

The WAM Report

From Wendy And Mike Buchanan Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in computing and accounting at the JAARS Center, Waxhaw, North Carolina

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State of the Bible 2022 report!!

As we look back on 2022, we rejoice in how God is moving in the area of Bible translation. This last year has seen record-breaking progress in Bible translation around the world, with new work started in 367 languages – a rate of one a day, and the highest leap on record! As of today, work is in progress in a remarkable 2,846 languages! This current work impacts 1.11 billion people or about 15 percent of all language users.



In addition to the 732 languages which have the full Bible and 1,622 languages which have the complete New Testament, there are 1,248 languages which have portions of Scriptures!

In Central African Republic (CAR) and the Republic of Congo, where Michael continues to serve as the bookkeeper for each SIL group, there is much to be grateful for.

- In CAR, three New Testaments were dedicated in 2022 and are now in the hands of the people in these language communities.
- Two New Testaments are currently in the typesetting phase and will soon be printed.
- Eight new Bible translation projects were started in 2022.
- In Congo, six translation projects are busy drafting different books of the New Testament.
- The Kituba translators are pushing towards completion of the whole Bible.



A woman reads from her Bible during a church service inside a refugee settlement in Uganda. Photo by Marc Ewell .

HelpDesk/Google administration—New Roles for Michael!

Global help desk: This past year, I (Michael) joined the global helpdesk team which supports the email and computer needs for SIL International members (Wycliffe's primary partner organization for the implementation of language development and Bible translation strategies.) On any given day, I might help someone having trouble accessing one of our corporate systems or I might advise someone on the best practices for using a specific application like Zoom or Smartsheets. I enjoy the variety of the work as well as the chance to interact with people in various parts of the world. Even though we are called the Global help desk, most of us are working here in the United States—which means occasionally having to meet with someone late at night or early in the morning to accommodate time zone realities of talking with someone on the other side of the globe!

Google administration: I am also part of a team of six (all part-time, juggling other responsibilities) that manages the corporate Google Workspace (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Calendar, Groups, etc.) and especially the Google email accounts — More than 5,800 accounts! Most of the time I help people with their account access and Gmail, including password or 2 Step Verification (2SV) difficulties and creation/migration/deletion of accounts. I also look through quarantined email messages that the system flags for possible spam/phishing or suspicious attachments, deciding whether to allow the messages to go through or deny/reject them. Then there are the special requests to process or strange error messages that need to be solved.

