

illumina**Nations** ASIA
an alliance of Bible translation partners

ALL
NATIONS
WILL
COME
TO
YOUR

light

ISAIAH 60:3 (NLT)

What language did you grow up speaking at home?

English?

普通話?

ي ح ص ف ل ا ة ي ب ر ع ل ا ؟

español?

tagalog?

Whatever it is, think about how *personal* that language is to you.

It's part of your identity because you learned it at an early age from those who love and care for you most.

It formed within you naturally.

If you're like most people around the world, even if you know more than one language, it's in that formative language that you process your *deepest* thoughts and emotions.

Now imagine ...

how hard it must be for the hundreds of millions of people around the world who don't have the Bible in the language they understand best.





illumiNations

is a movement of Bible translation agencies and resource partners working together to see all people gain access to God's Word in a language that speaks to their heart in this generation. We desire to see every human heart experience the Bible in a language that is most personal and intimate to them.



Elhomwe Language, Malawi

Language...

it binds us together but, ever since the tower of Babel, it has also been keeping us apart. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples of all nations. The barrier of thousands of languages has made this a great challenge. Yet over the past 2,300 years, God has faithfully paved the way for the translation of His Word so that all may know.

ILLUMINATIONS IS ON MISSION TO ENSURE EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD ON EARTH HAS ACCESS TO GOD'S WORD AND ITS LIFE-CHANGING HOPE BY 2033.



