

Call Of **KENYA**



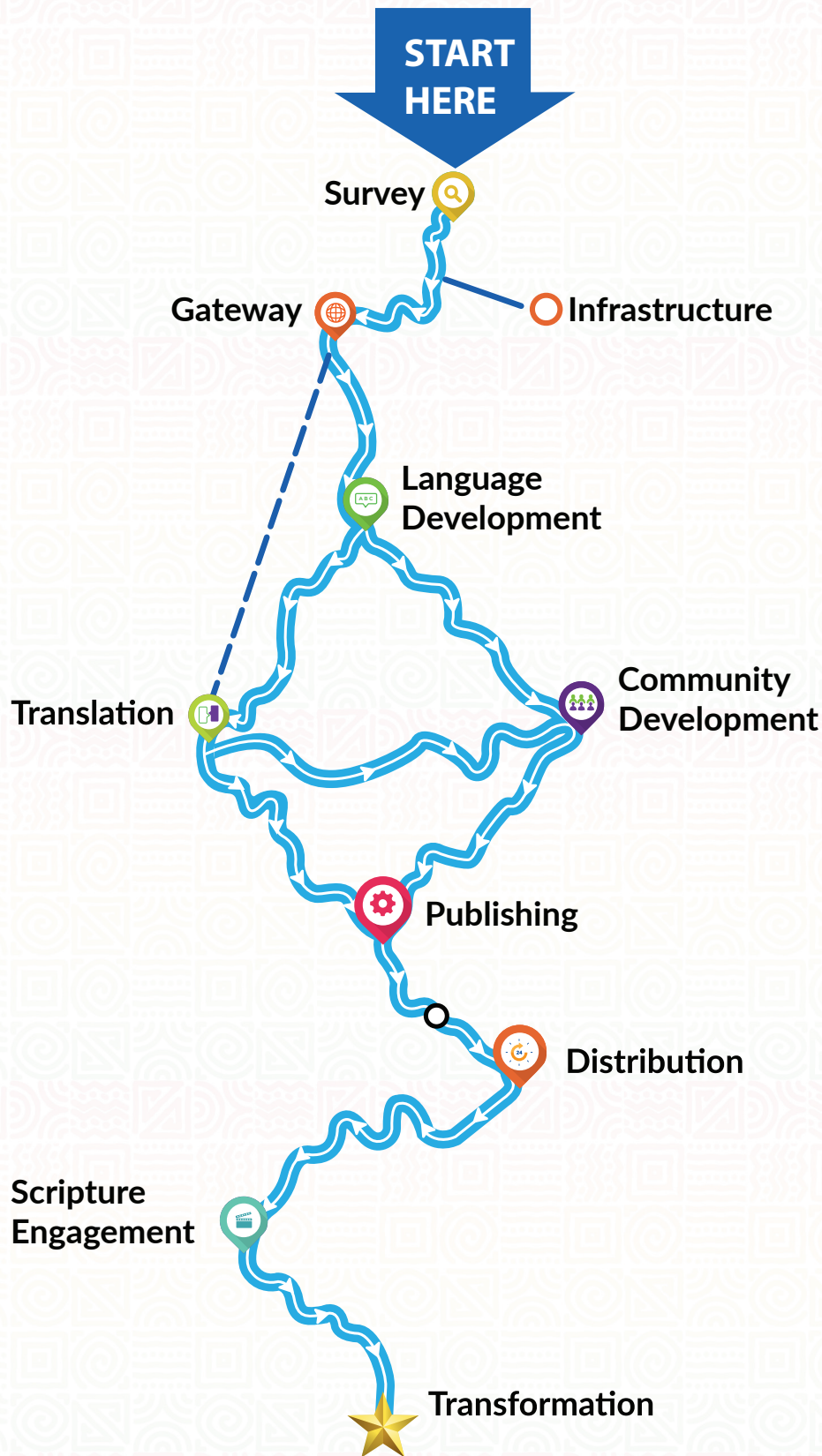
Bible Translation and Literacy (E.A.) Newsletter

May-July 2026 Highlights

The Beehive is Complete



THE JOURNEY



Word from the Executive Director

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you read this edition of our newsletter, I invite you to celebrate with us God's unwavering faithfulness across the indigenous language groups we serve. We continue to witness God's Word transforming lives and the Church being strengthened.

