

MA in Literacy Programme Development Validated

On 11 May the European Training Programme's MA in Literacy Programme Development was validated by Middlesex University. This MA will equip students to develop Literacy Programmes for some of the most marginalised communities on earth. It is the second MA to be developed by [ETP](#) (the European Training Programme), following the MA Field Linguistics which was validated in 2008.

Director of ETP David Morgan is understandably thrilled. He sees that this validation signals to the wider world the high quality of ETP training, and knows it will attract quality students and staff to ETP. Middlesex colleagues Monika Ruthe and Malcolm Read together with Uta Papen (Lancaster University) and Clinton Robinson (UNESCO) interviewed the key ETP staff involved, who include Ian Cheffy, Mary Morgan, Catherine Young, Howard Jackson and David Morgan. They particularly praised several aspects of the programme, including its relevance to meeting the real needs of the world (especially those of the 759 million adults who are illiterate). Ian Cheffy did the lion's share of getting the documentation together relating to the programme.



Ian worked for ten years in the field of literacy whilst he lived in Cameroon, and saw its impact first-hand. He says: "Not only is it important to be able to read for health and educational purposes. Being able to read for oneself without having to rely on any other person does something very profound. It imparts a huge amount of self-esteem, identity and personal confidence."

Those who cannot read are literally cut off from life-saving information. The May edition of Wycliffe's Magazine ([Words for Life-May 2010](#)) includes an article describing how being unable to read or understand written medical prescriptions can lead to accidental deaths.

However, there is other life-saving information that some would love to be able to read and understand, but can't – God's word. Of the 6,900+ languages in the world, only 2,479 have *any* scripture translated. In those languages where there are scripture portions or New Testaments translated, many in the community are still cut off from understanding God's love for them, because they are unable to read the scriptures for themselves.

Eddie Arthur, Executive Director of Wycliffe Bible Translators in the UK shares, "From the days of medieval monasteries, the Christian church has always been at the forefront of teaching people to read and write. Wycliffe Bible Translators are proud to carry on this ancient tradition in conjunction with the ETP." Wycliffe wants to see God's word translated not only into words on a page but into hearts and lives. Literacy is an important part in the full process of Bible Translation, and this MA will be a significant stepping-stone in making God's message of love fully accessible to every language community on earth.

[More information about the MA](#), or [literacy work with Wycliffe](#) can be found online.

[Wycliffe Bible Translators](#), the UK's biggest Bible translation organisation, works with partners worldwide to ensure that every community around the world has access to a Bible in a language that they can fully understand. In more than 70 years of history they have been involved in the translation of 759 New Testaments and Bibles, reaching around 107 million people. Since 1999, Wycliffe has contributed to over 80% of translation projects started in Bibleless people groups. However there remains a massive need, as statistics show that there are around 353 million people from 2,252 languages still waiting for translation to begin.

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Photos can be downloaded from: www.wycliffe.org.uk/pressreleases

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