



Pioneer Bible Translators
Transformed Lives Through God's Word in Every Language

Pioneer®
Bible Translators

Jeff and Laura Wilhoit

Fall 2023

Toma Bible dedicated!

The Lord answered so many prayers during the Toma Bible dedication in June. Here are some pictures to give you a taste!



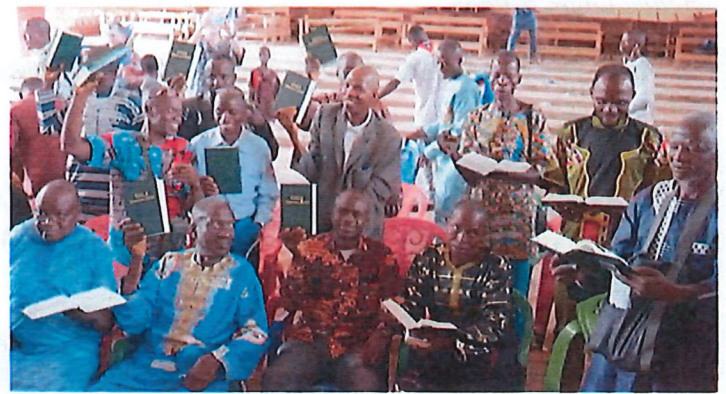
*Parade with Scripture banner
to celebrate the Toma Bible*



*Toma translator Pastor Jeremie
rejoicing during the parade*



Unveiling the Toma Bible on dedication day



Toma pastors receiving their Bibles



The first reading from the complete Toma Bible in church



Receiving gifts during the dedication

What's Next

Pioneer Bible Translators does not consider our ministry among a people group to be complete until a network of churches is using Scripture to grow, mature and multiply. We remain partners with the Toma people in promoting Scripture Engagement through activities such as **literacy and Scripture reading and listening groups**. We are exploring possibilities for **adapting the Toma Bible into other related languages**.

Jeff Wilhoit continues to serve as Executive Vice President, Chief Operations Officer, and Global Security Advisor. His primary responsibility is **implementing the vision and strategies of Pioneer Bible Translators**. Laura thoroughly enjoys being a **translation consultant** for other Bible translation projects, and plans to expand her ministry into more languages.

We plan to present the Toma Bible at all our supporting churches over the next several months. Here's our fall schedule:

Oct 8: East 40 Church of Christ, Norwich OH
Oct 15: Lakeside Christian Church, Springfield IL
Oct 22: Northeast Christian Church, Warren OH
Nov 12: North Terrace Church of Christ, Zanesville OH
Nov 19: Perry Christian Church, Canton OH

We will be scheduling more visits for the spring. Hope to see many of you!

No words can adequately express our gratitude to God and to you for sustaining us and bringing us to the milestone of dedicating the Toma Bible. May the Lord bless you greatly.

Jeff and Laura Wilhoit

P.S. If you received Pioneer Bible Translators' *Giving Words* letter in your mailboxes, all the stories in this edition feature Toma people!

Praises:

While we and a team from Pioneer Bible Translators were in Guinea for the Bible dedication, God provided solutions when we ran out of water and solar power, everyone traveled safely and on time, no one got sick, and we received positive feedback about the ceremony from many Toma people!

Since the dedication, the Toma church has reopened their bookstore and are selling Toma Bibles and other Christian literature, and the bookstore employee is reading the Bible with customers!

Scripture reading groups have started up spontaneously!

Prayer requests:

A committee is being formed to promote use of the Toma Bible. Please pray for the Lord to guide them as they plan.

In January 75 Toma lay pastors will be trained to lead Scripture listening groups using the audio Toma New Testament. Please pray for the training to go well and for the pastors as they start groups in their villages.

Toma literacy classes are taking place in several villages. Please pray for the students, most of whom are adults, as they learn to read.

Current needs:

One of the Toma translators is nearing retirement after working on the Bible for 26 years. He and the other Toma translator would like to go in together to start a hog farm for independent long-term income. The project is estimated at \$8,000.



Dionna Linn

*Serving with Team
Expansion in Granada,
Spain*

Greetings friends and family... and happy fall!