These past three months, we have witnessed celebrations among the Tiania and Iembe communities receiving their first-ever Scripture portion in their languages. For generations, they relied on Scriptures in other languages. Today, they can hear God speak to them in words that resonate with their hearts, culture, and identity.

We also completed the Marakwet full Bible, and we look ahead with great anticipation to its dedication and launch on Saturday, 1st August 2026 in Tot, Kerio Valley. We are grateful to God that the other "half of the beehive," which the Marakwet community requested for during the launch of the Old Testament translation in 2012, has been accomplished, and the beehive is now complete.

This achievement represents decades of prayer, sacrifice, partnership, and faithful service by the translation teams, the community, the Church and partners both local and international, whom God has used greatly along the journey. The inspiring testimony of Mr. Edwyn Kiptinness, as you will read, reminds us that God often uses life's greatest challenges to accomplish His greatest purposes. What began with a painful experience has become a story of hope and blessing for a community that will soon get the full counsel of God in their own language.

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Mr. Samuel Kakui - BTL E.A Executive Director

As we celebrate these victories, we also recognize communities that are still waiting to hear God speak in their languages; the Koma, Olu'ba, for instance, in South Sudan, and the Shubi and Subi of Tanzania to which we are fully committed to providing Scriptures in their languages. We therefore humbly invite you to continue walking alongside us through prayer, financial support, and partnership. Every support helps bring the transforming power of Scripture closer to another language community.

On behalf of BTL, I sincerely thank you, our partners and friends, for your faithful support, which continues to make this ministry possible. Together, we are witnessing lives being transformed as God's Word speaks to our communities in the language of their hearts: "And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14.

Blessed by a broken leg

- From those humble beginnings, the Marakwet Bible translation project was born



The year is 1962. Kip, our ever-16-year-old boy, as he is referred to across the Wycliffe family circles, climbed a tree with a dream of growing trees. In a split second, that dream turned into a nightmare. The branch he had stepped on snapped, sending him crashing to the ground near a river. His thigh-bone shattered.

Lying helpless in the forest, he feared he would die. "God," he prayed, "I do not want to go to hell." His cries for help echoed through the dense forest until two people heard him and came to his rescue. They carried him home, where he endured four agonizing days without medical care as his parents struggled over how to get him to a hospital. Eventually, they carried him down the mountain to the valley, where a police Land Rover transported him over rough terrain to Tambach Mission Hospital. The journey was unbearable. "I told my father I would rather die than continue enduring the pain," he recalls.

Doctors successfully operated on his broken leg, but recovery required ten months in hospital. During that time, a missionary gave him a Bible in the Nandi language, one of the Kalenjin dialects. Although he could read it, he could not fully understand it because it was not in his own Marakwet language. Still, he read it repeatedly. One passage



Edwyn Kiptinness (right) shakes hands with BTL's first General Secretary; Canon Micah Amukobole during the formational years of BTL

stayed with him: "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11.

As he continued reading, God transformed his heart, and on 16th June 1963, while still in hospital, he surrendered his life to Christ.

That experience sparked a lifelong conviction: "One day, our people will be able to read God's Word in the language they understand best." Years later, in 1978, that dream began to take shape. Dr. John Bendor-Samuel of Wycliffe International invited him to help establish Bible translation work in Kenya. When he learned that the Marakwet people struggled to understand the Nandi Bible, he immediately agreed to help bring Scripture into their own language.

The journey was far from easy. Community leaders initially rejected the idea, fearing it would divide the Kalenjin community. He was turned away, discouraged, and told the work would never

happen; yet he refused to give up. He kept returning, patiently explaining the vision until permission was finally granted.

