

## Title: **The Alliance Looks Ahead to 2025**

Byline: **Stephen Coertze**

Region: Global

Main Body:

February 2025

Before I start sharing about what we anticipate for 2025, I want to express our gratitude to God for the ceasefire deal in place between Israel and Hamas.

- Our prayer is for the released hostages and their families, and also for the families of hostages who have died in this event. We pray for restoration for them, and that they may have their lives rebuilt.
- Our prayers go out to the Palestinian families who have lost loved ones and livelihood. We also pray for restoration for them, and that God will meet them in their lives and their pain.
- We pray that the ceasefire will hold, as it is fragile.
- We pray for peace for the whole Middle East region. It is vital to the stability of the world. It is vital to our own ministry of Bible translation, as we have seen how quickly many things can fall into disarray when one region of the world is in pain.
- Our prayer goes out for the Whole Word Institute and also Jerusalem Seminary, our two Alliance organisations in Israel. We thank God for them and the way in which they have continued to minister. How they have expanded their ministry during this time, and how they have navigated a very volatile situation. We thank God for the leadership we have there and the way they continue to gracefully serve.
- Let us remember our other war-stricken areas: Russia-Ukraine, Sudan, things in Bangladesh are still very volatile, and other parts of the world as well.

## Title: 聯會展望2025年

Byline: 高爾澤 (Stephen Coertze)

Region: 全球

Main Body:

2025年2月

在分享我們對2025年的期望前，我想對神表達謝意，祂給以色列和哈馬斯賜下停火協議。

- 我們為獲釋的人質及其家人祈禱，也為在這次事件中喪生的人質家人祈禱。我們為他們能復元、重建生活祈禱。
- 我們為失去親人和生計的巴勒斯坦家庭祈禱，也為他們康復祈禱，願他們在生活和痛苦中，與神相遇。
- 我們祈禱停火協議能維持，它很脆弱。
- 我們為整個中東地區求和平，它不單對世界穩定至關重要，對我們的聖經翻譯事工也至關重要，我們知道，當世界一個地區落在痛苦中，許多事情也很快陷入混亂。
- 我們為以色列的兩個聯會機構祈禱——整全神道學院和耶路撒冷神學院。我們為他們，以及他們繼續服侍而感謝神。這段日子，他們擴展事工，應對非常不穩定的情況。我們在當地能有這樣的領導繼續美好的事奉，實在感恩。
- 讓我們記念其他受戰火蹂躪的地區：俄羅斯與烏克蘭、蘇丹、孟加拉和世界其他地區，局勢仍然非常動盪。

As we look toward 2025, on 13 November we will celebrate (virtually) what God has done in the context of Vision 2025.

- We will celebrate with every community that has a translation start, or Scripture in their language.
- We will commit those to our Lord who are still waiting for a translation to start.
- We will celebrate lives transformed through God's Word. Because that is in essence what Vision 2025 was about. Not necessarily the start of translations, but that communities will be transformed through God's love and his Word in the languages people are speaking.
- We will acknowledge and celebrate some of the countless ways in which God has transformed Bible translation movements as we responded to Vision 2025.
- We will commit to our ongoing desire for God to continue his transformative work within the Alliance, as we respond to his mission calling.

展望2025年，11月13日，我們將（以虛擬方式）慶祝神在2025異象中所成就的一切。

- 我們將與每個開始了翻譯，或已使用其語言的聖經譯本的社區一起慶祝。
- 我們將把那些仍在等待翻譯開始的人交託主。
- 我們將為那些藉神話語而轉化的生命來歡慶。這正是「2025異象」的意義所在。重要的不是開展翻譯，而是社區透過神的愛和話語，藉人的語言來改變。
- 當我們回應2025異象時，神便以無數的方式來改變聖經翻譯運動。我們將慶祝其中一些方式，為它們而感恩。
- 當我們回應神的使命召喚時，我們將委身予祂，渴望祂繼續在聯會作轉化生命的大工。

During 2025 we will concentrate on three areas of importance—namely Bible translation, Alliance organisations and the legal entity we call the Alliance. Let me offer just a few comments on these:

