

# THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

## VISION 2050 SUMMARY

### LAST LANGUAGES UPDATE

Of the nearly 7,000 language communities (people groups) in the world, Wycliffe recently reported that only 1,294 of them have the New Testament, and only 513 people groups enjoy access to the entire Bible in their language. While there are many people groups with a small portion of Scripture and 2,167 Bible translations in progress around the world, there are also another 1,900 language communities (180 million people) for which Scripture translation has not even begun. The need for global Bible translation remains great.

### LONG TERM OBJECTIVE - LEGACY

Our proposal is for churches, other agencies and individuals to become involved as partners as we bring God's Word to people in the language God gave them.

*The Word for the World Bible Translators (TWFTW)* whole-heartedly supports the goal articulated by member agencies of the *Forum of Bible Agencies International (FOBAI)* in 2008, that the Bible should be available in a suitable format in all languages needing it by 2050. VISION 2050 represents *TWFTW's* long term planning to play a role in achieving that goal. Our motivation is the following: Glory to God through the extension of his Kingdom by the spreading of his Word through Bible translation, literacy and Scripture engagement by the instrumentality of *TWFTW* in the most effective manner. Our planning is directed towards ensuring that the results of our work and that of our partners will endure long after the present generation has ceased to be actively involved.

*TWFTW* would like to see the following permanent result of its efforts:

*The Word of God in an understandable format being easily accessible to all language groups on the face of earth.*

To this end, we want to ensure long term, lasting functionality for the benefit of Bible translation in the following ways:

- Build a core of trained and qualified indigenous Bible translators and consultants as well as leaders to take responsibility for every aspect of the work of Bible translation and related activities.
- Expand our mission of empowering nationals to function in the roles mentioned in the previous paragraph, to include empowering indigenous organizations and ministries to continue the work.
- Establish the principle that nationals are to be responsible for the work of mission including Bible translation and Bible translation consultation in their own communities.
- Provide leadership in helping the West to realize their role in being supportive of missionary activity in the Third World, without being directly involved in the activities. This will help solve the conundrum of most of the material resources coming from the West while the Third World has an unlimited resource of human potential.
- Serve as a bridge to enable Western resources to be allocated in a responsible manner in the Third World.

In this endeavor, we see ourselves in three roles: A servant of servants, a fellow servant, and a faithful servant.

### **1. A Servant of Servants**

*TWFTW* will be a champion for empowering nationals for Bible translation work. We will be a leading promoter of the transfer of ownership for Bible translation ministry work from expatriates to indigenous believers working in their own countries and regions.

### **2. A Fellow Servant**

Partnerships will continue to be critical to the future of worldwide Bible translation. *TWFTW* will thus remain dedicated to working within the community of all Bible agencies.

### **3. A Faithful Servant**

*TWFTW* will operate each Bible translation project for which we are given responsibility until we “finish well”. Our essential “finishing work” for each project may include (on a case by case basis): publication, distribution, literacy training, and Scripture engagement.

## **ABOUT US**

**The vision of *TWFTW*** is the glory of God through transformed lives by the power of his Word in everyone’s heart language.

**The mission of *TWFTW*** is to empower nationals to translate the entire Bible for their own people and to ensure its availability and accessibility.

**The ultimate outcome we desire** is that the Word of God would penetrate the fabric of society and bring about real transformation in the lives of the people, in cultures and nations.

## **TRACK RECORD**

- *TWFTW* is one of only a handful of agencies committed to translating a full Bible for as many of the 1,900 people groups as possible.
- *TWFTW* is the leading agency training nationals to translate the Bible. We have over 33 years of experience in training and employing nationals in Bible translation.
- *TWFTW* has graduated 136 people from our Bible translation training program, and provided some complementary training to 46 extra students from other agencies.
- *TWFTW* is instrumentally involved in 59 Bible translations, has published 1 Bible and 7 New Testament translations, and has completed first drafts of an additional 8 Bible and 26 New Testament translations.
- By following a strategy of empowering nationals, *TWFTW* has produced some of the most economic (in time and funding) translations in the world (it is cheaper to support three indigenous translators and their families in their own country, than to support an expatriate and his/her family in a foreign country; additionally a team of three nationals can translate the Bible faster than the traditional model of using one expatriate).