Together with friends and family, they mobilized the community, secured land for a translation centre, and laid the foundation for what would become Bible Translation and Literacy East Africa (BTL). From those humble beginnings, the Marakwet Bible translation project was born.

More than six decades after a tragic accident nearly claimed his life, thousands of Marakwet speakers can now encounter God through the complete Bible in their own language.

What once appeared to be a devastating tragedy became the catalyst for a movement that transformed an entire community.

Today, the story serves as a powerful reminder that God can use life's deepest pain to accomplish His greatest purposes. A broken leg became the beginning of a broken language barrier, allowing generations of Marakwet people to hear God speak to them in the language of their hearts.

"One day, our people will be able to read God's Word in the language they understand best."

From a broken Leg to a Bible translation legacy



Edwyn joins the Marakwet ladies in dance at the ceremony marking the start of the Marakwet Old Testament translation in 2012

What began as a tragic accident more than six decades ago is about to culminate in a historic milestone for the Marakwet community.

Reflecting on his journey, Edwyn Kiptinness (Kip) often says, “The Marakwet people are blessed because of a broken leg.”

The pain he endured as a young boy was unimaginable. Yet today, as he prepares to witness the dedication of the Marakwet complete Bible, that pain has been replaced with joy and hope.

“I thank God for allowing my leg to break,” he says. “Whenever I think about seeing my people receive God’s Word in the language they understand best, I know the pain was not in vain.”

Looking back, he believes the accident changed the course of his life. Had he not fallen, he may never have gone to school. When he once asked his mother what his life might have been like if his leg had never broken, her response was sobering.

“You would probably have died like many of your friends,” she told him. “Or perhaps you would have spent your life brewing chang’aa (a local brew), as many

young men did in those days.”

Instead, God redirected his future. The broken leg led him to Christ, awakened a desire to see the Bible translated into his language, and eventually shaped his lifelong calling in Bible translation. Today, he serves with Wycliffe Bible Translators, helping recruit missionaries to participate in Bible translation across Africa and beyond.

His personal story also became part of a much larger movement. As one of the pioneers of Bible Translation and Literacy East Africa (BTL), he served faithfully as Company Secretary and later as Board Chairperson during some of BTL’s most challenging years; resources were limited, and there were seasons when the ministry’s future seemed uncertain. Yet whenever discouragement came, he remembered how God had turned a broken leg into a blessing.

“If God could use my broken leg for His purpose,” he believed, “He could also sustain this ministry.” Over the years, God raised faithful partners, opened doors for growth, and enabled Bible translation work to flourish among many language communities across East Africa. For the Marakwet

community, that faithfulness is about to be celebrated in a great way.

As we prepare for the dedication and launch of the complete Marakwet Bible, Edwyn sees the fulfilment of a dream that began in a hospital bed more than sixty years ago. Soon, generations of Marakwet people will have the opportunity to read, study, and pass on God’s Word in the language that speaks deeply to their hearts.

Looking back, one lesson has shaped Edwyn’s life: Every challenge holds the potential to become an opportunity. Every opportunity can become a blessing in disguise when placed in God’s hands.

As he looks forward to this historic dedication, he extends an invitation to everyone who has journeyed alongside the ministry.

On 12 August 1962, a broken leg altered the course of one young boy’s life. On 1 August 2026, that same journey will reach a milestone as the Marakwet community prepares to receive the complete Bible in the language of their hearts - a testimony that God can use one life, one act of obedience, and one unexpected trial to impact generations.

The light has dawned

– The first Scripture portions in Iembe and Tania languages

Those words echoed repeatedly throughout the dedications and launches of the Gospel of Luke in the Tania and Igembe languages. For many in the two communities, it was the fulfilment of a long-awaited answer to prayer.

