



DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

# WYCLIFFE CARIBBEAN



# Winning the World with the Word





**W**e are so grateful to our awesome God! We learned early in the year that the Wycliffe Global Alliance Prayer Advocacy group had identified the focus for Wycliffe World Day of Prayer in November as “Shalom”. Never would anyone have known how much throughout the entire world that we would need to hold on to God’s Peace as COVID-19 struck every continent and almost every nation on earth. On a not so catastrophic note, Wycliffe Caribbean was delivered with the news shortly before Christmas Eve that a major source of funding for the Jamaica Old Testament project to commence in January 2020 was no longer available.

However, despite this and the restrictions, lockdowns and stringent protocols regarding travel, face to face meetings, workshops, camps, conferences, projects and conventions God has delivered and accomplished many things through us over the last eleven months to which only He can get the glory. And to top it off, the Book of Jonah has been completed! We look forward to publication in a few weeks.

We serve a mighty God who is not contained or restrained by any force on earth. He has placed us on an amazing journey with believers together in a community of unity, hope, love and faith in the One who makes this possible through His sacrifice on the cross. The One whose birth we celebrate at this time of the year, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The highlights that follow will give you an indication of some of what took place since January 2020, as a testimony of the goodness of our Lord.

Thanks to you for your support in various ways, especially your prayers.

*John Roomes*  
CEO

## OUR MISSIONARIES

Serving locally, regionally and globally have been kept safe so far and we give thanks to God for His goodness.

Our field missionaries are located in:

- Africa
- South East Asia
- Canada
- Poland

Our missionaries serving the Caribbean region and beyond are located in:

- Barbados
- Jamaica
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Trinidad & Tobago

## TRANSLATION UPDATE

Complete Bible: 704  
+ New Testament: 1551  
+ Portions: 1160  
= 3415

Languages with  
some Scripture

wycliffe.net/resources/statistics  
Oct 2020

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of Bible translation has continued. Wycliffe Organizations worldwide, have found creative ways to continue working and moving projects forward. Not all projects are continuing at the same pace but we are thankful for the work that has been accomplished since December 2020.

## What is the need at this time?

### Languages with no Scripture as at October 2020

#### 3945 languages with no Scripture - 255 million people

- 738 languages have work in progress - 65.4 million people
- 1193 languages are not vital enough to plan translation work - 20.8 million people
- 2014 languages need translation (or preparatory work) to begin - 167 million people

## BIBLE TRANSLATION NEED

1.5 billion people, speaking 6656 languages, do not have a *full Bible* in their first language

#### 167 million people, speaking 2014 languages, still need translation work to begin

- Africa - 597 languages, 20 million people
- Americas - 120 languages, 2.6 million people
- Asia - 836 languages, 141 million people
- Europe - 60 languages, 2.9 million people
- Pacific - 401 languages, 0.44 million people





## JANUARY

### AMERICAS AREA MEETINGS IN MEXICO

The Executive Director, John Roomes, joined with Leaders of Organizations in the Wycliffe Americas Area for a time of reflection and reporting in early January as they sought to re-energise and strategize for a new year.

### LAUNCH OF WESTERN CARIBBEAN OLD TESTAMENT PROJECT (JAMAICAN OLD TESTAMENT)

Several Pastors and denominational leaders gathered at the launch of the Jamaican Old Testament Project 2020, the largest Bible translation project to ever be undertaken in the Western Hemisphere to benefit 9 million speakers of Jamaican Creole – in the seven Caribbean, South & Central American nations and the Diaspora in North America and the UK. The gathering took place at Hope Fellowship Church in Kingston, Jamaica on January 29 and was well endorsed by those who attended the event.