MOTHER TONGUE TRANSLATORS

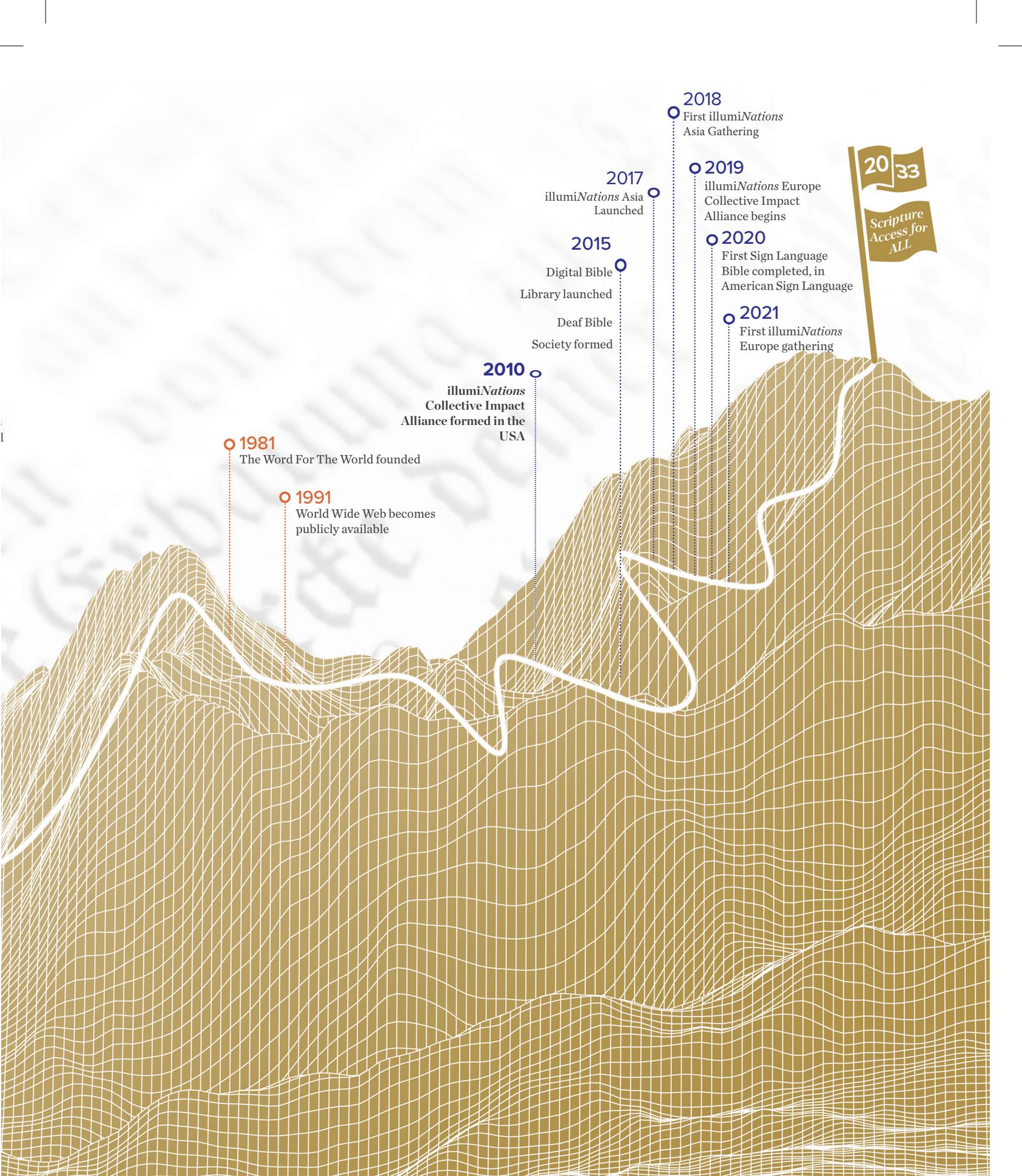
Earliest to 1800s

Period of 2,080 years

MISSIONARY TRANSLATORS

1800s to mid-1900s

Period of 150 years



1981
The Word For The World founded

1991
World Wide Web becomes publicly available

2010
illumiNations Collective Impact Alliance formed in the USA

2015
Digital Bible Library launched
Deaf Bible Society formed

2017
illumiNations Asia Launched

2018
First illumiNations Asia Gathering

2019
illumiNations Europe Collective Impact Alliance begins

2020
First Sign Language Bible completed, in American Sign Language

2021
First illumiNations Europe gathering



BIBLE TRANSLATION AGENCIES
Mid-1900s to 2000
Period of 50 years

COLLABORATION BY THE GLOBAL CHURCH
2000 to Present Day
21 years and counting down to 2033!



illumiNations' desire is that every person on Earth would one day have access to an up-to-date, full translation of the Bible in a language they think in, dream in and pray in and each of the alliance partners is contributing translation efforts toward accomplishing this colossal goal.

To help make this possible, illumiNations has assumed a more targeted role in that it strives to provide some Scripture to every person on Earth by 2033, at which time:

95%

of the world's population will have access to a full Bible.

99.96%

of the world's population will have access to a New Testament.

100%

of the world's population will have access to at least some portion of the Scripture.

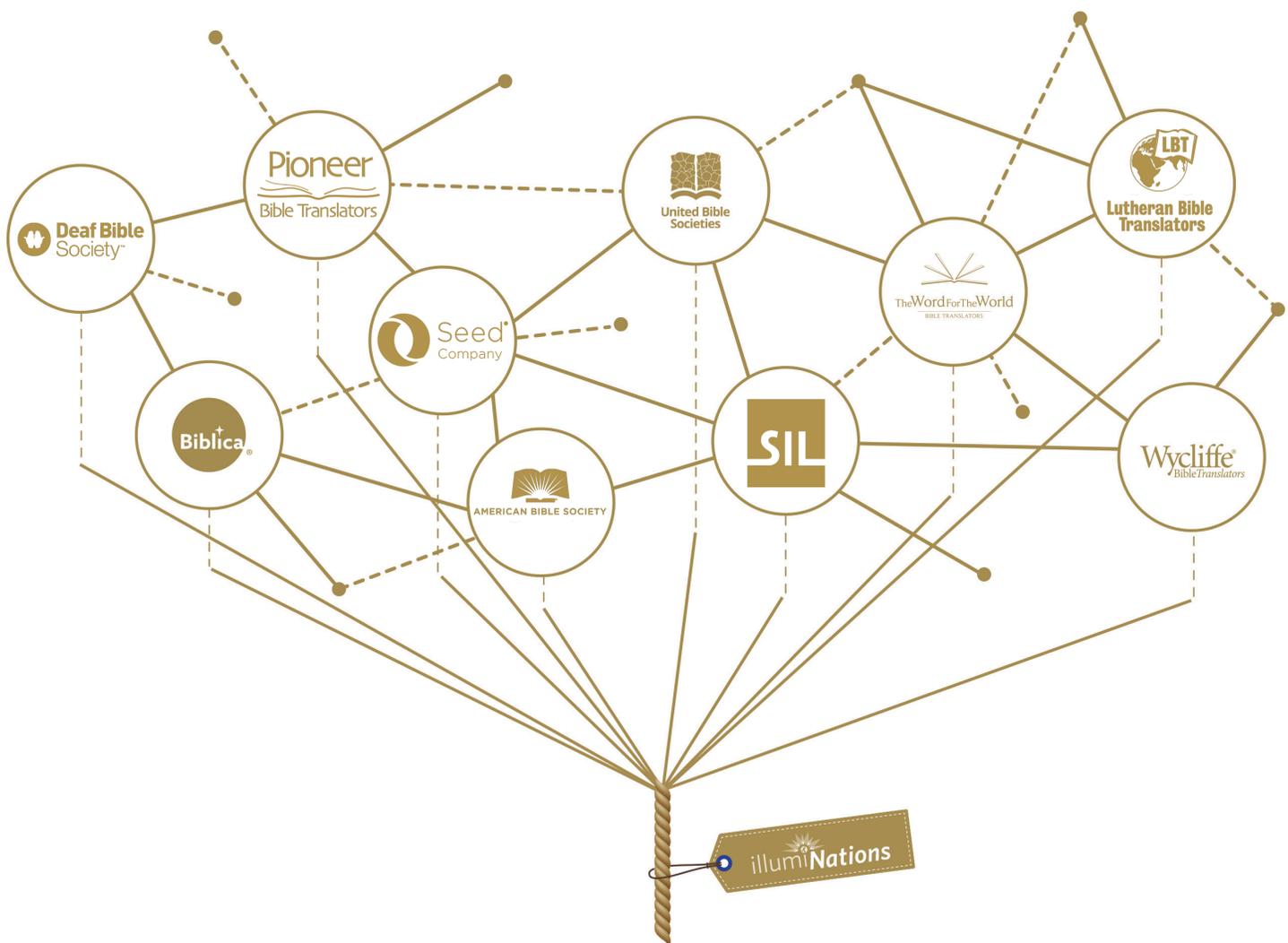
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full Bible translations will be available in the world's most strategic 100 written languages

