



Wycliffe Bible  
Translators

# News

from Valery and Janna Morozov

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## Ministry News

### The year 2019 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Wycliffe Russia

20 years ago, when Valery's graduation from RTS was near, we were praying about ministry back in Russia. In the spring of 1999, Valery got a letter asking if he would be willing to start a Wycliffe organization in our country. A few times during his studies, he had tried to find out what Wycliffe Bible translators do in Russia, but it seemed to be a secret at that point. So, we decided that this offer was an answer from the Lord.

During these years, the Lord called many dedicated Christians to the mission; these were trained and sent to different countries where the Word of God did not exist in the languages of the people.

We praise the Lord for:

- 10 missionaries served, and some continue the ministry, in South Asia (basically, in India);
- 12 missionaries served, and some continue the ministry, in African countries (Ghana, Ethiopia and Senegal);
- 27 members are serving in the countries of former Soviet Union, mostly in Russia.



Valery and Janna praise God for the fruitful ministry and look to the future with hope. We hope to continue to serve while the Lord gives us opportunity and strength.

### Here are the two stories from our missionaries which we want to share with you

"...We are sitting in the room which faces a cherry orchard; through the trees is a lovely view of the Caucasus mountains. The translator and I are checking the Lord's Prayer, which in "our" language starts slightly differently: "Our heavenly Father". The translator's wife, elderly Saigy-khanum, does house chores.

She doesn't read her language and is not interested in the bookish work of her husband.



She brings us tasty tea with walnut jam and sits beside the table on low stool. Her attention is drawn to a piece of paper with the Lord's Prayer – not so long and scary as those countless papers with strange marks on which we are usually working. Out of the corner of my eye, I see as Saigy-khanum moves the paper closer and tries to read, moving her lips like a little child. She stumbles at the very first word, because it contains a digraph, a letter with a special mark. Our translator, overjoyed with her sudden interest, explains to his wife how to read that letter. That's how she read the first phrase in her language "Our heavenly Father". She continues to read and again sees unknown letters. Her husband helps her, and I move a draft of the primer which we made for children closer to her. The primer is beautiful and bright, and Saigy-khanum turns over page after page reading the words there. She quickly reaches the middle of the book and should be tired from reading; plus, she probably needs to

rush to the kitchen to cook dinner. But she is so involved with reading that she finishes the primer – not so easy, considering our language contains 46 letters!

Then she returns to the prayer again. The text is short, easy and clear, and Saigy-khanum reads it to the end. She is very happy. Her husband is also happy, and I too – just now a person read for the first time in her own language; not just anything, but a prayer to the Almighty! Saigy-khanum declares that she likes the prayer, and it is like she is usually praying. Only addressing “Father” is kind of awkward, but after thinking it over, it would be possible to get used to it. And she moves to the kitchen to prepare our beloved *plov* – rice with walnuts and baked beans generously sprinkled with golden homemade butter.”



During the first year of Wycliffe Russia’s existence, a letter arrived from Siberia.



A 22-year old man named Alexander Kondakov was expressing his willingness to become a Bible Translator; the questions which he asked demonstrated his deep thinking about the ministry, and the exchange of letters started. When he arrived at the Introductory seminar the following year (2001), he was the least qualified person of all the participants. A graduate of a Technical School, he lived with his parents in wooden house with wood

heating. They didn’t have a telephone in their house, not to mention a *computer*. When Alexander finally achieved the appropriate level of English, his pastor bluntly said “NO!” to his attempt at studying theology for the purpose of entering the mission. Without asking his not-mission-minded pastor again, he humbly prayed, and God changed the pastor’s heart.

Alexander’s ministry started in 2003 when he was accepted as the fifth field missionary of Wycliffe Russia.

Years have passed since then. It would take too much time to list all his achievements in language survey, dictionary making, linguistic work and Bible translating in India and nowadays, in Russia. Alexander with his wife and son are currently living and serving in Kalmykia, the only Buddhist region of Russia. On Nov. 6, 2018 in Elista (Kalmykia’s capital), there was a celebration of three Old Testament books printed at once: Job, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. Alexander was awarded a special medal from the Russian Orthodox Church in recognition of his valuable contribution as the theological checker and coordinator of the Kalmyk project.



With grateful hearts for your participation in the ministry,  
Valery and Janna Morozov

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