On 26 and 27 June 2026, history was made in Meru County as the Tania and Igembe communities received the first-ever portion of Scripture in their languages. Church leaders, local administrators, and community members gathered in Mikinduri Market and Maili Tatu Stadium, respectively, to witness milestones that many had never imagined they would see in their lifetime.

For generations, both communities had encountered God's Word through neighbouring languages. While those translations nurtured their faith, they could not fully capture the richness of their mother tongue or speak directly to their cultural identity. Now, for the first time, they could hold, read, and hear the Gospel of Luke in the language that shaped their everyday lives.

As the translated Scriptures were lifted before the congregation, many expressed gratitude to God. Speaker after speaker shared the same testimony: "God has remembered us. What we have longed for has finally arrived."

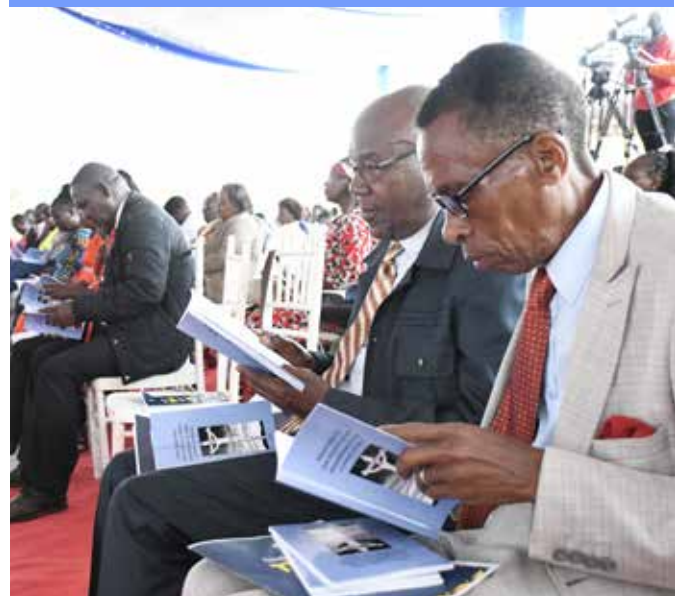
For the Tania and Igembe communities, part of BTL's Mkondo wa Mwisho, Central, Projects, this moment represented more than the completion of a translation. It affirmed that every language matters to God and that every people deserve the opportunity to encounter His Word in the language they understand best.

Speaking during the celebrations, BTL's Executive Director, Mr. Samuel Kakui, challenged the communities to allow the translated Scriptures to become part of their everyday lives.

"The Word of God is not meant to remain on our shelves," he said. "Read it in your homes, teach it in your churches, discuss it in your Bible study groups,



The unveiling of the Iembe Gospel of Luke



The Tania community reading the newly dedicated Gospel of Luke in their language

and allow it to transform generations. Through this translation, Scripture becomes personal, reminding us that God values every language and desires every person to know Him through His Word."

The arrival of the Gospel of Luke opened doors to new ministry opportunities. Churches can now develop Bible study materials, hymn books, Scripture Engagement initiatives, and the Jesus Film. BTL is also challenged to translate the New Testaments and eventually the full Bibles for these communities.

"God has remembered us. What we have longed for has finally arrived."

Run For The Bibleless: Machakos & Mombasa

- Beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News

Before dawn broke on Saturday, 11 July 2026, participants of the Machakos and Mombasa 2nd and 5th Run for the Bibleless editions, respectively, laced up their running shoes to be counted as part of a mission to bring God's Word to the Bibleless communities in Kenya and beyond.

Addressing participants in Machakos, BTL's Board Chairperson, Mrs. Kendi Ogamba, reminded the participants that every step they took reflected God's heart for the nations.

Quoting Romans 10:15, she encouraged participants to embrace the Great Commission with renewed passion. "That is why we are all here," she said, challenging every participant to become a messenger of hope to communities still waiting for Scripture in their own language.

She also took the opportunity to inspire students from participating schools to become ambassadors of peace by promoting harmony, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence within their communities.