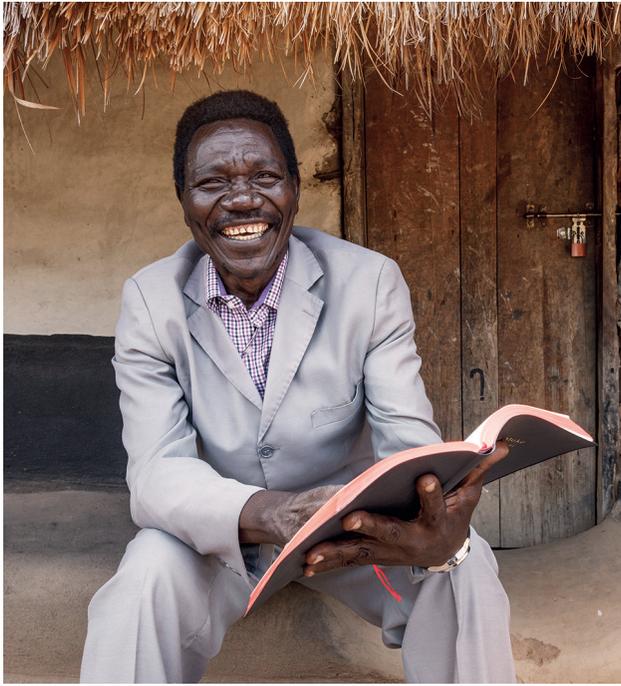
BUT GOALS ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH

To bring together multiple organisations with one single focus requires exceptional collaboration and coordination.

The strength of a multi-stranded cord depends on the strength of each individual strand and how the strands are woven together. Strong, healthy individual organisations, working together, strengthen the collective impact of the illumiNations alliance.



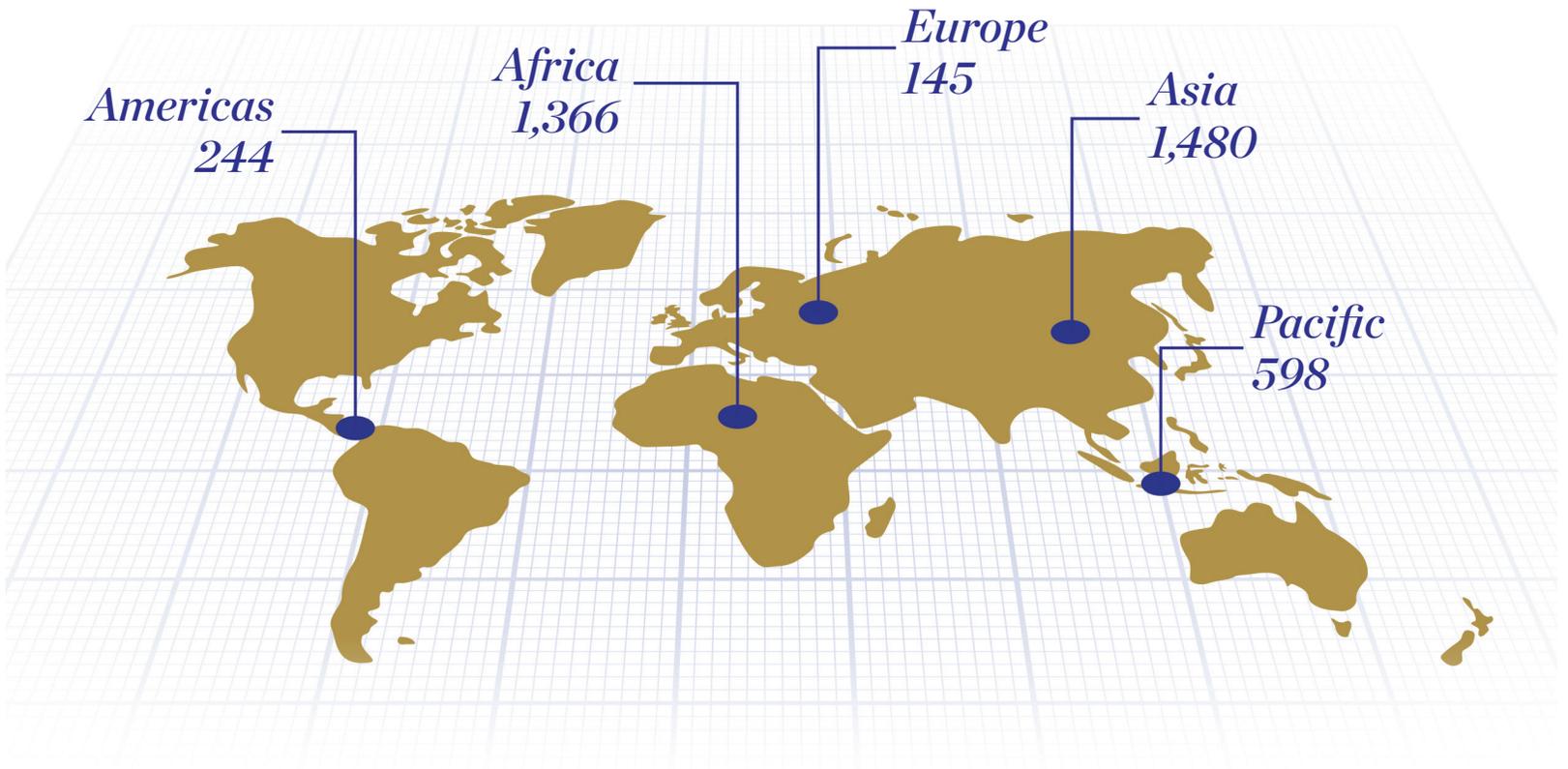
Earlier estimates suggested it would take 150 years to provide all people access to Scripture. But today, because of the unprecedented unity between alliance partners, and the partnership of investors around the world, the goal is now 2033.



