

Bible Translation Update

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News and information about Wycliffe Bible Translators

In Suffering, Encouraged by Good News

CENTRAL ASIA—A draft translation of Romans and Hebrews is being produced in a place where six years ago there were no known believers. Today a number of believers meet discreetly in small cell groups, and as the cells grow they split and multiply. Translators hear constant reports of many people becoming Christians.

The believers here are familiar with suffering. One person commented that "many people were coming to God because of the widespread problems they face." Poverty, increasing pollution, economic hardship and sickness are realities in their daily existence.

An SIL translation consultant wrote: "The believers I worked with had firsthand experience [with these difficulties]. They were also some of the most radiant Christians I had ever met! They inspired me to greater efforts as they commented each day how much they identified with the sufferings of the apostle Paul, and how they couldn't wait to get the Scriptures to their people."



Vernacular Media Services

WAXHAW, NORTH CAROLINA—Vernacular Media Services (VMS) offers specialized training that attracts people from around the world. The course focuses on evaluating local community needs as the basis of selecting appropriate media (audio cassettes, radio, video, live drama or dance) to communicate the Scriptures. VMS' most recent training course ran from February 18 to May 24 with students from five different countries.

Overcoming Obstacles in the Arctic

NORTHERN SIBERIA—A husband and wife translation team working among the nomadic Nenets have been struggling with sub-zero temperatures, long arctic nights, health issues and an extended wait for a telephone line. It has also been difficult to link up with Nenets for language study. But the team is greatly encouraged by clear signs of spiritual life among this people group. A weekly Bible study has recently begun, and there is a perceived need for the Word in the Nenets language.



Translation Course

PAPUA NEW GUINEA—Earlier this year, 24 individuals from nine language groups gathered together at the Morobe Regional Tok Pisin Translator Course to gain a better understanding of Bible translation. It was a time of encouragement for the participants who made plans to continue learning and incorporating Bible translation strategies from SIL International. Among the participants were three Kapin speakers. These men had caught the vision for translating the Scriptures into their own language last year after viewing a video about Bible translation. They have started a new translation program and were happy with any assistance that SIL would provide them.

Growing Interest

RUSSIA—The first Wycliffe Russia member was accepted last year and is preparing for field assignment. The growing interest continues as a successful three-day seminar for candidates and those interested in Bible translation attracted about 30 young people. Recently four more individuals have become full-time members through Wycliffe Russia.

Something Lost in the Translation

URASIA—An SIL translator has found it difficult to translate poetic books into the language he is working in. He wrote: "We are listening carefully to the comments of the leaders, especially those who are believers. To make the Psalms and Proverbs accurate and beautiful in this language is not easy. But our hope is to have these books so that the local fellowships will joyfully read, sing and memorize the Scripture in their language."

JESUS Film Update

INTERNATIONAL—During the last year SIL International completed a new translation of the JESUS film every nine days. The JESUS film is now available in 717 languages, the most of any film in history. The lip synching in the Bengali JESUS video was so realistic that an Indian woman, upon seeing a new translation of the film, wrote to her son saying, "I just discovered that Jesus speaks Bengali!"