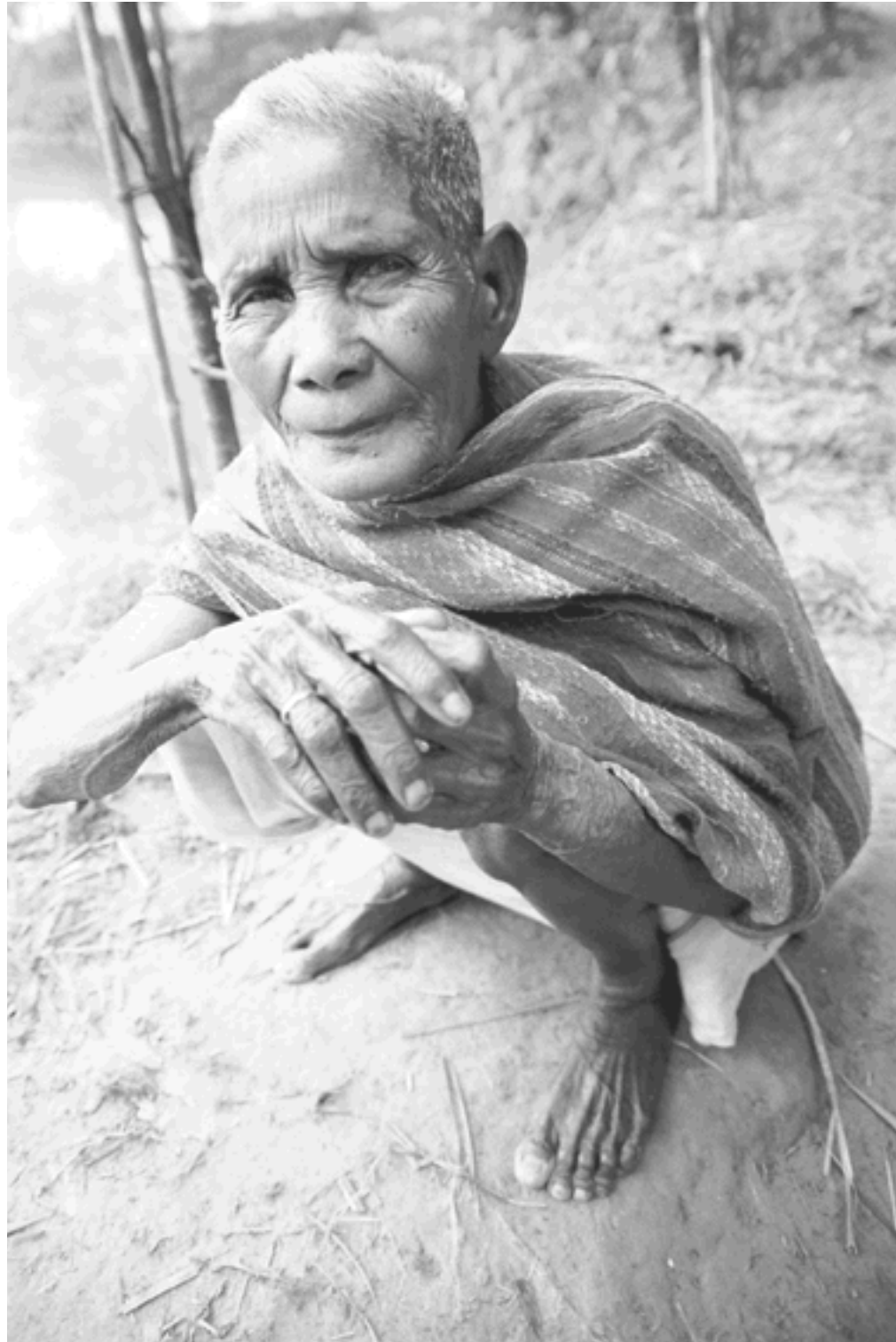
You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all . . . written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

—2 Corinthians 3:2,3 (NKJV)