Representatives from the following denominations and Churches were in attendance:

- Church of Christ in Jamaica
- Church of God in Jamaica
- Church of the First Born Inc
- Fellowship Tabernacle
- International Church of the Foursquare

- Missionary Church Association in Jamaica
- Open Bible Standard Churches
- Power of Faith
- Wesleyan Holiness Church

Also attending were representatives from the

- United Theological College of the West Indies
- United Bible Societies
- Jamaica Theological Seminary
- Jamaica Youth for Christ
- Deeper Life School of Evangelism

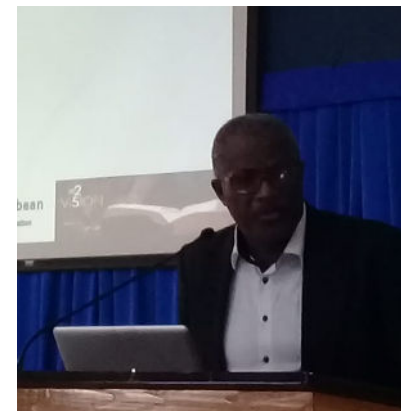
Other denominations unable to attend but giving their endorsement included:

- Associated Gospel Assemblies
- Church of the Nazarene
- Christian Brethren Assemblies of Jamaica



- Jamaica Methodist Church
- New Covenant Bible Chapel
- New Testament Church of God
- The Jamaica Baptist Union
- The Moravian Church of Jamaica
- The Roman Catholic Church
- The Seventh Day Adventist Church

During that same week, the first Bible translation workshop for the Jamaican Old Testament was held at Mona Baptist Church, in Kingston Jamaica. Twenty-three enthusiastic participants in addition to Wycliffe Caribbean staff attended the Workshop in Kingston. The group included trainee translators, reviewers and Oral Bible Storytellers from across the island. This workshop produced five Bible translators for the Jamaican Old Testament Project, comprised three men and two ladies.





## FEBRUARY - MAY

### LIVE GENEROUSLY CONFERENCE | ORLANDO

John and Denise Roomes attended the Live Generously Conference in Orlando in February 2020 representing Wycliffe Caribbean

#### What is Live Generously 2020?



Live Generously is a week of fellowship, information-sharing and strategizing with international fundraising colleagues. It provides the opportunity to learn from experienced and skilled fund development staff from across the Bible translation movement.

The content of the meetings included opportunities to hear about fundraising strategies from other organizations, to seek advice on our fundraising strategies, as well as to meet with Wycliffe USA staff from all areas (including Advancement, Recruitment, Marketing, etc.), to assist in building our network.

It also provided times of sharing with other Wycliffe Organizations on what was happening in their work with Bible translation. It was encouraging to find out that many of our challenges are similar and our needs are the same. It was a great time to meet and get acquainted with others serving in Wycliffe Organizations and other partnering Organizations from across the world.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

We continued to forge ahead with new partnerships and deepen our relationships with existing networks. The Language Development Division (LDD) participated in a session put on by one of our new partners, the Peace Corps, as we shared in a Jamaican language session with some of the members of staff. Further interaction was stalled due to the pandemic.

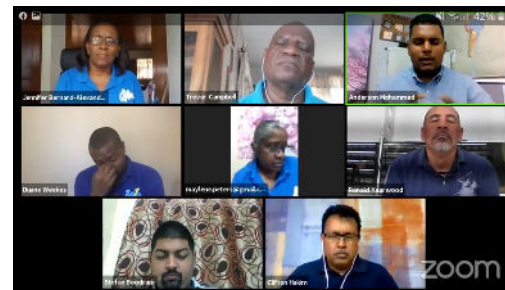


The Division continued to support the work of authentic literacy by participating once again in Jamaica Day with Marlie Mount Primary School in St. Catherine and Woodford Infant and Primary School in the hills of rural St. Andrew. Our participation at both events was well received.



A strong link was formed with the St Vincent and Grenadines Wycliffe Team with national newspapers in that island as a forum to promote the work of Bible translation in that nation. The Team Leader, Frances Clarke used that medium to submit an article on that island's role in Bible translation. It is hoped that it will be one of the ongoing strategies used in that island to engage the Church in SVG in wider participation in embracing the work of Bible translation, regionally and globally.