## **VISION 2050**

In August 2013, *TWFTW*'s leaders unanimously committed to being **instrumental in completing the translation of the entire Bible in 500 languages by 2050.**

### **Phase One: 2014 – 2016**

*TWFTW* will begin 30 new Bible translations in Ethiopia, India, Myanmar, Poland and Tanzania by training approximately 90 indigenous speakers of these languages to be translators.

### **Phase Two: 2017 – 2035**

Beyond Phase One, *TWFTW* will be instrumental in starting 410 additional projects. Based on our experience, we anticipate each full Bible translation to take about 15 years.

## **PLANNING REQUIREMENTS**

In order to be instrumental in another 440 projects by 2035, *TWFTW* is in the process of developing an implementation plan for the following functional areas:

### **Linguistic and Technical Tasks**

- Training:
  - Increase the intake of new students per year.
  - Recruit trainers, faculty and curriculum developers for increase in students.
  - Research new methods of training.
- Translation:
  - Translate average of 10% of Bible per year for future Bible translation projects.
  - Consultant-check average of 10% of Bible per year for future Bible translation projects.
- Ensure *TWFTW* Bible translations are published in written form within five years (of completion of translation/consultation work) and available in all media as soon as possible.
- Develop policies for Scripture engagement programs as needed.

### **Support Tasks**

- Establish adequate infrastructure (electrical power, effective communications, transportation and facilities) needed for all *TWFTW* projects.
- Establish additional administrative/organizational staffing requirements for the workload.
- Define requirements and raise funds for the comprehensive vision.
- Expand promotional work (personally, online, collecting testimonies from the field, etc.).
- Improve administrative practices.
- Improve financial budgeting and reporting procedures.
- Maintain and expand our influence in the world of Bible translation.

## **PARTNER INVOLVEMENT:**

Partners of *TWFTW*:

- Will receive regular communication and formal reports from us.
- Are invited to visit the projects.
- May invite indigenous translators to the US to build relationships and help raise funds.
- Will be invited to the dedication ceremonies for the New Testament and the Bible.

## **UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF TWFTW THAT FACILITATE OUR WORK. TWFTW:**

- 1. Is indigenous to Africa.** We originated in South Africa and grasp the cultural sensitivities of developing regions where we work (Africa, Asia, and central Europe). We have also been free to vary from the sometimes-ineffective Western methods of many Bible translation agencies.
- 2. Employs only indigenous translators.** Our commitment to empowering nationals to do the work is unparalleled in the world today, and it is yielding translations that are among the most accurate and readily accepted by indigenous believers.
- 3. Empowers nationals to be leaders.** All of our project leaders are nationals, and we are empowering nationals at all levels of Bible translation ministry (translators, consultants, and organizational leaders). We are committed to raising Third World leaders.
- 4. Requires indigenous churches to be integrally involved** in the work (identifying translator-candidates and reviewing translated Scriptures), support (finances and prayer), and Scripture engagement efforts, which result in a sense of project ownership among indigenous churches.
- 5. Runs a highly effective, affordable, mobile training program.** Our program (consisting of classroom, self-study and on-the-job training) merges academic rigor with hands-on experience, and is the equivalent of a 3-year degree from the *South African Theological Seminary (SATS)*.
- 6. Is achieving some of the highest Bible translation rates ever attained.** Many of our translation teams exceed 10% of the Bible translated per year. The New Testament alone has been translated in 3 years by many of our teams.
- 7. Creates short-term opportunities for expats.** We involve qualified people (who otherwise would remain outside the current fieldwork of Bible translation) to serve for short durations as trainers and consultants (who check the translations against the original Hebrew and Greek).
- 8. Trains nationals to be consultants.** To overcome the great lack of consultants in the world today, we created post-graduate studies for Bible translation consultants that are specifically oriented towards educating nationals, and offered through *SATS* distance learning programs.
- 9. Conducts group consultations.** Our innovative approach to conducting consultations, with as many as ten translation teams simultaneously, saves significant time and resources, and keeps us on the cutting edge of accelerating worldwide Bible translation.
- 10. Is trustworthy and transparent.** We are members of financial accountability, transparency, and translation forums and organizations such as *ECFA*, *IP*, and *FOBAI*. Our USA financial records are audited annually by *BiggsKofford*.