Today, God's Word is *reaching and transforming* people, communities and even whole nations

at an accelerated pace the world has never seen. Through the illumiNations alliance, leading Bible translation agencies are unifying their efforts and riding the technological revolution. Together, we understand the greatest example of generosity is The Cross, so we offer back to God all that we have and are. The global Church, with its members working in complementary fashion, stands on the verge of bringing Scripture to every nation, tribe, people and language on Earth.

OF THE 7,000+ LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN THE WORLD TODAY,
APPROXIMATELY 3,833 HAVE LITTLE OR NO SCRIPTURE.



GOD WILL HAVE THE ULTIMATE VICTORY, DRAWING ALL PEOPLE UNTO HIM!

All nations will come to your light.

ISAIAH 60:3A (NLT)

Who determines the need?

The local community represented by the local Church. In areas where God's Church is not yet formed, mission partners work with the local community to establish the Church and collaborate to confirm the need for Bible translation.

What is translated first?

The portion of Scriptures most likely to create immediate impact for church planting, worship, discipleship and social justice issues often represent initial translation goals. Goals differ depending on the spiritual, religious, social, economic and historical context of the language community.

What about sign languages?

There are over 350 sign languages globally. Sign Language Bible translation is done as a video series of either chronological Bible stories of select portions of Scripture or by each book of the Bible. In 2020, we celebrated the first sign language to have all 66 books, Genesis to Revelation, completed in American Sign Language.

What about oral cultures?

Often oral Bible stories are the first Scripture products translated for use in oral cultures. This builds capacity and momentum toward literate translation or audio translation of God's Word.

How does it work?

Local teams, comprised of multilingual translators (experts in their preferred language) receive training, technology and support to translate from one language to another. Linguistic and exegetical complexities are overcome through training, consulting, editing and community checking.

How long does it take?

Timelines vary based on the complexity and context of the translation project. Political, social, economic, religious, logistical, technological and linguistic elements influence the pace. A clear, accurate, natural rendering of the New Testament takes about seven years and a full Bible, about 16 years. Emerging training and technology accelerate the pace.

Is translation needed for every verse in every language?

Ultimately, God's Church must decide. There are over 7,300 languages globally and illumiNations advocates for every verse in every language according to the expressed need of God's Church. However, the operational goals of illumiNations form around the 6,000+ languages with an estimated vitality that suggests Scripture translation is needed.





Every? Yes, every.

The vision of Revelation 7:9 – when every nation, tribe, people and language are represented before the Lamb of God – drives illumiNations.

The promise of all nations coming to God’s light (Isaiah 60:3) is being fulfilled right now.

Scripture tells us that only two things last forever: God’s Word and the souls of men and women. And now we have an opportunity to invest in what matters most to God and in what lasts forever.

Our now can change someone else’s eternity.

The Gospel is the best picture of God’s stunning generosity. And He is pleased when His people are stunningly generous. “The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.” (Proverbs 11:24, MSG).





ALL NATIONS
are coming to His light.

*What role will God
have YOU play?*



USD35
Verse

USD1000
Chapter

USD40,000
1-Year Translation

USD120,000
Gospel

USD280,000
New Testament



USD640,000
Full Bible

IllumiNations believes that prayer is essential for the monumental goal of eradicating Bible poverty. The task is not something that can be done with human effort alone—divine intervention is needed. The following prayer, from Scripture, guides the heart of this mission. We invite you to pray with us as we work together to bring the Bible to a world that needs the Gospel.

**GOD, YOUR WORD IS MORE PRECIOUS
THAN ALL I POSSESS.**

(Psalm 19:10)

**YOUR SCRIPTURE GIVES LIGHT TO MY PATH
AND DIRECTS MY STEPS.**

(Psalm 119:105)

**THROUGH YOUR WILL ALONE, LIVES ARE
TRANSFORMED AND MINDS MADE NEW.**

(Romans 12:2)

**SO I NOW PRAY FOR ALL PEOPLE THAT
DO NOT YET KNOW YOU.**

(1 Timothy 2:1-6)

**FOR YOU'VE PROMISED THAT YOUR VOICE BY
EVERY TRIBE AND NATION WILL BE HEARD.**

(Revelation 7:9)