- We will continue to be vigilant to the global context in which we work. In the first four years of my directorship, we referred to this as ‘influences on the Bible translation movement’. And we will continue in our desire for Alliance organisations to collaborate well. By the way, our new book, *Collaborative Missional Leadership*, has just gone to press. We trust that we will soon see a publication that describes some of this collaboration taking place between Alliance organisations and the ministry of Bible translation.
- We desire to see thriving organisations that can give their best to God’s mission and the ministry of Bible translation. God has gifted each organisation to fulfil its role in this ministry, and we want to see them doing it well.
- We will always remain dedicated to the ministry of Bible translation, to see lives of individuals, communities and nations transformed through God’s love and Word expressed in their cultures and languages.

2025年，我們將專注於三個重要領域——聖經翻譯、聯會機構，和我們稱為聯會的法人實體。對此，我僅提出幾點評論：

- 我們繼續關注我們工作所處的全球環境。在我擔任總幹事的頭四年裏，我們稱之為「對聖經翻譯運動的影響」。我們繼續渴望聯會機構之間能好好合作。順便一提，我們的新書 *Collaborative Missional Leadership*（暫譯《協作使命領導力》）剛好付印。相信我們很快就會看見這本描述聯會機構和聖經翻譯事工合作的著作。
- 我們渴望看見機構蓬勃發展，為神的使命和聖經翻譯事工盡最大努力。神賦予各機構在其事工履行該盡職責的天賦，我們願見他們做好這工作。
- 我們一直致力於聖經翻譯事工，願每個人、每個群體、每個國家都能通過本身的語言和文化明白神的愛和話語，生命從而得改變。

With regard to Bible translation itself, I want to highlight six areas in which we will give energy. Obviously there is a lot of stuff happening underneath each of these areas.

- We will emphasize and give energy to issues relating to full Scripture translation, training/ equipping and consultancy. The Alliance leadership team and our staff, together with Alliance organisations, are gaining good ground on all three of these areas.
- We will focus on and grow in the area of multimodality translations and products, which include oral, written and sign languages. When we communicate on this area, it is important for us to understand that multimodality Bible translation is not only the product we are after, such as Scripture being distributed orally or in written text or in sign languages. But the whole process of translation in these areas needs much attention. It is critical that we understand that written, oral and sign languages cannot all be translated in the same way.
- We will embrace helpful technology, including artificial intelligence (AI). You might have noted the new companies – Stargate in the USA is putting over \$500 billion US into artificial intelligence development, and DeepSeek in China has burst onto the scene recently as well. So, we will continue in discussions to understand and emphasise the missiological and ethical implications of using AI in Bible translation.
- We will continue to work with global mapping efforts such as ProgressBible, and also—this is very important— with local communities to understand the remaining translation needs. We are seeing lots of leadership in this area in the Americas — mesas, or roundtables being held in various nations within Latin America.
- Together with Alliance organisations, we will give attention to moving focus from the ‘translation start’ era toward the era of completion and revisions. I do believe we will have translation starts for many years to come, but those will be minimal. As focus shifts to completion of translations and revisions, what does this mean for Bible translation movements?
- We will continue to respond to the reality of churches that are growingly engaging in Bible translation efforts.

就聖經翻譯本身而言，我想提出六個我們將注入精力的範疇。在這每個範疇下顯然都有許多事情在發生。

- 我們將重點關注並致力於與翻譯整部聖經、訓練 / 裝備和顧問審核相關的事宜。聯會領導團隊和工作人員，並一眾聯會機構，在這三個範疇都取得了良好的進展。
- 我們將專注於多模式 (multimodality) 翻譯和成品的範疇，並不斷發展，其中包括口述、書面和手語。當我們在這方面交流時，我們必須明白，多模式聖經翻譯不僅是指著我們追求的成品而言，例如以口述、書寫文字或手語傳達的聖經，更是指必須高度重視在這些範疇上的整個翻譯過程。我們必須明白，書面、口述和手語不能都以同一方式翻譯。
- 我們將採納有幫助的技術，包括人工智能 (AI)。你可能已經留意到一些新公司——美國的星際之門 (Stargate) 正在向人工智能開發投入超過五千億美元，而中國的 DeepSeek 最近也突然出現。因此，我們會繼續討論，以了解和加強在聖經翻譯中使用人工智能的宣教和倫理意義。
- 我們會繼續與 ProgressBible 等從事全球地圖繪製的機構合作，同時——這非常重要——與當地社區合作，以了解剩餘的翻譯需求。我們看到美洲地區有許多這一領域的領袖——MESAS，即在拉丁美洲各國舉行的圓桌會議。
- 我們將與聯會機構一起，將重點從「開展翻譯」時代轉移到完成和

So those are the main areas of focus as it relates to Bible translation directly.

