

Multilingual Support Agents

Higby Herald – September 2025

We're still pinching ourselves to make sure this isn't a dream. In just three months, the Language Technology Use department that I (Doug) manage has gone from offering support for Bible translators in **9 languages** to now providing help in **over 95 languages**—and it's available 24/7 to anyone who needs it!

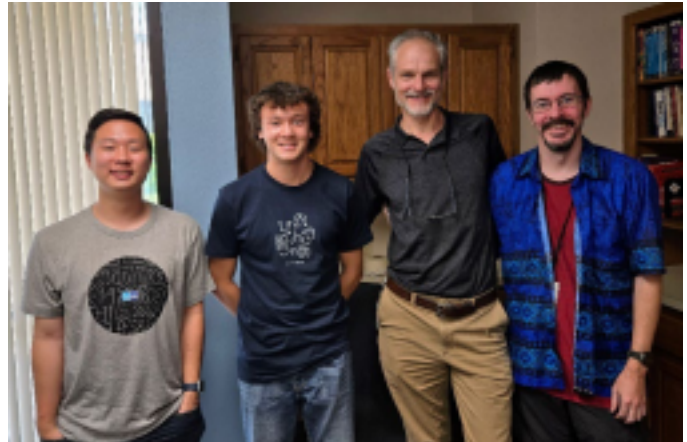
This is nothing short of a breakthrough.

For years, we have been advocating for using **technology for good**, to advance God's Kingdom. Many people understandably have questions—or even fears—about artificial intelligence (AI). But what we've seen this summer is how God can redeem new tools for His glory, helping translation teams around the world with real time answers to their technical questions as they bring His Word into their languages.

It all began with a small experiment. About a year ago, I trained an AI on support documents for uploading Scripture into the Digital Bible Library. It worked well—even answering in French as easily as in English—but it had one major flaw: it could only be used by people who paid \$20 a month for the same AI service. That clearly wasn't going to serve translation teams around the world.

I prayed for a solution. And God provided.

In April, at the *Missional AI* conference in Dallas, I learned about a technical approach that could make these support agents publicly available online. Then in June, the Lord brought together an incredible team: two rising seniors at Cedarville and Taylor—Andy and Keenan, who gave their time sacrificially, and my long-time colleague Matthew Lee, whose technical expertise was exactly what we needed.



Together we set out to build support agents for more than 40 different Bible translation and language development tools. The interns searched out every document, video, and help file, feeding the information into the system. They also carefully trained each agent to stay focused and accurate. By mid-August, we had created **43 AI Support Agents**. (If you'd like, you can try one out on the Translator's Workplace at <https://lingtran.net/Translator%27s+Workplace>)

For the first time ever, Bible translators and language workers have free, around-the-clock help in 95+ languages. This is accelerating their work—and removing barriers to people understanding the Gospel message in their own languages.

From June through early September, P.J. and her team worked intensively to upload Scripture translations to the Digital Bible Library. Each file they processed, every quality check they completed, and all the technical work behind the scenes serves a greater purpose: ensuring that people in their heart language can access God's transforming Word.

Currently, there are still 3,072 language groups with little to no access to Scripture, and 511 people groups without even a single verse in a language they truly understand. But here's the encouraging news: by 2033, our partner ETEN, envisions a world where 95% of people have access to the full Bible, 99.96% can read the New Testament, and 100% have access to some portion of Scripture in their language.

Your partnership makes this vision possible. Every successful upload we completed this summer represents communities who will soon encounter Jesus in their own language. The technical work we do in Grand Rapids may seem invisible, but its impact is eternal – connecting hearts to the Gospel in the most personal way

possible.

How You Can Be Part of This Work

This incredible progress is something *P.J. and I have the privilege of leading*, but we cannot do it alone. While the work has grown rapidly, our personal support has not kept pace with the rising cost of living. Many of you pray for us and cheer us on—thank you! Some of you have faithfully supported us financially for many years, and we are deeply grateful.

If you are not yet part of our support team, would you prayerfully consider joining us? And if you are already giving, would you consider increasing your support so that we can continue leading these efforts with strength and stability?

Every gift—whether new, renewed, or increased—directly fuels the work of helping Bible translators around the world. Together, we are accelerating the spread of God's Word to the nations.

Thank you for walking with us in this exciting season. What we're seeing today is not just a technical success—it's a glimpse of Revelation 7:9 becoming reality: every tribe, tongue, and nation worshipping before the throne.

Partners in the Gospel (Phil 1:5)

Doug & Priscilla Higby

Prayer & Praise

- Praise God for the multi-lingual support agents that are available, and pray that the news about them would spread, so translators will find and use them.
- Praise God for the newly uploaded Scripture that provides access to the message of Jesus Christ in newly completed translations.
- Pray for Doug's travels as he continues to host Language Technology workshops to train consultants who support translation teams.
- Pray that God would supply all that is lacking for our financial support.



Your gifts enable the Higbys' continued ministry with Wycliffe Bible Translators

By check: Payable to: "Wycliffe Bible Translators" with the memo: "*In preference for the ministry of Doug & Priscilla Higby*" and mail to: Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando FL 32862

Online direct giving at: <https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/5313DA>

How to join our support team: <http://www.higby.family/pledge-support>

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