**SO EQUIP US BY YOUR BREATH TO PROVIDE EVERY
HEART LANGUAGE WITH YOUR WORD.**

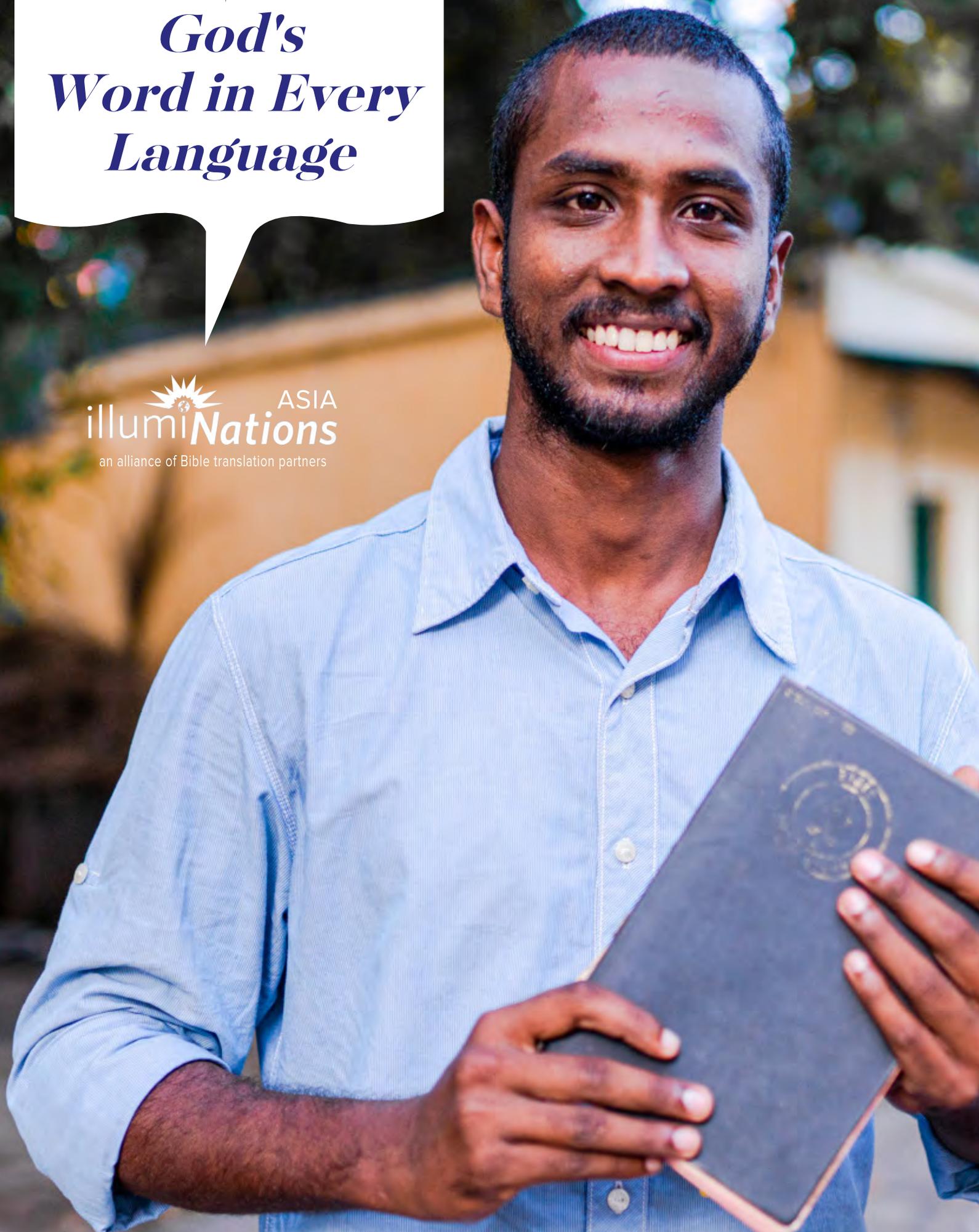
(2 Timothy 3:15-17)

**illumination** ASIA
an alliance of Bible translation partners

illuminations.asia

*God's
Word in Every
Language*

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illumiNations Asia unites the work of eleven leading Bible translation agencies with a growing global community of givers to eradicate Bible poverty. Together, we envision that every man, woman and child on Earth will have access to God's Word and its life-changing hope by 2033.

A Journey of Hope & Purpose

We are here: **illumiNations Asia 2022** is a milestone on our journey!

Our *hope* is to see salvation, redemption and transformation throughout the earth by working to eradicate Bible poverty, providing every man, woman and child with access to God's Word and its life-changing hope.

Our *purpose* is to know God and make Him known: God's Word in Every Language. God's promises and our faith drive us to look forward to what lies ahead and press on to reach the end of the race (2 Timothy 4:7). What we do while we're here, and in the months to follow, will define the impact and influence of this milestone gathering.

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

– MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NIV)

Eradicating Bible Poverty

When we think of Bible poverty, we think of the One Billion people around the world who still have little or no Scripture available in a language they think in, dream in and pray in. But, for the first time in history, global Scripture access doesn't feel like a faraway vision. Worldwide alignments in prayer, partnerships, technology, strategy and giving are working together to accelerate this work like never before.

We're within twelve years of seeing access to the Word of God for all people by 2033. This need is urgent, but thanks to the unprecedented unity of an 11-agency partnership that started in North America, and now in Asia, partnering with a growing global community of givers, we have the opportunity to maintain momentum and fuel the future.

God is uniting vision and strategy. He's expanding the borders of His global church. Stunning generosity plays a central role as the movement adopts an open-source mindset toward strategy, tools and funding.

