



What about literacy and a written translation of the Bible?

Within the OneStory Partnership, we are working to make the Good News accessible to people who do not have access to the Bible for the following reasons:

- Scripture has not been translated into their language.
- They cannot read.
- They lack interest in reading or learning to read.
- They refuse to read the Bible because of their negative preconceptions about it.

We know that people often find the Bible appealing when they encounter it in oral form. In response to these situations, the OneStory partners seek to introduce people to God's word via oral means. We train Christians to communicate God's word through biblical storytelling and other Bible-based methods like songs, poetry, proverbs, and drama.

This focus on the oral communication of God's word has led some people to ask whether the OneStory Partnership is against Bible translation and/or literacy. Not at all. We encourage both. Four of the five organizations that formed the OneStory Partnership (Campus Crusade for Christ, the International Mission Board, Trans World Radio, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Youth With A Mission) teach literacy. Wycliffe is particularly well known for its commitment to literacy. Through the years, our partner organizations have also advanced Bible translation in a variety of ways.

OneStory partners are simply using oral strategies in order to meet oral learners where they are *initially*. We are not giving up hope that they will learn to enjoy reading and studying a printed text of Scripture. Our hope is that they will encounter Christ through the oral proclamation of Scripture and that it will stimulate their hunger for learning, literacy, and formal education. Historically, the desire to be able to read the Bible has stimulated the provision of education. We expect that to continue.

OneStory treasures the written Scripture and views it alone as the authority for Christian faith and practice. OneStory seeks to lead people to embrace that same high view of the Bible, which is the basis for our oral stories. We hope that people won to Christ via oral stories will take interest in the source of the stories and want to hear more of them. We are confident that some of them will want to acquire literacy so that they can read the stories for themselves. We view this as a very positive thing and will be supportive of their desire for literacy and Scriptures in a language that serves them well. Some of them will join with OneStory teams or others to produce even more of the Bible in their language. We welcome that. Additionally, as OneStory teams craft stories in local languages, they keep detailed written records that would facilitate Bible translation.

So when a supporting church champions an oral story set for a people group, they are in all likelihood moving that group one step closer to literacy and a written translation of the Bible!