



# Aramaic M-North OT

## Churches Anticipate both New & Old Testament

Christians among the Aramaic M-North people hold their centuries-old traditional Bible in high esteem. But they can't understand it. They believe the Bible is the Word of God, yet they've had no Bible to read—until the current year, when a freshly translated New Testament is poised to be printed. Now churches in this society, which values the Patriarchs, anticipate an Old Testament translation too; that work is up and running.

As each section of an Old Testament book is drafted, someone on the team finds an opportunity to read it to other native speakers in the local communities to gauge if the meaning is clear and the wording sounds natural. This comprehension testing, which does the double duty of making the translation better and also exposing people to the Word of God for their spiritual benefit, will continue throughout each chapter and book.

- Thank the Lord that the Old Testament translation is now underway.
- Pray that people of various ages and backgrounds will participate in testing of Old Testament books to help improve their quality and also be personally changed.

## Three Vital Books—Genesis, Psalms, Isaiah

The team began drafting the Psalms first; they're also working on Isaiah. Lead translator Samuel has drafted 30 psalms so far. As soon as the book of Psalms is fully translated, the team will coordinate an audio recording of it and also of one or more New Testament books. During this process, they plan to get feedback from communities and from church leaders. When the Psalms are complete, the team will begin drafting Genesis.

## Samuel Interviewed on Television

Samuel was interviewed by a national TV station for an hour. He detailed the significance of the Aramaic M-North translation of the Bible. And as an added blessing, the interview was rebroadcast several times.

- Thank the Lord for the wide exposure of the translation project on television to hundreds of thousands of people.



*For security reasons, pseudonyms have been used for the language name and names of individuals.*

- Location: East Mediterranean
- Number of Speakers: 1,000,000
- Year Project Began: 2009
- Expected Completion Date: 2017

- Praise God that psalms written by King David are now available to Aramaic M-North people in their mother tongue for the very first time.
- Pray for the team as they draft the lengthy book of Isaiah and prepare to start work on the foundational book of Genesis.





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### Scriptures Geared for the Average Man

The Aramaic M-North Old Testament is based on a number of reliable translations that the translators are conversant with. By keeping the meaning of the Scriptures faithful to the original and the words understandable, this Bible will be used by ordinary people in all walks of life. And at every stage, exegetical consultant Abraham checks the work and helps the team develop and refine the orthography rules for the Aramaic M-North language to make it as reader-friendly as possible.

- **Pray that the consultant will flag all inaccuracies and ambiguities for correction in the mother-tongue Scriptures.**

### Immediate Impact with the Gospel

To whet people's appetite for the Old Testament in their heart language and, more importantly, to impact them immediately with the gospel, the team wants to make New Testament materials accessible to them. These include the Luke-based *JESUS* film script, which is already available. Hundreds of private-use copies of the script both in print and also on CD are being distributed at Bible conferences and wherever opportunities arise. The team is also making an audio recording of the *Portrait of Jesus*, which are selections of stories about Jesus from the Gospels. They're hoping to print the text for distribution along with the recorded version.

### Handy Occasions to Create Awareness

Seminars and conferences provide ideal occasions to exhibit translated materials in the Aramaic M-North language and to set forth the many ways and means of teaching people how to creatively use the Bible. For example, a seminar in Sweden was attended by all three translators; two of them presented papers on these subjects. In July, two translators will participate in a conference in London and will each present a paper. Then in late September or early October, all three translators will attend a conference in Lebanon.

- **Pray that people will be patient as they eagerly await the Old Testament translation in the Aramaic M-North language.**

- **Pray that popular interest in God's Word will increase throughout the country among the Aramaic M-North population.**

- **Thank the Lord for the biblical audio resources that are being developed.**

- **Pray for safe travel for the translators as they go to these conferences. Pray for the other team members who continue working during the translators' short absences.**