

# *Vision for the World in 2021*



**T**ranslating the Bible is slow work. It takes a long time to translate just one language and the world is a big place. There are over 7,000 languages. Even though, the Bible has been translated into many of these, there are still over 3,900 languages that have Scripture, according to Wycliffe. A lot of people speak, read, and write those languages with no Scripture. They live, labor, and love without any Bible to give them guidance or wisdom. In many situations, they do not even have a missionary or a Christian nearby to give them the gospel. In addition to those, there are Bibles in some languages that were poorly translated and need new translations. Also, some Bibles were translated using inferior Greek texts and these also need new translations. The job is enormous.

The work of Global Bible Translators is to help give the Bible to them all. To us, it is a great challenge to look at the needs of the world. No human being is adequate to meet those needs, but our almighty God is. Our goal is to increase the number of Received Text based, Authorized-Version equivalent, Bible translations in as many languages as possible. So, in 2021, we are looking to extend our reach beyond the twelve or so languages that our ministry has touched so far: Burmese, Arabic, Korean, German, Mandarin Chinese, Isan (Thailand), Cebuano (Philippines), Telugu (India), Malayalam (India), Swahili (East Africa), Ewe (West Africa), and Guarani (Paraguay). Despite the pandemic, lock downs, and restricted travel of 2020, the foundations of two new projects were laid, Swahili and Malayalam.

Therefore, there is a great deal of work to do in 2021 on new and existing projects. These are some of our thoughts and plans. Lord willing, they will be accomplished in 2021. **First**, we must encourage Guarani translation team to finish the translation of the Book of Romans. When this is done and both John and Romans are sufficiently reviewed, a bi-lingual Spanish/Guarani John/Romans booklet will be printed. We pray this can be accomplished in 2021. **Second**, it appears that the Telugu whole Bible can be printed in 2021. We plan to attend a celebration of the Telugu Bible in India this year. **Third**, a trip to India will be necessary to train the translators of the Malayalam Bible and encourage the churches. **Fourth**, a trip to east Africa will help encourage and train the new translators of the Swahili Bible. **Fifth**, we must encourage the other translators to continue and prosper.

In addition, we pray that God will open new doors. We have a beginning relationship with some of the pastors and Bible institute instructors in Kerala State, India. There are students there whose mother tongues do not have a Bible. We would love to help start translation projects in these languages. In India, there are thirty-four languages and fifty people groups that have no published Scripture, according to [peoplegroups.org](http://peoplegroups.org). That amounts to about 19 million people. All of these people are considered to be unreached by the gospel of Jesus Christ, as less than 2% of their population is born again. Forty-two of these groups (3.5 million people) have not had ANY church planting efforts in the last two years, as far as is known. Five groups (1.5 million people) have had initial church planting efforts in the last two years. Only three groups have had extensive church planting and that includes the deaf (almost 13 million), but there is still no Bible. The need is great. Please pray that God will open doors and burden hearts about the evangelism and Bible translation needs of these people.