The Trinidad Wycliffe Team was first out of the blocks to hold a virtual Next Step Missions Camp in Trinidad, on May 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Several Mission organizations made presentations and a panel discussion was also a feature of the programme. The event was hosted on the Facebook Live platform.



## JUNE

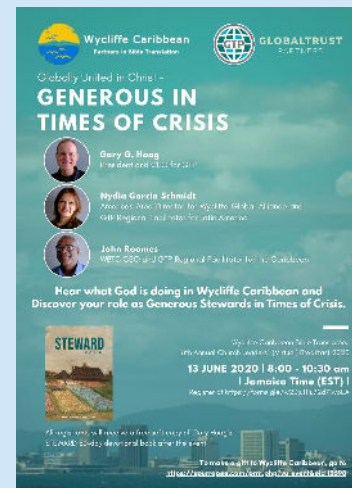
### ANNUAL CHURCH LEADERS' BREAKFAST 2020

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic the Head Office team undertook to host a two hour Annual Church Leaders' Breakfast on June 13 themed, Globally United in Christ: Generous in Times of Crisis. This was done in partnership with Global Trust Partners and Wycliffe Americas Area. As a virtual event it provided a broader reach globally and gave us the opportunity to have two international speakers present as well as to entertain live feedback.. It was our first attempt into the foray of hosting an online event.

The Breakfast attracted over 110 registrations with attendees from several Caribbean islands, South and Central America, USA, Canada, and Hawaii with as many as 86 actually attending. Some individuals faced technical connectivity issues as well as scheduling issues as

well as having other commitments starting during the Breakfast.

The presentations were very good and engaging. Nydia Garcia Schmidt, (Wycliffe Americas Area) speaking on God's Generosity to His People and Gary Hoag (Global Trust Partners) on Six New Testament Tips for Stewards to be Generous in Times of Crisis. The discussions following the presentations were lively and stimulating. Several persons indicated interest in participating with Wycliffe Caribbean in various ways following the event.



## CARIBBEAN SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT CONVENTION



Wycliffe Caribbean held its first two-day Caribbean Scripture Engagement Convention on June 25 - 26, 2020, spearheaded by the Language Development Division. The mission of this event was to stimulate interest in the use of Caribbean translated Scriptures, especially among pastors, church and ministry leaders. The

Convention was held virtually via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 pandemic

A total of 159 participants registered with an attendance on Day 1 of 75 and on Day 2 of 65 participants. The participants represented 23 countries: Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curaçao, El Salvador, French Guyana, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, USA and Zambia. The attendees engaged in lively conversation in the chat box and expressed their appreciation for the different presentations and the event as a whole.

Presentations were made by:

- Belize Kriol Bible Translation Project
- Faith Comes By Hearing
- San Andres Bible Translation Programme
- The Seed Company - Oral Bible Storytelling Division

- United Bible Societies
- Wycliffe Caribbean
- Wycliffe Global Alliance

The programme included:

- The Mother Tongue in Ministry
- Stories from the Caribbean - New Testament translators from Belize & San Andres
- Oral Bible Storytelling
- Tools for Scripture use in the Heart Language

## JULY

### ORAL BIBLE STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

[Network of Bible Storytellers International](#)

In 2019, Wycliffe Caribbean in collaboration with Jim & Janet Stahl, of the Seed Company, held its first set of Oral Bible Storytelling Workshops which presented a creative and captivating way of sharing the stories of the Bible in many settings including Bible study, Sunday School, discipleship and evangelism allowing the Scriptures to come alive and connect with God, deep down in the recesses of the heart and ignite transformation.

Out of these workshops, participants that attended indicated their interest to continue using this medium in various settings. Baron Higgins, a member of the team participated in the Oral Bible Storytelling Festival International put on by Network of Bible Storytellers International telling the story of Jonah (Juona) in the Jamaican language. His presentation was well received by the virtual international audience. This event was held on July 31.