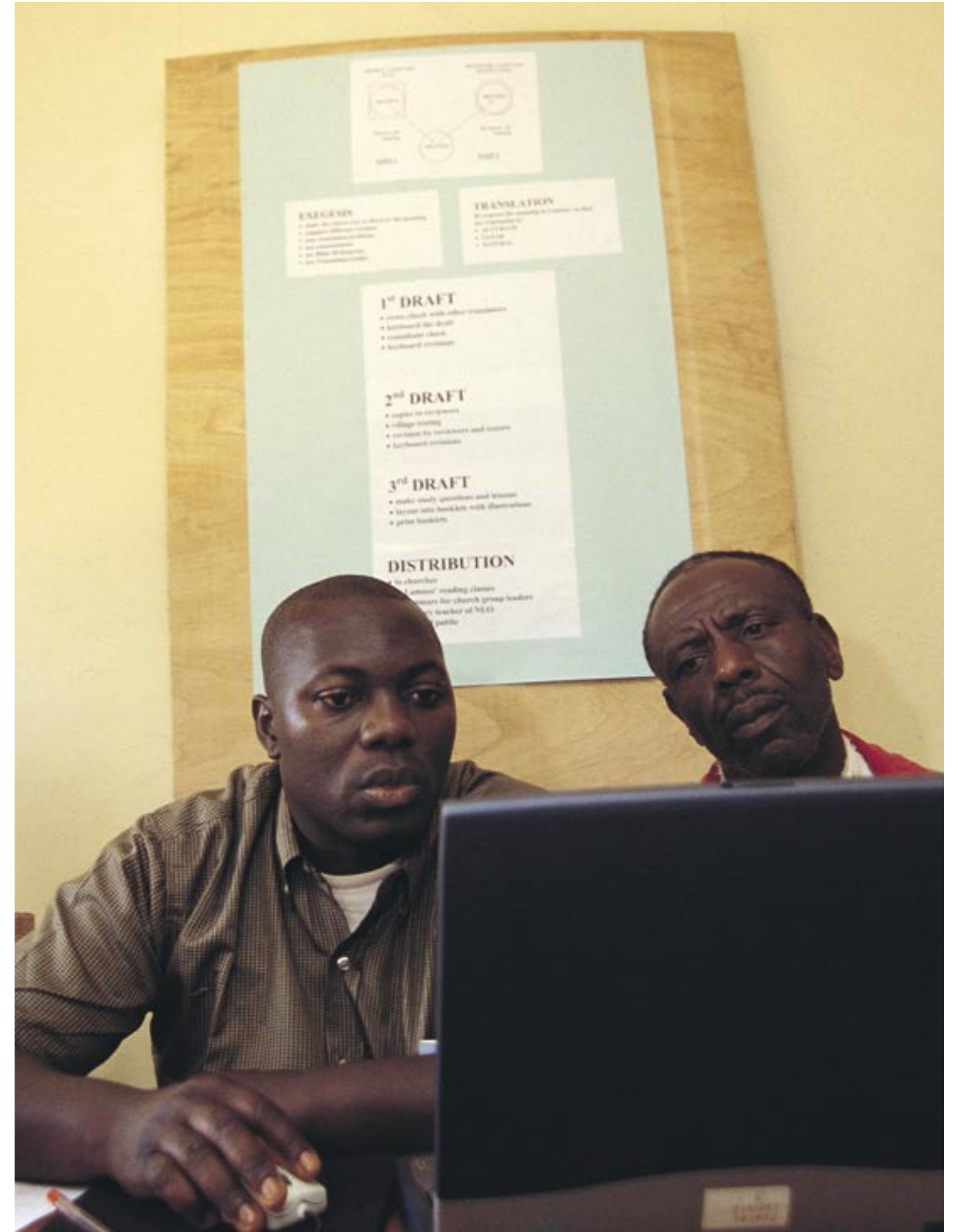




Peru, 2005. Marcelina Huamán was once entangled with the Maoist terrorist group, *Shining Path*. She has only become literate in her native Cusco Quechua language in the past decade, and now pastors and plants churches, like the one seen here, in small Quechua communities. *Vision 2025* is not just about producing vernacular Scriptures at a faster pace. It's ultimately about transformed lives. It's about Marcelina.



India, 2006. This woman is from a tribal group of 2.5 million. I was told there were fewer than 100 Christians among them. She was not one of them. As I knelt before her, camera in position, I recall silently repeating to myself, "She is made in the image of God. In the image of God. She is made in the image of God."



Cameroon, 2003. The legacy and heritage of Christian witness among the Nso people now bears witness to ongoing translation efforts—here, at an Old Testament workshop. These men are local church leaders, part of a team of 12 from four denominations working together.



Northwest Territories, Canada, 2003.

Prayer

Our Greatest Resource

What is prayer, but an ongoing conversation with God? In a conversation, sometimes we speak, sometimes we listen. Some of the best conversations are found in the silence, when we stop thinking of what to say, and “hear” with our eyes and our hearts. As it is written,

*“The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.”*

*There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world”*
(Psalm 19:1-4 NIV).

God is calling out to the people of the whole world, in every voice that might be heard, including His Word, in every language He created. He impresses us with the urgency of the task of Bible translation, so all can listen in a language that speaks to the heart. He encourages us to partner with others who are like-minded. He builds capacity in us to do the work. His are the most creative strategies. And He sustains us each step of the way, reminding us that with Him, nothing is impossible.

When we pray, when we listen, when we wait on the Lord, our strength is renewed. Prayer is our greatest resource because it con-

nects us with the main source of all things, Jesus Christ—the Light of the World. He hears us, and knows us, on a level as deep as the heavens are high above us. And He taught His followers to pray to our Father in heaven (Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV), a prayer displayed above the photographs in this section.

Just as the Northern Lights are a phenomenon resulting from interaction of the sun with Earth’s atmosphere, our interaction with the Light of the World gives us a vision of the very nature of God. He is the light that “shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it” (John 1:5 NLT).