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR VISION 2050 (2014 – 2016)**

The estimated cost to implement VISION 2050 is based on the following average expenses for one Bible translation project:

<b>START UP EXPENSES</b>		<b>ANNUAL IN-COUNTRY EXPENSES</b>	
(one-time costs in addition to the annual expenses for the first year)		Salaries for national directors	4,000
Motorbike	4,400	Salaries for translation team (3)	4,760
Solar panel and/or generator	4,400	Travel and accommodation (translators)	1,650
Computers	3,740	Training (not annual TWFTW training)	330
Printers	770	Office and other running costs	6,600
Office furniture	165	Medical cost of staff	165
Software and books	825	Repairs to equipment	275
Building costs	2,200	Administrative support	2,200
<b>TOTAL START UP COST</b>	<b>\$16,500</b>	Review committee meetings	3,300
		Annual training	3,275
		Publication	3,400
		Literacy program	2,230
		<b>TOTAL IN-COUNTRY EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$32,185</b>
		<b>ANNUAL SUPPORT BASE EXPENSES</b>	
		Consultations (travel/accommodation)	6,600
		Preparation and administration	7,500
		Contingency	3,715
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

In order to fulfill the vision to which we believe God has called us, *TWFTW* must raise the following funds (broken out by functional category) within the next three years.

**1. Training Translators:**

- **Goal:** Empower indigenous leaders from 30 new language communities to translate the Bible into their own languages.
- **How:** Recruit, train and assist indigenous Bible translators. Local churches and ministries recommend (and partially support) students. Recruit faculty from within *TWFTW* and individual/ministry partners. Run a mobile training course to train nationals to accurately translate the Bible into their own languages. Students continue training via Bible translation consultants and formal courses offered by *TWFTW* and partner agencies.
- **Cost:** \$252,567

## 2. Training Consultants:

- **Goal:** Enable ten individuals to serve as Bible translation consultants.
- **How:** Train individuals (mostly nationals) to check translations in their own or related languages. Consultants-in-training complete an orientation course, academic requirements and internships in actual Bible translation projects.
- **Cost:** \$234,000

## 3. Translation Projects:

- **Goal:** Support the operation of 30 new, “full-scale” (aimed at translating the entire Bible) translation projects.
- **How:** Support projects organizationally (with infrastructure for financial support, coordination, etc.), professionally (via consultants who assist the translators in producing quality translations), and technically (assisting in publication and recording of Scripture).
- **Cost:** \$3,007,850

## 4. Publication:

- **Goal:** Publish 4 complete, first-time Bible translations as well as 15 first-time New Testament translations.
- **How:** *TWFTW* currently supports 59 full-scale Bible translation projects. Within the next three years, the entire Bible is projected to be published (in either audio, digital or print versions) for the first time in 4 of these languages in Ethiopia, and the New Testament for the first time in 15 languages in Ethiopia, India, Malawi, Slovakia, Tanzania and Zambia.
- **Cost:** \$204,000

## 5. Capacity Building:

- **Goal:** Expand *TWFTW*'s capacity to keep pace with the growth in the ministry.
- **How:** Upgrade *TWFTW*'s infrastructure, adding administrative/organizational staff for the projected increase in workload. Explore alternate fundraising models, expand *TWFTW*'s promotional work, improve administrative/financial & budgeting/reporting practices, and develop new ways to maintain and expand our influence in the field of Bible translation.
- **Cost:** \$3,975,000

**TOTAL COST FOR FIRST THREE YEARS OF VISION 2050: \$7,673,417**

**Last updated 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**