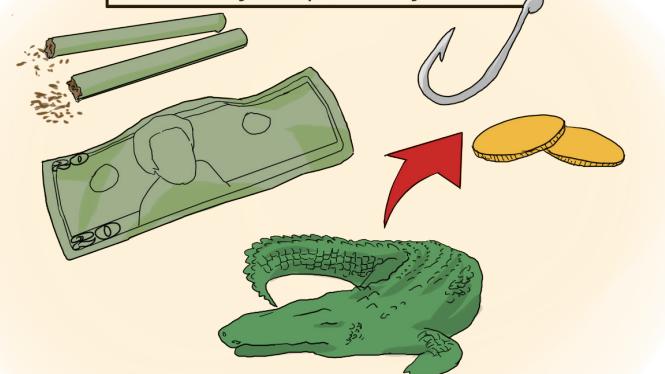


# The Lord who Teaches Us to Fish

God is there with those who are poor and oppressed. Wycliffe also tries to fight against poverty and injustice by giving immediate aids and long-term planned helps.



Sepik Iwam people did not read and write. Some made a tobacco with 20 dollar note. They were even mistreated when traders gave them a few coins or fishing hooks in exchange of expensive alligator skin.



Marilyn Laszlo, a Bible translator taught Sepik Iwam people how to calculate and get them the government issued price chart.



Once they are literate, they are not cheated any longer.

Through Bible translation ministries, missionaries become God's agent to answer the prayers of the oppressed.



## Let's read the Bible

Psalm 1:1-2:12  
Psalm 19:1-14  
Psalm 40:1-17



## We consider together

Bible translation is a long-time-taking ministry but its result lasts forever. Studying looks like the same but it gives us long lasting rewards. Let us study hard.

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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Marilyn Laszlo was a missionary serving the Sepik Iwam people, but she was very mad. She had seen merchants lying to the Sepik Iwam people because they could not read. One of the Sepik Iwam elders was smoking a cigarette that was wrapped in an Australian twenty-dollar bill. The elder did not know what twenty dollars could buy, or what it meant. The Sepik Iwam people were selling crocodile skin, which was worth several hundred dollars, for a few fish hooks, a small bag of salt, flashlights, or a handful of coins.

To show the Hauna people just how much they had been cheated out of, Marilyn bought a calculator and measuring tape. She also found a price list for crocodile skin that the Papua New Guinea government had published. Marilyn taught the Sepik Iwam people how much each dollar bill was worth, and the true price of crocodile skin. She also taught them basic numbers and how to add and subtract. Soon the Hauna people started to change.

"Excuse me, Masta(Master). What you are doing to my people is not right." "Boy, be quiet! What do you even know?!" the crocodile skin trader said. The boy did not get angry, and said again, "If it is alright with you, I will show you." With measuring tape, he measured the size of the crocodile skin and wrote its number. Then he looked up how much it was worth from the price list made by the Papua New Guinea government, and softly said, "This skin is worth 300 pounds." That day, the Hauna people were not fooled by the merchant. (Marilyn Laszlo/Luci Tumas, Mission Possible, pg. 71.)

Learning to read and knowing basic numbers can save you from the lies of bad people. The poor Hauna people were freed from the tricks of others. In Psalms 72:4 it says, "Help

him (the king) to defend the poor, to rescue the children of the needy, and to crush their oppressors." (NLT) Sometimes our Father God gives us our fish, but He is also a Father who teaches us how to catch our own. This means that there are times when He pulls us out of our sufferings, but He also gives us the strength and wisdom to succeed in times of trouble.

When we look around us, there are bad people who hurt and lie to those who do not know any better. There are so many people who are poor and suffering. Wycliffe Bible Translation missions help lead the way to free these people from unpleasant places. Aid is given to them in emergency situations, but Wycliffe missionaries want people to make their own decisions to choose a better path, even if it takes a long time.

One example is Paraguay, where Wycliffe works with the local churches to give out food and clothes to tribes in need. High school students and university students, who can become leaders, are given scholarships so that they can think for themselves and gain the strength to act on their own. With this, even if foreigners or other wealthy people come to help and then go back home, the poor would still be able to meet their own needs by themselves. (Victor A. Gomez, How to Develop a Holistic Impact as a Bible Translation-Focused Organization: LETRA Paraguay as an Emerging National Model)

Bible translation missions that teach others how to fish are small, but they have brought big changes. God worked through missionaries to help the poor and the suffering. Let us pray that many more people would be able to act for themselves, and for the missionaries to be able to help the best they can.