

I just ran across this thing created 50 years ago, can I use it?

Juanita Waters, a director of our offices in Mexico, received an email from a Mazatec speaker stating that they just happened to find some literacy materials for Mazatec done by SIL* 50 years ago and they wondered if they could have permission to use it.

They wanted to adapt the materials for use in Mazatec schools** Juanita said "yes!". And there were other unexpected results - teachers who've never been able to write in their own language are thrilled. "...when I write Mazatec, I just think and write! I don't have to work through Spanish!"

Because of what I do, I've often thanked God for access to the Bible in English. *Who would I be had I not been able to read and hear God's Word for myself in my mother tongue? And now I think, what would my life be like without being able to write in English, always having to translate in order to write something down?*

Alas, the honeymoon is over... (not really)

I was in Dallas (without Scott) for our anniversary. For Valentine's, I had meetings with colleagues in Asia (7pm my time). Last year I traveled on Thanksgiving (to Indonesia without Scott) and was in Germany on my birthday... A friend commented, "it's like you have a long distance relationship, just only on holidays".

*SIL is a linguistic organization focused on Bible translation, literacy, and minority language communities flourishing. Wycliffe Bible Translators USA "loans" / contracts most of its members, including me, to work with for SIL. In fact Wycliffe was originally created to be the "arm" of SIL that relates to the church as opposed to the arm that does the work.

**Research confirms/ asserts/ suggests that children who learn to read and write in a language they know are more successful transferring those skills to another language and have overall higher scholastic achievement than those who learn reading and writing in a second language. Many countries/ education departments/ international aid groups outside of the US are interested in SIL helping set up "mother tongue education" in primary schools for this reason.



Lunch w/colleagues in Jakarta

Fun Facts...

Indonesia is:

- the **4th most populous country** in the world (the US is a distant third to #1 China and #2 India).
- a **Muslim-majority country** that recognizes five religions (Christianity is one of the five).
- an island nation made up of **17,000+ islands**.

Thank you for your prayers

While in Indonesia, we spent one morning visiting one of our close partners, Suluh Insan Lestari, at their offices in Jakarta. We learned about their work translating the Bible into one of the sign languages used in Indonesia, translating Sunday school materials for several minority language communities, and Bible based minority language curriculums for several schools. Our Suluh colleagues also joined us in our meetings. It was fun to get to know them and hear their perspective/collaborate together. We also heard from some of their Indonesian partner organizations about their ministries: one focused on unreached people groups in Indonesia (there are 235), another on providing minority language education**, and one focused on marriage and healthy Indonesian families.

Do you know someone who might be interested in serving the world's Minority Language Communities using their IT skills? Give them my contact information!

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"Preferred for the Wycliffe ministry of Sheryl Nelson"



*Celebrating 2 Years!!! *not on actual anniversary*