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Joel's Africa Update: Madagascar



A New Chapter – Bible Translation

Family, I am excited to share with you that I am now officially a member of Wycliffe and Lutheran Bible Translators! As I embark on this calling God has given me, I would like to share what God is doing every step of the way. I am blessed to have you on this journey with me.

The Journey

I have long had a passion for bringing the Bible to the Bibleless. Since 2017, I have been recording Scripture in Southern Africa, including three times in Madagascar. I noticed the desperate need for translation consultants who could come alongside local translators. Many local church leaders see the need for a Bible in their language but do not know how to bring that to pass. Madagascar is full of the work of the enemy because many do not know about the Kingdom of God. In Madagascar, 22 out of 23 people groups have little or no Scripture. God has given me gifts in language and cross-cultural interactions, and more recently, formal studies. He has led me to a desire to glorify Him in the work of Bible Translation.

The Location

I will live for one year in the town of Antsirabe to do intensive language learning, to be fluent in Malagasy, the language of wider communication. Then I will be involved in different Bible translation projects, of which there are 9 currently, with more hopefully starting. I will fit into a role which answers the need and suits my abilities.

The Assignment

I have been assigned to the position of Translation Consultant in Training with local partner Madagascar organization *Together in Bible Translation* (togetherinbibletranslation.org). I will be mentored by other consultants, with the goal of being able to help local translators craft Bible translations which are accurate, clear and God-breathed.

If we have not already, I would like to connect with you, give you more details and hear how I can pray for you.

If you would like to join my prayer team and receive more frequent prayer updates, click [here](#). I welcome this prayer team to advise me as God leads them.

Once I obtain enough monthly financial partnerships I will move to Madagascar.

- Joel Juedes



22
language groups in Madagascar lack a Bible, out of a current estimate of 23

The Impact

“During the last three years, we didn’t even think of stopping [our translation work], no matter the problems. If we hadn’t carried on, it would have made us sick... This is God’s work. It’s wonderful. I don’t even have to preach anymore, I just read the scripture in church, and everyone goes, ‘Mmmmh!’”
- Local translator in Madagascar after work started in Tesaka

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