



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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Answered Prayer: Vision 2025, Then and Now

NOTE: The article below is a copy of a Wycliffe.org blog post from January 2024. See more at <https://wycliffe.org/vision-2025>

Whether you've been aware of Wycliffe for six months or more than 60 years, you've probably heard about Vision 2025. It was a bold decision made in 1999 by Wycliffe and SIL International (our primary partner) to adopt a God-sized vision that a translation program would be in progress in every language still needing one by the year 2025.

At the time, it was believed that this would require 3,000 translations to start over the next 25 years.

This felt huge and very likely overwhelming for many people. How could the pace of new language engagements increase that significantly? The highest total number of new language engagements to that point had been 25 per year in 1992. But that's why it was a bold decision made in faith and confidence that this could only be achieved through God's hand at work in and among His Church.

In a [Christianity Today article](#) published in 2005, Freddy Boswell — then the international translation coordinator for SIL International — shared this: "Not long after Vision 2025 was adopted, I was meeting with one of our partner organizations. They said to me, 'What's the biggest need of Vision 2025?' I said it was finding enough prayer partners. In fact, John Watters, our international executive director, has said, 'Prayer is our greatest strategic response and our greatest resource.' To see Vision 2025 happen is going to take a new host of people involved in prayer like we've never seen before and a lot of creative strategies."

That's exactly what has happened — people from around the world have prayed and worked together to see Scripture made available for all people in a language and format they clearly understand.

Because of this — a foundation of prayer and intentionally working in collaboration and partnership with other like-minded organizations — Bible translation has accelerated. From 1999-2003, there was an average of more than 64 new language engagements per year. In 2004, Wycliffe personnel were involved in starting 82 out of the 93 new projects — the highest in Bible translation history at that time!

For more than 80 years, Wycliffe, SIL and like-minded organizations have led efforts to advance Bible translation around the world. But that's changing!

Today the local church is raising up and asking for — and sometimes even starting — Bible translation themselves.

And they don't want to wait for the work to start; they want to start it now.

Wycliffe desires to continue saying "yes" when churches ask us to partner with them. God is moving faster than we've ever seen before in the history of Bible translation! In 2018, Wycliffe was engaged with 336 languages; as of Jan. 1, 2024, we're now engaged with 1,633.

All around the world, communities, countries and even entire regions are working together to ensure that all remaining languages are engaged with Scripture sooner rather than later. Over the last few years, we have seen a significant acceleration in new language engagements.

- May 2019 to May 2021: A new language was engaged every five days.
- May 2021 to May 2023: A new language was engaged every 30 hours.
- Today: On average, a new language is engaged every 17 hours!

We are living in a season of seeing God answer our prayers. Vision 2025 is within our grasp, and the remaining languages still waiting for a Bible translation project to be started could be engaged for the first time.


We would like to introduce you to Buck, a young man of 19 who grew up in foster care for 7 years with friends of ours and is now living with us. He is a delightful young man to have around; he loves Jesus, doing math proofs, caring for plants and just learning in general. He is very excited to be doing lawn care for our very large JAARS campus! Please pray that God will accomplish His plans and purposes in his life. Thank you SO much!



We have been sharing the gospel with students at a local college. We use a sign offering them free Chick-fil-a gift cards (popular restaurant) if they answer 12 questions. It is both spiritually exhilarating and at the same time physically and emotionally exhausting.

The majority of students are eager to talk about the Bible, God, and how to get to heaven. We've had the privilege of giving Bibles to a Jewish girl, a Hindu young man, a Muslim and a few atheists, and challenging them to read the Bible and ask God to show them what is the truth. Pray with us God's promise that His word will not return void but will accomplish that which He purposes!

Wendy and Mike Buchanan



We praise God:

- For the progress in Bible translation around the world.
- For all of you, our partners in ministry who give and pray for us in this work.
- Our personal monthly financial needs are being met.

Please pray:

- That God will bring more IT skilled people into missions. There is a big need right now, especially for project managers and developers in (back-end developers in particular).
- For God to accomplish his plans and purposes in Buck's life.
- For wisdom for us in how to help Buck in this stage of his life.
- For ideas of where to find college students with whom we can share God's plan of salvation through Jesus this summer.

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