Within these pages, you'll find giving opportunities for four Asian regions and moving stories from each one. As you read about the people already involved in translating and receiving God's Word, you'll find that *hope* permeates their experiences. Together, we can extend that hope to the ends of the earth — providing every person with access to God's Word.





*“able
to save”*



... in humility receive the
Word implanted, which is
able to save your souls.

– James 1:21 (NASB)

East Asia

Experiencing God's Grace

Long before the Sediq nationality was accepted by the government in 2008, four elders envisaged the need to translate God's Word in the Sediq mother tongue in order to reach out to the local community. In 1997, the fervent quartet – Pastor Siyat Nabu and Mrs Robo Pihu, preacher Pihu Neyung and Ms Obing Nawi – established the Sediq Native Language R&D Studio, from which they would launch their Bible translation work.

For years, the pioneers toiled at translating the Scriptures into Sediq language and recorded their work in script and audio. They looked forward to the day when God's Word would move the Sediq people; they were determined to press on with the work despite struggling through pain and adversity. After more than a decade, they realised their health was failing and perseverance was no longer possible, however willing their spirit. In August 2008, the group enlisted the help of Pastor Walis Ukan and Ms Kucang Tonday, who continued with the translation work until its completion in November 2020. Today, the Sediq community is able to use the Bible in their own language.

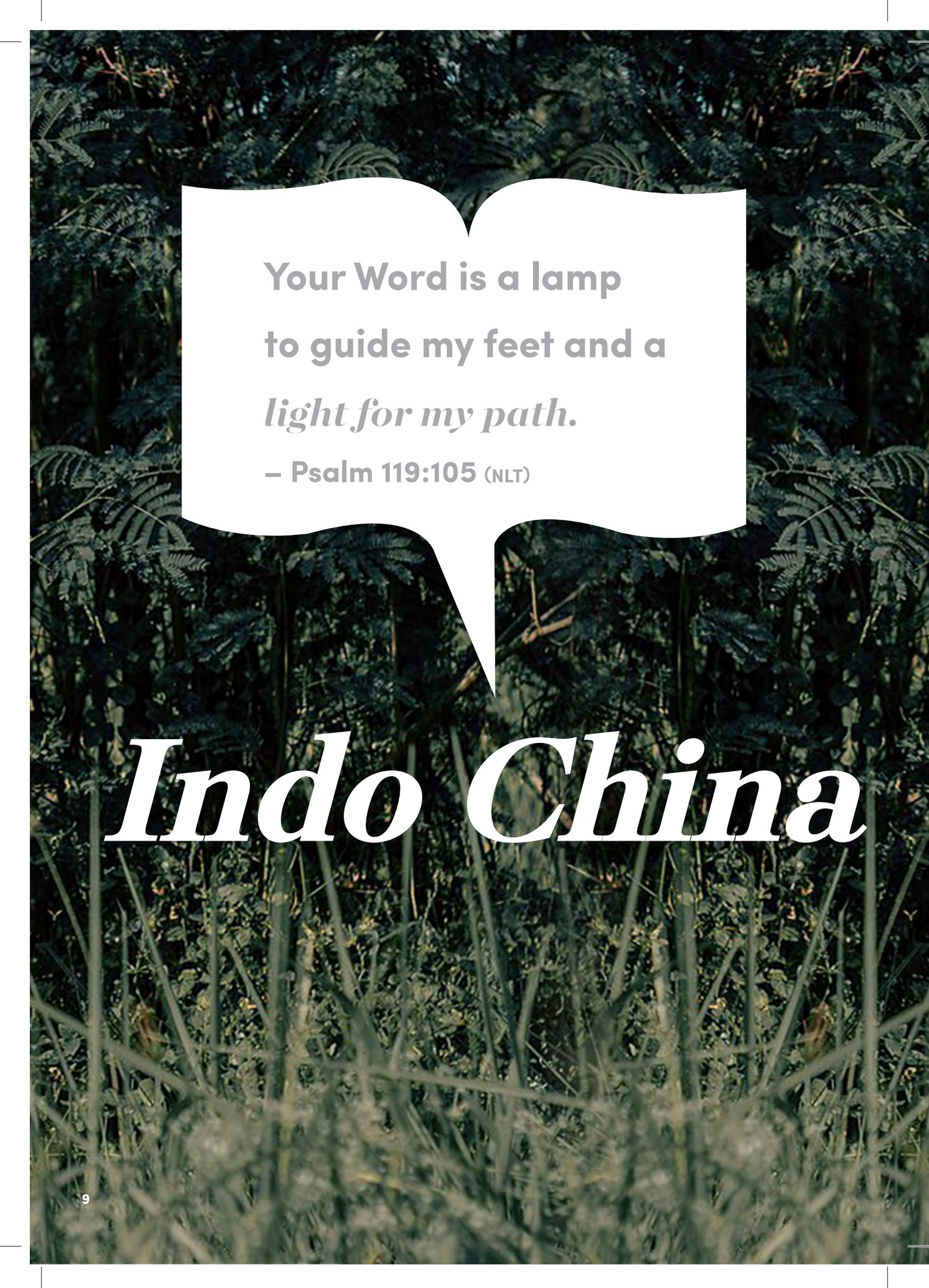
Twice, the translation work was disrupted – and almost terminated – due to the lack of funding and language issues. Looking back, the Sediq project team experienced moments of great physical and psychological pressure, and had wanted to give up. It was God's timing that the convenor Pastor Siyat called up the team, urging the members to endure and not lose sight of their mission, lest all the painstaking efforts over the years go to waste. And so, now that the mission is accomplished and the Bible in Sediq language is made available to the local community, we pray that the Sediq people will open up their hearts to receive God's message of salvation and spread the Good News. To God be the glory!



