

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



This is our Celebration of Missions week at First CRC. We have invited some of our missionaries to share a devotional this week. Today's is from Ken & Chris with JAARS/Wycliffe Translators in Waxhaw, North Carolina.



<https://www.wycliffe.org/blog/posts/hope-through-bible-translation>

Scripture and Prayer

Do you ever plan backwards? You picture in your mind what you want your post-remodel kitchen to look like. And then start planning backwards, listing all that needs to be done in order for the picture to become reality.

Revelation 7 paints an awesome picture:

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 and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a mighty shout, "Salvation comes from our God on the throne and from the Lamb!" (verse 9, NLT)

Let's picture more of what this looks like so we can plan backwards.

Isaiah 56 tells us that, *"the foreigners who joined themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants... these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer."* (verses 6-7, ESV)

And Psalm 145 fills in more of the picture. *"All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom."* (verses 10-12, ESV)

How are those from every nation and tribe and people and language going to hear? One generation shall commend God's works to another, and shall declare his mighty acts. (from Ps 145:4)

We are called to make God known to the nations, who speak other languages. And that's where Bible translation comes in. The Bible that's "translated" through each of our lives as we live out the truth of the gospel, as we walk with the Lord of the universe in our homes and work and neighborhoods. The Bible that's translated into more and more of the world's more than 7,000 languages.

We long for the world to know Jesus, to love him, to worship him. Today, God is bringing many peoples of the world to our doorsteps! When you meet someone whose first language is not English, ask them what language they prefer to speak. Together you can explore [Find.Bible](#) or [ScriptureEarth.org](#) to see if they can find resources there.

What if your new friend finds there are no resources in their language, that theirs is one of the nearly 2,000 languages still waiting for translation to begin? Then you know how to pray. Pray for God to move in the hearts and lives of believers who will be instrumental in translating scripture into this language. Pray for those who will be trained as translators and who will go. Pray for those who will be part of the team supporting the translators through technical and logistical support. Pray for those providing finances for all this to move forward.

Pray that as you interact with your friend, God will use your words and your life to bring the message of hope beyond understanding, the message of God's love and mercy and grace. Pray that one day your friend will be among those standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb.

Song

[You can hear the song or sing along here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6D6ai2-Vx0>]

Hallelujah to the Lamb

Lord we stand in the midst of a multitude
Of those from every tribe and tongue
We are Your people redeemed by Your blood
Rescued from death by Your love
There are no words good enough to thank You
There are no words to express my praise
But I will lift up my voice and sing from my heart
With all of my strength
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

Refrain: To the Lamb, hallelujah hallelujah
By the blood of Christ we stand
Every tongue every tribe
Every people every land
Giving glory giving honor
Giving praise unto the Lamb of God

Lord we stand by grace in Your presence
We cleansed by the blood of the Lamb
We are Your children called by Your name
Humbly we bow and we pray
Release Your power to work in us and through us
Till we are changed to be more like You
Then all the nations will see Your glory revealed
And worship You
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah *Refrain*

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
That You are Lord of all
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah *Refrain*