The event was further strengthened by the participation of Mr. Davis Powell, President of Seed Company (USA), whose presence reflected the growing global partnership behind the work of Bible translation.

Meanwhile, in Mombasa, Mama Ngina Waterfront came alive as thousands answered the same call.

The continued partnership with the Mombasa Church leaders has become instrumental in mobilizing churches and raising awareness of the Bibleless communities in Kenya and beyond.

Beautiful are the feet that run and walk so others may receive God's Word! Until every language has the Bible and every heart has the opportunity to encounter Christ.

The event was further strengthened by the participation of Mr. Davis Powell, President of Seed Company (USA), whose presence reflected the growing global partnership behind the work of Bible translation.



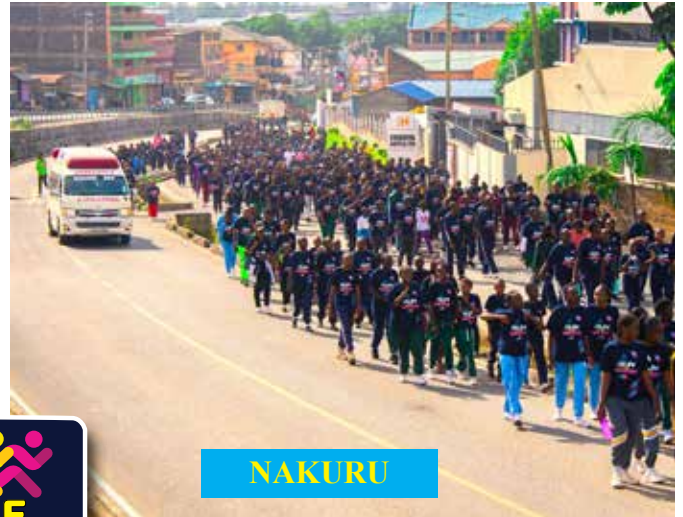
Flag-off of the 5th edition of the Mombasa Run

Run for the Bibleless is an annual fundraising event hosted by BTL. It was established in 2008 to create awareness about the Bibleless communities, cast vision among the young people and raise funds to support Language Development, Literacy and Bible translation work. What began as a single event in Nairobi has since grown into four other towns: Nakuru, Eldoret, Machakos and Mombasa.



Mr. Davis Powell, President, Seed Company (USA), addressing the participants at the Machakos Run

RUN FOR THE BIBLELESS 2026



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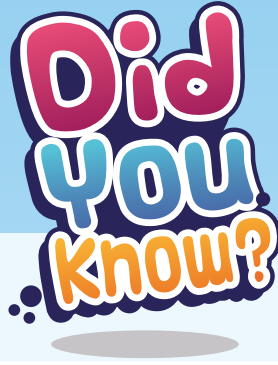
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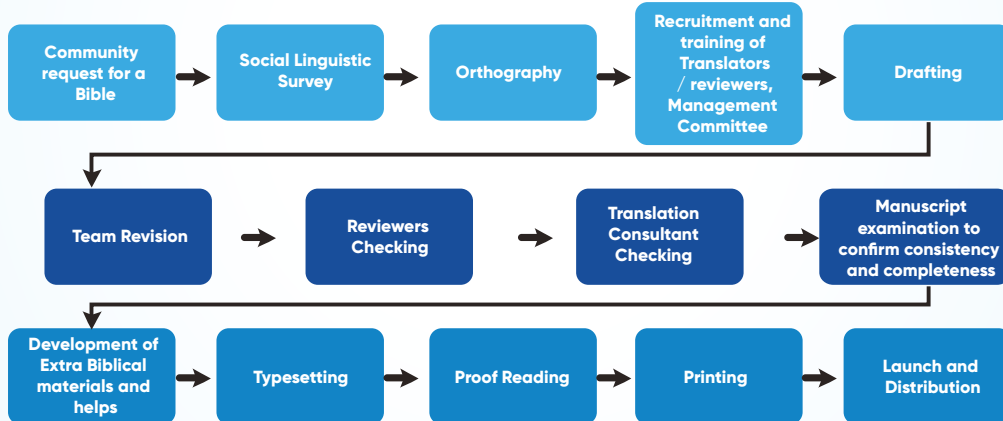
2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Marakwet complete Bible Dedication:**
 - Saturday, 1st August 2026
- **Tachoni New Testament Dedication:**
 - Saturday, 12th September 2026