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LANGUAGES WITH LITTLE
OR NO ACCESS TO GOD'S
WORD IN EAST ASIA



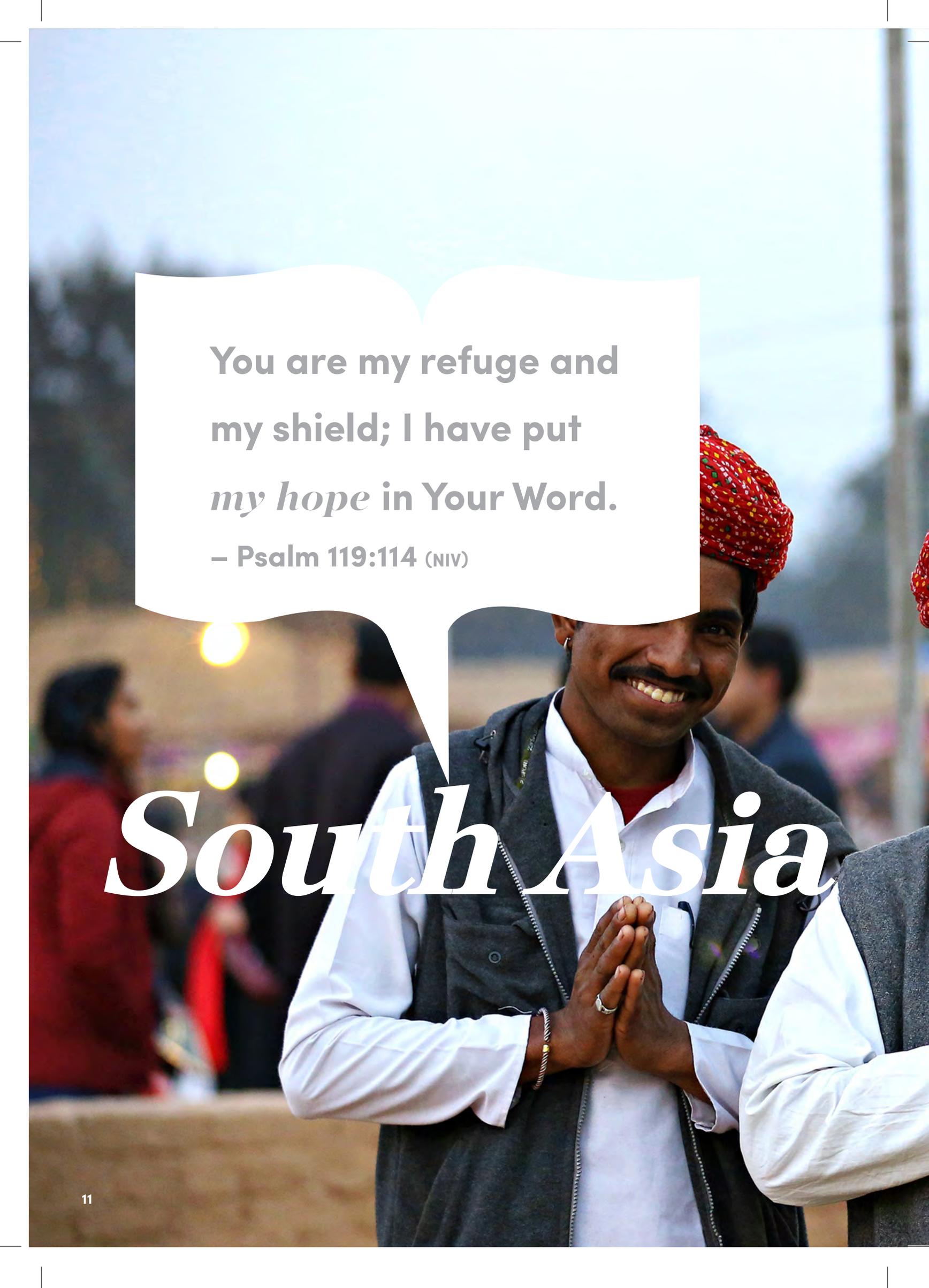


Your Word is a lamp
to guide my feet and a
light for my path.

– Psalm 119:105 (NLT)

Indo China



A smiling man with a mustache, wearing a red turban and a grey vest over a white shirt, has his hands clasped in a prayer gesture. He is looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be an outdoor setting with some lights.

You are my refuge and
my shield; I have put
my hope in Your Word.

– Psalm 119:114 (NIV)

South Asia

No Longer Enough

The Bible stories they have been hearing in their heart language over the past one year stirred their hearts – and their lives. They began to understand a little more of what being followers of Jesus means. Now, the on-the-spot translated Scripture portions which their village pastors preached on were no longer enough and they hungered for more.