I pray that your fall is off to a good start. Even though outside it still feels quite a bit like summer, we have kicked things back in to gear and are excited for all the Lord has in store this fall season. Before I get too far, let me share a quick praise - **I received my five-year residency card this month**, which means my VISA is good until 2028! Praise God for his favor all throughout this process! Thank you all for your continued support without which none of these things would be possible.

More Laborers for the Harvest



This picture is quite the throwback (Nov. 2018), but our team is glad to have our friend Regina back in Granada. Regina, (who is from Brazil), had been a missionary in Granada from 2017-2019. She joined our team in prayer walking for several years, but later the Lord took her to a few different cities in Spain. As of this month, Regina is back in Granada and returns with a desire to continue being among the lost and discipling new believers. She will be working alongside our team, helping with some of the already established groups and also hoping to start new groups in new places. We are thankful for the Lord's provision of more laborers for the harvest here in Granada!

I pray that you have a blessed month of October! Today we received the team from **Heath Church of Christ** who will be joining our team in prayer walking and shooting several more testimonies in Granada and Sevilla. May it be a week of great kingdom advancement in each of our hearts as well as for the work in Spain! Until next time!

Julio's Testimony is LIVE!



For the next three weeks our media ministry will be highlighting the incredible God-story evidenced in Julio's life. Please join us in praying that this content would continue to fall on fertile soil and that we could accompany spiritual seekers in their journey to Christ! We want YOU to be able to hear the story too! Click on the image above to hear Julio's story with English subtitles.

Discipleship Training



Our team started the month with a discipleship training in Sevilla. This time was a great encouragement as we were able to pour in to a new team of both missionaries and locals forming in the heart of Sevilla. They share much the same vision as our team, to find people of peace who become disciples that make other disciples... and to see simple churches starting other simple churches. We continue to pray that the Kingdom of God would advance in every town and city throughout this land!



**Gabriela
Balestrini**

SERVING GOD

In Galicia

As you know, over the last couple of years our team has been visiting numerous churches in Galicia primarily in order to make contacts for Sígueme Galicia, our media ministry, but also to learn from these brothers and sisters in Christ who have a rich heritage of steadfastness in the Word of God and evangelism in Galicia. Now that we have a locale, we wanted to invite several of those new friends to come and learn more about our ministry and to pray for us.

This open house type of event was such an encouragement to our team as the people above in the photo went from station to station praying for the different aspects of our ministry. Some drove from an hour away to come and support us, and several stayed afterward to play a little cornhole and cheer for our regulars who come in on the weekends.

CONTACT ME

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Let us praise the Lord for this time of fellowship and prayer, as well as for the brothers and sisters who participated. May God continue to strengthen these bonds for the good of his kingdom and grow his church throughout Galicia!

Leo never felt seen or loved

Today he has a
positive self image
and has joy inside!

Leo never really felt safe. He and his brother lived with their homeless mother for years. He witnessed domestic violence between his mom and father. His own needs were neglected, and his mother chose to spend her time and money on drugs.

Leo's self-esteem was incredibly low. He didn't believe anyone could ever truly love him. He acted out and his emotions became unmanageable. He would sabotage relationships just to see if he was worth fighting for.

Because you gave, Leo received love and safety. He's been surrounded by adults who have invested in him. His confidence was built up as he was shown what true love and care looked like. Leo feels safe and loved because of you!

Leo used to struggle with trusting adults. He used manipulation and deceit to get what he wanted. Now he is able to ask for help and truly believes he will receive the care he needs and deserves.

Leo participated in new experiences and learned that he loves rollerblading, music therapy and going to chapel. He learned that he could actually enjoy being a kid instead of living in fear and wondering where he was going to sleep at night.

You gave this young boy a safe place to heal. To learn that he is worthy of kindness and love. That he



Because of your generosity, this fun-loving boy now knows his true worth in Christ!

has so much to contribute.

Leo now lives with his brother at a relative's home. He recently started school and is settling in well. Because of you, Leo's new life can be filled with hope instead of darkness.

Before heading home, Leo checked off a wish list request - to go to Dave & Buster's with a favorite staff member. One more opportunity to experience connection and joy.

Thank you for wanting Leo to experience Christ's amazing love. For helping him to trust and learn how to express his needs and desires. You gave him the skills to navigate a bright future. *You turned his life around in so many ways!*