Nearing completion

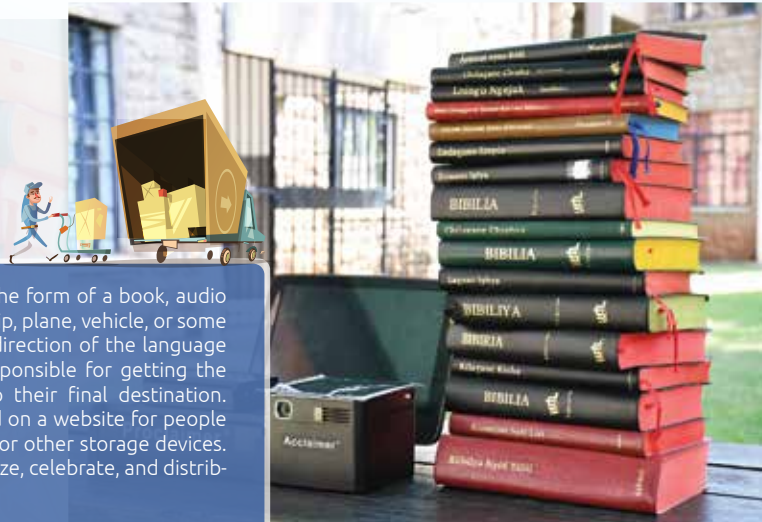
- Tugen New Testament
- Taveta New Testament
- Kabarasi New Testament
- Suba complete Bible

TRANSLATION PROCESS SIMPLIFIED



DISTRIBUTION

Once the Scriptures have been published in the form of a book, audio player, or DVD, they'll get placed on board a ship, plane, vehicle, or some other form of transportation headed in the direction of the language group. If necessary, a local agent will be responsible for getting the Bibles through customs and transported to their final destination. Digital Scripture versions can either be placed on a website for people to download or be transferred via cell phone or other storage devices. The community often plans an event to publicize, celebrate, and distribute the new Scripture.





Bible Translation & Literacy (E.A.)



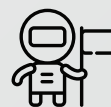
About Us

Bible Translation & Literacy E. A (BTL) is a Christian organisation established in 1981 with a mandate to write languages, undertake literacy and carry out Bible translation among the indigenous language groups of Kenya and beyond. We believe that people's lives are transformed by the grace of God when they use God's Word in the languages they understand best.



Vision

Transformed lives, by the grace of God, when people use God's Word in the language they understand best.



Mission

To facilitate sustainable Bible translation, literacy, and language development programmes among indigenous language groups, partnering with the Church and others to fulfil the Great Commission

Summary Milestones

Currently involved in 47 language groups in the East Africa region: 37 in Kenya, 6 in Tanzania, and 4 in South Sudan: 6 Complete Bibles, 12 New Testaments, and work ongoing for 29 New Testament and 12 Old Testament translations.



Get Involved

1. Translate a verse with Kshs. 4,000 or adopt a language group
2. Become a prayer partner and pray for one or more of BTL's Bibleless language groups
3. Subscribe to receive regular information from BTL: Call of Kenya
4. Consider making a financial contribution to the ministry of BTL
5. Register your school to participate in the Run for the Bibleless
6. Use BTL's Conference Centre facilities in Ruiru
7. Use BTL's Tafsiri Printing Press for your printing and publishing needs
8. Use BTL's Tafsiri Drinking Water

Proceeds from the Kingdom business ventures go towards supporting the work of Bible translation

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