



Bibles International

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Dear Prayer Warrior and Co-laborer in Christ,

Greetings from Bibles International. We will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, very soon. The eternal Son of God put on human flesh and “dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The Son of Man brought grace and truth, and revealed the Father. He became the visible representation on earth of the invisible God in heaven. As John says, “He hath declared Him” (John 1:18c). We will celebrate the fact that our Savior brought glory to God in heaven and peace to man on earth according to Luke’s gospel (2:14). His impact is changing lives today. The Apostle John calls Him “the Word” in his gospel. As the *living Word*, He was God in the flesh. It is also His passion to give us His *written Word* so that we might hear and read God’s words to mankind, with the goal that we might have a relationship with Him.

On May 27, 2021, we had the distinct privilege of attending the dedication of the Tagalog Revised New Testament in the Philippines via Zoom. We wanted to attend in person in Manila, but COVID restrictions did not allow that. What a joy it was to fellowship and celebrate that this much needed version of the Tagalog NT was completed and available to the 20 million Tagalog-speakers in the Philippines and to the large diaspora settled in other countries. God desires to speak clearly to His people. Communication is an absolute necessity between the Creator-Redeemer and His church.

The Word of God prevailed in the book of Acts, and God intends that it continue to prevail in the modern world. Only the Word of God can transform hearts, marriages, families, communities, tribes, and entire people-groups for His glory. However, there is a problem. “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!’” (Romans 10:14-15). As missionary-linguist and founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators, William Cameron Townsend, has said, “The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue.” And how will they know what God says in His Word to them if they do not have a copy of the Scriptures in their heart language? Millions still wait for the “greatest missionary” to arrive to meet their spiritual hunger.

The Greatest Missionary is the Bible in the Mother Tongue

The latest statistics published by Wycliffe Global Alliance states that there are 7,360 languages on the earth. With only 704 complete Bibles, 1,551 New Testaments, and 1,160 selected portions of the Bible translated into these 3,415 languages, there remains 3,945 languages that have nothing translated into their mother tongue. We praise God for the 3,415 different languages that have “something” in their mother tongue, but remember Townsend’s words, “The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue.” *And how shall they hear without a missionary?* This is a question that we cannot ignore.

The task that God has entrusted to Bibles International is very daunting, yet humbling. We attended a confer-



ence at a Bible college. A 7-year old boy who was in attendance came to us and emphatically stated that he wanted to be a Bible translator. He said that he wanted to share the gospel with people around the world, but then he asked with great conviction, “But how can that be done if people do not have the Bible in their own language?” He was right. Only seven years old and he already understands the problem AND the answer. He decided that week that he needed to start studying Hebrew and Greek so that he will be equipped to be a Bible translator. To hear someone read the Scriptures for the first time in their own language, after waiting for years and sometimes decades, is spiritually overwhelming and emotionally moving. We hear comments like: “Finally, God has learned our language” (Asia); “I have finished reading the NT and am planning to read it again” (Akha); “We are thankful ... and look forward to the future to be able to complete the entire Bible for our people” (Songhay); “The text is clear now ... working with this translation, now we have our ‘own’ Bible. It is like it is directly God-given to our people” (Metatrepo); or “I could never believe that a God who did not know my language could love me. When I heard God’s words in my own language, I realized that he did love me” (Chad). God does care.

Lifeline Partners Program with Bibles International

It is for this reason that Bibles International began the Lifeline Partners program. Lifeline Partners form a network of individual supporters who demonstrate their personal commitment to the critical mission of Bible translation through regular financial and prayer investment for long-term global impact. Our translators live and work in some of the most extremely challenging nations on earth. They have dealt with political upheavals, military coups, civil wars, religious extremism, economic or agricultural reversals, significant health concerns, widespread pandemics, and a host of other formidable oppositions. We want to encourage them to zealously persevere in the midst of such challenges for the glory of God and so that their people can have a copy of the Scriptures in their heart language. More than 200 million people representing nearly 4,000 languages continue to pray, labor, and wait.

Lifeline Partners designate their regular gifts to the Lifeline Fund, which is dedicated to Bible translation and literacy projects *where needed most* at the time of the gift. One month, that may be in West Africa. The next month, it may be in Southeast Asia, Eurasia, or South America. Bibles International is passionately committed to the critical mission of taking God’s Word to “every nation, and kindred, and people, and tongue (language)” (Revelation 7:9). **Will you help us?** Lifeline Partners help to establish a predictable and sustaining support base from which to budget and fulfill our vision as a Bible translation ministry. Though special one-time gifts are invaluable to the completion of many BI projects, it is the sustaining gifts of Lifeline Partners that keep these projects moving forward through the long process of a complete translation. We would like to introduce you to two opportunities to help as Lifeline Partners who are committed to throwing out a lifeline to the language groups who are still waiting globally.

First, we are praying for **40 new Lifeline Partners** to invest a gift of \$40/month (or any amount). As of today, we have 17 Lifeline Partners. Would you join our team and become a Partner?

Second, we are praying for an additional **\$60,000 of one-time gifts** for our Lifeline Fund. We praise God that gifts of over \$40,000 were given or pledged at our recent 40th Anniversary Harvest Banquet for the Lifeline Fund. We thank you for your generosity! However, the need is still great and is on-going. Therefore, we are asking the Lord to provide an additional \$60,000 this year (for a total of \$100,000).

If the Lord lays this need upon your heart, you may use the enclosed envelope to send your donation, or go to www.biblesint.org. Click the “GIVE” button to designate your gift. Choose “BI General” and then scroll to the “BI Lifeline Fund.” **Would you become a Lifeline Partner?** Thank you!

For the one billion people who are still waiting for a complete Bible in their heart language,



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