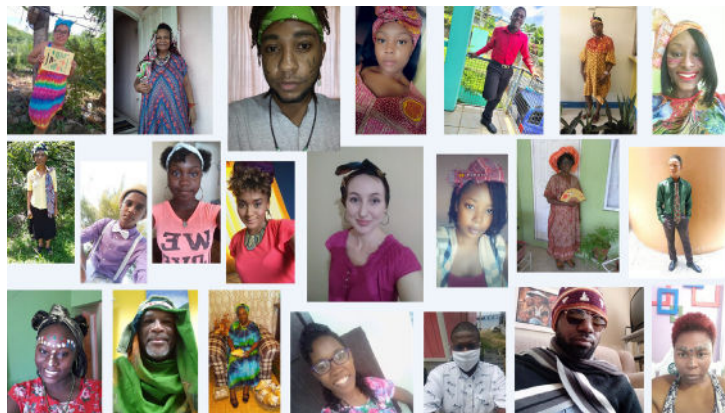


Since then, Wycliffe Caribbean was recommended to participate virtually in a series at Dallas International University, formerly GIAL in a series focusing on Bible storytelling and orality. A five- member team presented Exodus 1-3 in Oral Bible Storytelling format on November 18 to encourage the students to use creative and exciting oral methods to present the Gospel.

## AUGUST

### WYNET CAMP

Our first Virtual Wycliffe Youth Network Camp (WYnet Camp) was held August 10-14, 2020, via Zoom. Ruth Smith-Sutherland (*Director of Operations, Wycliffe Caribbean*) headed up the efforts to make this year's camp a reality.



WYnet Camp exists to bring awareness to cross-cultural Missions and Bible translation and help young people of the Caribbean using their gifts and skills to become involved. The camp has been instrumental over the years in mobilizing young people to step into Missions.

It was wonderful to see many of those who have been involved in past WYnet Camps participate and fill various leadership roles this year, including Amir Woolery, Dana Barrett, Denzil Greaves, Exford Davy, Moniqueca Campbell, and Raymond Lindsay.

There were two sessions daily, at 10 am – 12 pm and 3 pm – 5 pm. While the morning sessions were mostly informative, the afternoon sessions were more interactive. Sessions in the morning included sessions, the 8 Biblical Mission Principles, Roles in Bible translation, and Presentation and Testimony on “Next Steps”.

The afternoon sessions included presentations from missionaries, a missionary panel discussion, team activities and games, group discussions (“Taak Op Chuut”), and prayer. In addition to these elements, each session opened with a music playlist featuring Christian artistes from across the Caribbean and the world.

Fifty-one young people participated, representing four nations (Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines).

## SIL INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SUMMIT

With overseas travel more or less non-existent, most international conventions and conferences did not take place. Some attempts were made to recreate these events into shorter virtual activities. Wycliffe Caribbean had the opportunity for the very first time to attend the SIL Media Summit which dealt with creative digital

strategies being used by various organizations to spread the Gospel. The event spanned portions of two days with representatives from all over the world.

Areas of focus included:

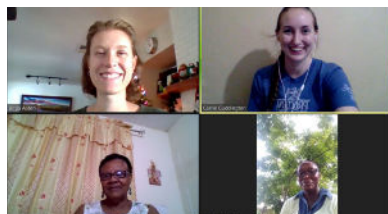
- Digital distribution
- Illustration
- Localization Media Arts
- Dubbing of Films

The Conference brought about the opportunity to network with other organizations that were willing to offer their areas of expertise to the wider group. Wycliffe Caribbean is slated to benefit from collaboration with ABR Media, IMS and BLOOM organizations that participated in the Summit.

## SEPTEMBER

### FAITH COMES BY HEARING

In our ongoing partnership with Faith Comes by Hearing, the Organization has offered to partner with Wycliffe Caribbean in making the Jamaican New Testament available to a larger number of people. They are doing this by shipping 200 Proclaimers and 300



Bible Sticks for distribution, which will happen early next year. They are also training Wycliffe Caribbean staff to execute social media campaigns to facilitate listening to the Bible on a

regular basis. Both the tools and training are being accompanied by funding to help us promote and make available to as many as possible the Word of God in the Jamaican Creole.

