

Dear Mr & Mrs McLennan,

John's mother wanted her little son to know Jesus and the Bible, so she showed him a New Testament passage and said to him, "Find Jesus, Johnny". Rev Dr John Harris has never forgotten these words, because they were his beloved mother's, pointing him to a life in Christ.

But there's a neurological reason as well. John heard the instruction in the language learned at home in childhood – his 'mother tongue'. This helped him easily understand it, apply it, and remember it to this day. John would go on to learn many languages but English would always be his mother tongue. It would always be the language in which he thought about God. [Watch the documentary.](#)

Many Christians struggle with understanding the Bible because they do not have one in their mother tongue – the language of their prayer and worship. They cope as best they can with Bibles in their second language. In Australia, where there are approximately 120* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages spoken today, only one language - Kriol - has a full Bible.

John, who has [spent a lifetime in Bible translation](#), says his father often spoke of how Aboriginal people's eyes would light up when they first heard the Scripture in their own language. In one particular mission, the community had memorised the Lord's Prayer and could "rattle it off" in English. But the first time they heard the Lord's Prayer spoken in their language, their eyes opened wide as they said, "That's what it means!"

400 Bible translations are underway right now, and need support for the work to continue. Today, as we observe Giving Tuesday – the global day of giving – could you help in one special push for Bible translation? Please give to support [our many translation projects](#), here in Australia and around the world, and tell others too.

Your gift will help more people go, "That's what it means!" when they read the Scripture. We long for the day when every language in every nation will have access to the Bible, so that all people might be able to "find Jesus".

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