Thus, when a meeting of all Flametree Blossoms* churches was called to gather feedback on a New Testament translation project, the attendees were very excited. They envisioned a revival for their people; they imagined how every Flametree Blossoms believer would be able to learn about and know God's Word more and more; they saw a future where their culture and language would be preserved as their future generations used the Bible; they looked forward to the day when they no longer need to rely on the Bible in other neighbouring languages which they did not understand very well; they began to talk of other Scripture-related materials and tools that could be produced once they have a New Testament.

The Flametree Blossoms church carries on dreaming of all the possibilities when they can read God's Word in their heart language. Despite an anti-conversion law which seeks to prevent people from converting someone else into another religion, there are still faithful Christians among the Flametree Blossoms people spreading the Gospel and risking being fined or jailed. We see the transforming power of the Word in the life of a mother tongue translator, Kalyan, who has devoted his life to building God's kingdom after the Lord redeemed him from a life of drunkenness and fighting with his family members. Flametree Blossoms people are mainly subsistence farmers and labourers. *pseudonym



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LANGUAGES WITH LITTLE
OR NO ACCESS TO GOD'S
WORD IN SOUTH ASIA



**All Scripture is God-
breathed and is
useful for teaching ...**

– 2 Tim 3:16-17 (NLT)

South East Asia

A Holy Moment

It was truly a holy moment ...

The Yetfa translation team in Indonesia was drafting a translation of Luke 22:24-46. When they got to verse 44, they started discussing the term for “agony” and why Jesus was experiencing it. The project coordinator said, “It wasn’t just because He knew He was about to physically suffer on a cross, but also because He was about to bear the sin of all people.”

They took up the conversation from there. Collectively, the four Yetfa translators said, “True! He wasn’t just bearing our sins, but everybody’s sin – from all over the world ... from Africa ... from America ... from China ... from Australia ... everybody. And not just for people today! He bore the sin of all people for all time! Everybody’s sin!”

For several minutes, they just kept processing that. They kept repeating, “Everybody’s sin.” And then it happened.

A holy hush fell on the room.

And for no less than 10 minutes, the four men sat in complete silence ... weeping. A couple of them pulled up their shirts, covered their faces, and wept.

In complete awe of their response, the coordinator began to weep too. He said he wasn’t sure how or if they would move on. After what seemed like a long time, they pulled their shirts down and wiped their eyes. Then one of the translators said, “OK. Let’s translate it so other people can understand it too.”



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LANGUAGES WITH LITTLE
OR NO ACCESS TO GOD'S
WORD IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

What's Next?

As we move ahead on this twelve year journey, there is plenty to celebrate!

We are in awe of the ways of God. He is making a way for all people to see and hear His truth. To date, **69** people groups have full Bibles, **425** have New Testaments and **97** have access to some Scripture in their language. Stories of life transformation from across the world bring affirmation of the hope provided by the Word of God and evidence that all nations are coming to God's light (Isaiah 60:3).

Our journey of hope and purpose is gaining momentum, but we have more to do.

In 2022, we'll seek to maintain this momentum with evidence of how your amazing generosity is changing the world.

Meanwhile, let's work together, here and now, to make *illumiNations* Asia 2022 a milestone to remember – one that provides opportunity for abundant hope. And in the coming months, let's remain relentless in our resolve and in prayer to eradicate Bible poverty by 2033.

Scripture tells us that only two things last forever: God's Word and the souls of men. This weekend's virtual gathering and this Bible translation movement build intersections for these two forever-things. Right now, we have an opportunity to invest in what lasts forever.

All Access Goals 2033

- **95% of the world's population will have access to a full Bible.**
- **99.96% of the world's population will have access to a New Testament.**
- **100% of the world's population will have access to at least some portion of Scripture.**

The eleven Bible translation agencies and community of resource partners, united through *illumiNations* are inspired by your participation in this vision. Your partnership and prayer support are vital to the Bible translation movement.

Executive Summary

East Asia

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LANGUAGES
WITH LITTLE OR NO ACCESS
TO GOD'S WORD

ONE YEAR OPPORTUNITY

USD 4,593,333

Indo-China

176

LANGUAGES
WITH LITTLE OR NO ACCESS
TO GOD'S WORD

ONE YEAR OPPORTUNITY

USD 2,438,333

South East Asia

360

LANGUAGES
WITH LITTLE OR NO ACCESS
TO GOD'S WORD

ONE YEAR OPPORTUNITY

USD 5,413,333

South Asia

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LANGUAGES
WITH LITTLE OR NO ACCESS
TO GOD'S WORD

ONE YEAR OPPORTUNITY

USD 7,086,666



Asia Snapshot

Total languages with little or no access to God's Word: **1282**

Total one year opportunity: **USD 19,531,666**

The words I have spoken
to you — they are full of
the Spirit and life.

— John 6:63 (NIV)

TRANSLATION PRAYER

God, Your Word is more precious
than all I possess.

Your Scripture gives light to my path
and directs my steps.

Through Your will alone, lives are
transformed and minds made new.

So now I pray for all people that do
not yet know You.

For You've promised that Your voice by
every tribe and nation will be heard.

So equip us by Your breath to provide
every heart language with Your Word.


illumination ASIA

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All nations will come to Your light ...

— ISAIAH 60:3

