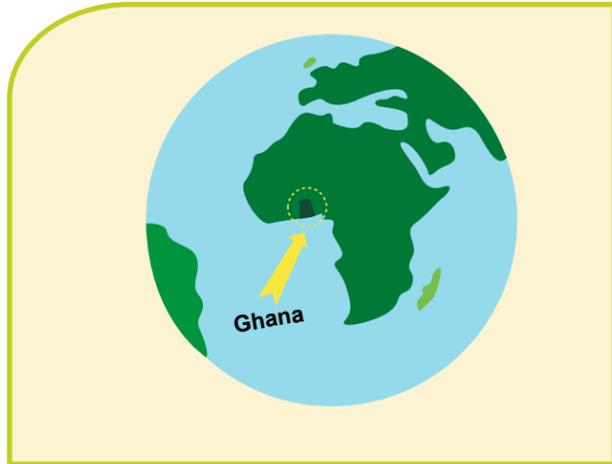


# Sing to the Lord a New Song



## Let's read the Bible

**Job** 19:13-27  
42:1-10  
**Psa** 33:1-22

## We consider together

Ask mom or dad if he/she knows any traditional praise song and let us sing it to God together.



Wycliffe Canada wants to see the revival of the Canadian Church through Bible engagement, not only by their reading but also praying and living it out in their life, while they bless those people groups who do not have the Bible by prayers and offerings, a cent per verse or 10 cents per chapter. Please contact us if you want to join.

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Have you ever seen an African tribe dancing and singing around a bonfire on television? Or a video of European couples spinning in a plaza full of music? Dancing and singing is fun, but to those who are not familiar to the dances and songs, as well as to the rhythms and beats, it can be difficult and not as exciting. If a song or dance is not from the country where that person is from, and if they do not understand what they are singing, then they might not enjoy it and say that they do not want to sing or dance anymore. If you think about it the opposite way, if someone were to sing songs in their own country's language and if they had known the rhythms and dances since they were young, then they would be very excited, and have a lot of fun!

People come to know the gospel the best in their own language. Memorizing messages and reviewing lessons are best done by singing and dancing to one's own music, instruments, and melodies; it makes it much easier for them to remember. Learning through music is called 'ethnomusicology', and when this is used to worship God, it is called 'ethnodoxology'. Long ago, Israelites used Hebrew instruments such as lyres, mandolins with ten strings (Psalm 33:2), snare drums and trumpets (81:2-3), and symbols as well as the flute (150:3-5) to give praise to God.

If you read the Bible carefully, it amazingly describes God as one who will be praised by all nations. "The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him. For royal power belongs to the Lord. He rules all the nations." (Psalm 22:27-28).

"After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they

were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:9-10).

The Lord who receives praise made it so that each nation would praise Him with their own music and instruments, and happily accepts their praise.

The Vagla people of Ghana are a great example of how the recovery of one's own culture can be used in serving the Lord. Whenever the Vagla people sang music that they had created, Pastor Phillip could feel the Holy Spirit being deeply moved. A translation of the New Testament had been made twenty years ago, but the growth of the church was slow. This was because the most important part of worship was missing. Pastor Phillip was a blind man, but when he heard the new song created in Vagla's traditional style he said, "You can't see my eyes behind these dark glasses, but when I started hearing these new songs, tears came to my eyes." When the Vagla people sang lyrics in their own language, and when they sang songs that matched their own style, they felt spiritually moved, a feeling more different than before. Pastor Phillip also said, "Now we listen to the Word of God in these songs." (The Power of the Word, pg.56-57).

"For many years we could have used our music to worship God and reach our people. Instead the music has been used by the devil. But now we can sing Bible verses." (<http://ethnodoxology.org/docs/SampleInsert.pdf>)

Wow! How exciting and magnificent is this! Praise the Lord who has restored the music of the Vagla people! And just like how each nation joyfully reveals the diversity of the Lord through their own styles, let us also sing a new song to God in different ways!