



May 2024

Dear Co-laborer and Prayer Warrior in Christ,

Greetings from Bibles International. Recently we celebrated the resurrection of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ at Easter. We have been given new life by faith because our Savior rose from the dead. A dead Savior cannot save anyone, but the Resurrected One has provided for us everlasting hope in Him. I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior when circumstances led me to a place of hopelessness and despair. That transformational day, over 40 years ago, was the day I had decided to take my own life. However, that would also be the day that a woman would give me a gospel tract that caught my attention. In big red letters on the front of the tract it proclaimed, "Christ is the Answer!" The gospel tract explained the plan of salvation, and I responded by faith in the Person and work of Jesus Christ for me. It would be several decades before I came to appreciate that the gospel changed me because I read it in my mother tongue. I took it for granted. But if it had not been in my language, I would not have known the riches of His grace, hope, and forgiveness for me.

In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ called His disciples to follow Him faithfully. Their lives were changed forever, and they grew in the wisdom and grace of their Master. Many of His lessons took place in a boat while on the Sea of Galilee, as they were fishermen. He told them that if they would follow Him, He would make them to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). He taught them to follow His instructions and to allow Him to lead them. On a particular day in which they had no success in their fishing, their Master told them, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch/draught" (Luke 5:4). If they would follow Him, then He would lead them to where they should go for fish. This is the same for becoming fishers of men. As a Bible Society, we do research and ask the Lord to lead us to those people groups who need a Bible in their mother tongue. Only the Scriptures in my mother tongue could deliver me from my sin and spare me from taking my own life. We want to introduce you to an incredible group of people who have been praying for a Bible in their mother tongue. We have launched out into the deep, and God has led us to the jungles of Peru.

God Led Us to an Exciting New Bible Translation Project --

The most recent Bible translation work adopted by Bibles International is located in northwestern Peru, in the jungles of the Andes along the Morona and Santiago Rivers, bordering Ecuador. They are the Wampis people, and they have a population of 10,200, 70% of whom profess Christianity. This exciting project first came to Bibles International's attention in 2021. BI discovered that the Wampis New Testament, although used extensively in their churches, needed a major revision, as well as the inclusion of the Old Testament. Traveling to the remote Wampis villages required several forms of transportation over days of traveling (plane, bus, truck, chalupa, dug-out canoe, etc.). BI's Projects Coordinator for the Americas and our BI Consultant in Peru made significant trips to the Wampis villages which have produced spiritual fruit. As a result of their labors and the leading of the Holy Spirit, Bibles International adopted the Wampis Bible project in 2023 for an Old Testament translation and a New Testament revision. The organizing and training for the Translation Team, Sponsorship Committee, and the Read & Review Committee are scheduled for this year.

This is a very exciting work and the Wampis people are extremely hospitable, gracious, and clearly motivated to work on a Bible translation for their people. They are contagiously eager to have a full Bible in their mother tongue. After spending precious time getting to know the Wampis people in their villages, BI's primary consultant for this project stated, "God's work among the Wampis is remarkable. The Wampis have a level of excitement for Bible translation that I have not personally witnessed previously in my ministry. It is a genuine privilege to work with these believers who are serving faithfully in situations far more difficult than my own. Their attitude is both an encouragement and a challenge for me to serve God faithfully with my life."

Pastors from 36 churches were invited to a special meeting to hear about the translation process. Not all attended, but those who came were wise and earnest in choosing qualified translators and committee members among their people. The first Swiss missionaries who came to the Wampis location with the gospel paddled up the Morona and Santiago Rivers in the 1960s. They established schools, preached the gospel, and planted churches. Now the Wampis need a full Bible. This is an incredible opportunity that the Lord has given us. We are thrilled to partner with them. Unfortunately, they do not possess basic equipment or supplies for a Bible translation work. Most of the pastors are bi-vocational and truly they serve in the "uttermost parts of the earth." Traditionally, they have practiced the custom of planting and harvesting a field as a church funding project. The crops are sent up the river to sell in Ecuador. However, crops are no longer permitted to cross the border which has cut their profits and increased expenses for the churches which were counting on this as a means for income. But they are resourceful. Please pray for them as they seek the Lord for His wisdom, grace, and daily provisions.

Launching the Wampis Project in the Jungles of Northwestern Peru –

Pray for the precious Wampis people. God is doing wonderful things in the jungles of northwestern Peru among this people group. God has clearly laid His hand upon them and has heard their fervent prayers. He has led us to them. We cannot accomplish this eternal task without a team effort. They need **\$210,000** to translate the Old Testament and revise the New Testament.

Would you pray about and consider helping the Wampis people launch this incredible new Bible translation project so they can have a full Bible in their mother tongue?

If the Lord leads you to contribute to this great need, you may use the enclosed envelope to send your one-time donation, or you may go to our BMM website, www.bmm.org, and click the "GIVE" button to designate your gifts. Choose "Give Online" and then type the project, "Bibles International–Wampis (530215)" under the line that says, "Support a Project or Missionary." Or you could simply use the QR code below which will take you directly to the BI Wampis site. Thank you for giving so that this people group in the "uttermost parts of the earth" can read God's precious Word in their language. You may give a one-time gift, or if the Lord would stir your church to adopt this project for the long-haul, please let us know. It is a worthy investment! Thank you.

For the Glory of God and the Wampis people of Peru,



Timothy L. Fink
Director -- Bibles International
tfink@biblesint.org
616-942-7712

