

Dear Co-laborer in Christ,

Greetings from *Bibles International*. It is with much gratitude that I come to you on behalf of BI. As we approach this Christmas season, we are reminded of the sacrificial gift of God's Son on our behalf. He came that we might have life, and that we might have a life that is abundant. Our Lord gave His all for us – and we have been called to “follow in His steps” (I Peter 2:21). We at *Bibles International* have been so blessed by partners like you. This last spring, we made an appeal for IT needs here at BI. We were overwhelmed by the response to that appeal and thank God for each of you who gave. You have provided for that need. Thank you!

We just concluded our BI Harvest Banquet here in Grand Rapids. What a wonderful evening it was with the uplifting musical ministry of the Ben Everson Family, the culinary expertise of Applause catering, and the inspirational challenge of the video presentation and a message from Dr. Larry Fogle, Director of BMM's Pastoral Enrichment Program (PEP). This year's banquet theme was “*The 'Pente' Project: Persecuted, but Not Forsaken.*” The word “Pente” is a pseudonym for a people group and language spoken by over 90 million people worldwide. This group of believers hunger and thirst to have the Scriptures in their mother tongue.

This project is like no other BI has ever done.

In 2014, *Bibles International* began to research the “Pente” language in Asia to determine the need for a potential Bible translation. In their home country, approximately one million “Pente” Christians live among 188 million Muslims. They experience various forms of persecution, but they have not been forgotten by our Lord. The Creator of the heavens and the earth has indeed heard the cry of these persecuted believers for a copy of the Scriptures in their language. We have heard God's call to help them, and we ask you to join our team. The reason this project is like none other is because it requires a new script, training in literacy, and the protection of God for the entire translation team. Our call to “help them” is monumental.

Please pray for the “Pente” believers and the unique challenges that this “restricted or creative access nation” presents. After much prayer, God led us to adopt the “Pente” project in 2019. As we celebrate the Christmas season this year, our hearts and minds go to this particular people group who cannot read the Christmas story to their children in their heart language. Most of us will not have that problem. We will enjoy reading Luke 1-2 and Matthew 1-2 to our children and grandchildren. We will not need to be concerned about the “cost” of reading those passages, a violation of the law in many countries. We can talk freely to our children. Imprisonment, trials, hardship, economic and governmental consequences will not cause us to be concerned. We still



live in a free country. We still worship in our churches with liberty. We still tell others the good news of Jesus Christ publicly. However, many of our brothers and sisters around the world cannot share that message without paying a price. Sometimes that price is very high!

Our trust is in the Living God who cares for His suffering church.

Dr. Larry Fogle reminded us at the banquet that according to 1 Corinthians 12, we are the body, even as Christ is the Head of the Church. When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. Part of “our Body” is suffering today (the “Pente” church), and all the members around the world feel that pain. God cares for His Church. His Son died for it. II Corinthians 8:13-14 is a clear reminder that “*our abundance can supply the lack*” that our “Pente” brothers and sisters have. On the other hand, “*their abundance of faith*” can supply what we lack. We indeed need one another, so that His Body functions as it was designed to function.

In order to provide a New Testament for our suffering “Pente” brothers and sisters, the cost (which includes the training, translation process, printing and shipping) will be approximately **\$250,000**. This is a huge task. If you are able to contribute, you may use the enclosed envelope to send your one-time donation, or you may go to our website, www.biblesint.org, and click on “Online Donations.” Please designate that it should go to the “*Pente Project*.”

Praise the Lord! We just received word that a generous donor has expressed a desire to give a “matching fund” of **\$50,000** for the Pente. Therefore, as the Lord leads you to give towards the initial \$50,000, he will match it with another \$50,000! We thank him and our Lord.

Call us at (616) 942-7712 if you have further questions.

It may be that you would consider adopting the “Pente” project for the long-haul. However, you could also choose to commit to \$10/month through an ACH set-up which has no additional service fees. The accounting department at Baptist Mid-Missions can help you set that up. Their phone number is (440) 826-3930.

We cannot thank you enough for your generous support so that the “Pente” believers can read their Bibles in their heart language like you and I do. This will not only encourage the “Pente” church, but it will equip their pastors with the resources to strengthen their people, and navigate them through some very rough waters. God loves His people! We thank you for envisioning the eternal impact that your gift makes toward fulfilling the Great Commission.

May God bless you richly for being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

For the Glory of God, and for the Souls of the “Pente” people,

Director – Bibles International