### **We desire thriving Alliance organisations.**

We are grateful to see that in general, our Alliance organisations are thriving and finding healthy ways to respond to their local and global contexts. A number of Alliance organisations need more assistance than others. We remain indebted to the dedicated boards and executive/administrative leadership within our organisations.

With this in mind, there are three areas that I wish to highlight:

- As the landscape of Bible translation continues to change with regard to strategies in Bible translation (this includes AI, growing local and church participation, staffing requirements, financial resourcing, reduction of translation starts, etc.), we are working with Alliance organisations to assist them in responding to these realities. It means different things for different Alliance organisations. The situation in Africa, for example, with these issues impacting Alliance organisations, is different from the way they are impacting our European Alliance organisations. For some organisations, this means a total rethink of both their mission and their business model. We will continue to assist our Alliance organisations to think through these issues.
- Changing staff and leadership is a reality that all organisations face. This often means that organisations don't understand well how they fit in the bigger picture of multiple Bible translation movements, even in the Alliance. We now have a platform named WAIT. It doesn't mean that you are going to slow down. It's just an acronym for Wycliffe Alliance Informal Training. This is managed by Wycliffe Singapore and some of our Alliance staff. This platform will provide the opportunity for orientation to the Wycliffe Global Alliance for Alliance organisations, staff and new leaders. This is a helpful tool. Organisations can make use of it at their own pace, and any Alliance organisation staff member can participate in making use of this platform.
- Each of our Areas will address matters that are unique to their contexts. Our areas differ. They have different challenges. And each of our Alliance

這些就是與聖經翻譯直接相關的主要關注範疇。

### **我們渴望聯會機構蓬勃發展。**

我們欣然看見，我們的聯會機構整體上正在蓬勃發展，並找到健康的方式來應對當地和全球環境。一些聯會機構比其他機構需要更多的援助。我們非常感激機構中那些委身的董事和執行 / 行政領袖。

考慮到這一點，我想強調三方面：

- 聖經翻譯的面貌隨著聖經翻譯的策略，不斷變化（包括人工智能、地區教會參與提升、工作人員需求、財務資源、新開展的翻譯減少等），我們正與聯會機構一起，幫助他們應對這些實況。對不同的聯會機構來說，這意味著不同的事情。例如在非洲，這些議題對聯會機構的影響，便與歐洲聯會機構所面對的不同。對一些機構來說，這意味著要徹底地重新思考他們的使命和運作模式。我們會繼續協助聯會機構思考這些議題。
- 領導層和工作人員的變換，是所有機構都會面臨的現實。這往往意味著這些機構不太知道自己該如何融入各個聖經翻譯運動的大局中，在聯會中亦然。我們現在有一個名為WAIT的平台。不是說你要放慢速度，它只是威克理夫聯會非正式培訓的首字母縮寫（Wycliffe Alliance Informal Training）。這平台由新加坡威克理夫和聯會一些工作人員管理，為威克理夫國際聯會的機構、工作人員和新領袖，提供入職培訓的機會。這件有用的工具，各機構

Speaking of our leadership and staff, let me briefly highlight how this works. The Alliance Leadership Team (ALT) includes:

- The four Area Directors
- Four specialists in various areas
- A managerial group which includes the CFO, Director of Operations, my assistant and myself.