We said goodbye to Nico Doelman who served as Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean. We will not forget his efforts to serve the Caribbean in the area of oral media to promote clear understanding in the heart languages of people. He has been replaced by Birga Alden.



### VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

The Barbados Wycliffe Team hosted Passion for Missions in Barbados on September 12. Presentations were well received. Feedback indicated that "The presentations were excellent and spoke directly to the heart. There was a great mix between inspiration and information. It really reinforced the importance of recommitting to do everything in my power to play my part in getting God's Word to those who need to hear it most."

## OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

### ONE DAY EXPLORE WYCLIFFE

Wycliffe Caribbean continued its local ONE DAY EXPLORE Workshops in 2020. After a break of five months due to the

pandemic, Modules 3 and 4 were held virtually in October and November respectively. Nine individuals were presented with certificates of participation on November 30. Participants expressed the impact that the sessions had on their spiritual lives as well as the great eye opener it was to them in serving God fully in a global context. Please pray for these individuals as they contemplate further involvement in the area of cross-cultural Missions and Bible translation. As we commence a new round of training in 2021 virtually, we anticipate participation from the wider Caribbean and beyond.

## WYCLIFFE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



**W**ycliffe Caribbean participated in Wycliffe World Day of Prayer as the nations where Wycliffe Caribbean has teams worked with Churches and individuals to engage them in praying for the work of Bible translation. Since most Churches were restricted in terms of the numbers to meet, Churches used various ways to pray for Bible translation not only on November 11 but throughout the month and beyond.

The formats included:

- All Night Prayer meetings – in person
- Churches invited their members to pray throughout the day
- Focus in weekly Fasting and Prayer meetings – in person
- Prayer for Wycliffe in Whatsapp groups
- Voice note prayer
- A radio station created a Whatsapp group for the day of Prayer as well as had prayer live on air for Wycliffe on various days
- Live prayer on Facebook Live
- Zoom Prayer Meetings
- Combined prayer meetings with various churches in specific zones

# LOOK OUT FOR



## ONE DAY EXPLORE WORKSHOPS IN 2021

An excellent training opportunity for:

- Individuals interested in being career missionaries
- Preparing Missions and Evangelism Teams to serve efficiently and effectively
- Preparation for short-term Missions
- Understanding the call of the whole Church to the whole world.

**Sign up for the Upcoming  
PROCLAIMER MINISTRY  
WORKSHOP IN JANUARY  
2021**



*Thanks to all those who contributed to the work of Wycliffe Caribbean throughout the year.*

Contributions may be made online or directly to:


**WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS  
CARIBBEAN (JAMAICA)  
BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA  
LIGUANEA BRANCH  
478512**

Cheques may be mailed to:

**Wycliffe Bible Translators  
7-7A South Avenue, Swallowfield  
Kingston 5 JAMAICA, W. I.**

For queries or other information:

**Please call us as (876) 754-9334 / (876) 908-2970**



**Jiizas Baan!**

**LUUK 2:8-14**

Da nait de, som shepad did a luk aafa dem shiip iina wan fiil, nier we Mieri dem did de. Wan a di Laad ienjel dem kom tu di shepad dem. Wan brait brait lait fram Gad kova dem an it mek dem fraithn so til. So di ienjel tel dem se, "No fried! Mi av gud nyuuz fi unu. Nyuuz we a-go mek evribadi api. Di wan we a-go siev unu baan tide iina di toun we Dievid kom fram. Im a Kraiss, di Laad. Mi a-go tel unu wa unu a-go si, so wen unu si dat unu a-go nuo se a im. Unu a-go si wan biebi rap op iina wan biebi blangkit an a lidong iina di baks we di animal dem nyam outa." Aal av a sodn uol iip a ienjel fram evn, jain im. Dem did a priez di Laad an se, "Priez Gad we de a evn, an piis fi evribadi we Gad api wid."