說到我們的領導和工作人員，讓我簡單介紹一下那是如何運作的。聯會領導團隊（Alliance Leadership Team, ALT）包括：

- 四位地區總幹事
- 四位不同領域的專家
- 一個管理團隊，其中包括財務總監、營運總監、我的助理和我自己。

These ALT members and their respective teams, such as Prayer Advocacy and Communication, serve as a “backbone” in providing assistance to our Alliance organisations, and the Bible translation movements within the Alliance, to flourish. As with all Alliance organisations, this “backbone” covers matters such as board functions, finances, staffing, contracts, MOUs, etc. I will only mention a few of the activities that this group will focus on in 2025 for Alliance organisations and Bible translation movements:

- We will soon start with the re-signing process of the Covenant/Statement of Commitment, which will be in place for 2026-2030. We appreciate all Alliance organisations that have contributed to reviewing the new version of the Covenant. And also thanks to Phil Prior and the Communication team for doing the final edit. It is now being translated and we trust that we will be able to start rolling this out very soon.
- Further, we have initiated two global missiological discussions. One is a discussion with church leaders on their desired involvement in Bible translation. This will augment our previous conversations on the Alliance and the church. The other discussion is on Power in Mission, in which we want to understand power dynamics in mission and how we as an Alliance and Alliance organisations can navigate those.
- Our new book, *Collaborative Missional Leadership* is at the printer. We hope to purchase the rights to make this available for free soon at Wycliffe.net. This book is a reflection on what we have learned as an Alliance over a number of years, as we have tried to understand how to work collaboratively with one another. There is an implication from a missiological perspective on this as we provide leadership collaboratively.
- Global Gathering 2024 largely met the needs that were expressed by Alliance organisations. My leadership team is in a process of crystalising the learnings from Global Gathering. That is partly what we will be doing in our meeting in February. We will bring all of those learnings into our strategic direction as we continue on our journey with God and with each other as God builds his kingdom.
- And then lastly, a lot of our energy will also be spent this year on the winding down of Vision 2025. It will culminate in the (virtual) celebration of

ALT成員及他們各自的團隊，如禱告倡議和傳訊，是我們的「骨幹」，他們向聯會機構以及聯會內的聖經翻譯運動蓬勃發展，提供援助，使後者蓬勃發展。向所有聯會機構亦然，這些「骨幹」涵蓋的事宜，包括董事會職能、財務、人員配備、合約、諒解備忘錄等。

- 我們快將重新簽署盟約 / 承諾聲明，新的盟約 / 承諾聲明有效期為2026年至2030年。我們感謝所有為審閱新版盟約作出貢獻的聯會機構，也感謝普賴爾（Phil Prior）及傳訊團隊協助最終修訂。文件在翻譯中，相信很快就可推出。
- 此外，我們也發起了兩次全球宣教學討論。一次與教會領袖討論他們希望如何參與聖經翻譯工作。這有助強化我們之前有關聯會和教會的對話。另一次討論關於宣教使命中的權力，我們想了解宣教使命中的權力動態，以及我們作為聯會和聯會機構，該如何駕馭這些權力動態。
- 我們的新書 *Collaborative Missional Leadership* 正在印刷中。我們希望洽購版權，以便不久將來在 Wycliffe.net 上免費提供。此書反映了我們作為聯會多年來的學習，我們一直嘗試明白如何相互合作。我們合作提供領導，從宣教學的角度來看，這具有一定的意義。
- 2024年 global 大會在很大程度上滿足了聯會機構所表達的需求。我的領導團隊正在將 global 大會所獲得的經驗具體化。這也是我們將在2月會議上進行的部分工作。我們會把所有

So ... there you have a thumbnail image, based on what we know today, of our plans for this year. Of course, God orders our steps, and his plans could look very different. We have seen things move very quickly and unexpectedly in recent years. But through everything, the Lord has shown himself to be completely trustworthy as we navigate our unknown and volatile world. Please make dependent prayer a priority, personally, for your organisation and for the communities we serve.

Thank you.

Stephen Coertze  
Executive Director

好了……按著我們所知的，你已看見我們今年計劃的縮圖。當然，神指引著我們的腳步，祂的計劃看起來可能截然不同。近年來，我們已看過一些事情的發展非常迅速、出乎意料；但透過這一切，當我們在這個未知又動盪的世界中前行時，神已經顯明祂是完全可靠的。請將信靠的禱告作為個人，對你的機構和所服侍的社群的優先事項。

謝謝。

高爾澤（Stephen Coertze）  
執行總幹事