



Aramaic M-South

Barriers of Grammar, Fear and Mistrust

Much of the Bible translation process consists of methodical, academic work. Discussions between team members mainly concern the meaning of the original language of the Scriptures, the wording options and the differences between their culture and the biblical culture that affect the translation.

But there are also times when, in startling ways, the message itself penetrates through the nouns and verbs and discourse structure. At these times the team will have a timeout from the methodical, academic work and instead have a lively discussion about the relevance of the passage to their daily lives.

Though Aramaic M-South people have been exposed to Christianity for a long time, still many have to allow Jesus into the deep zones of their existence. The powerful Word of God alone can break through the barrier not only of grammar but also of fear and mistrust.

- **Thank the Lord for how the Scriptures are touching the translators themselves.**
- **Pray that God's Word, which "is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword," will "pierce as far as the division of soul and spirit" in many Aramaic M-South people's lives (Hebrews 4:12).**

Milestones on the Horizon

The Aramaic M-South team expects to do the layout of the New Testament this year. In preparation for that milestone, the lead translator and head exegetical consultant have been busy to complete their detailed checking of the New Testament. The final goal will be to print and distribute it.

With their sights set on that big day, the team is working with local church leaders and members toward gaining their acceptance and use of the translated Scriptures. They're also working on the printed version of the easy-to-read stories about Jesus from the Gospels entitled *Portrait of Jesus* to whet people's appetite for the mother-tongue New Testament; they've been checking and re-checking this material with a view to publication along with the audio version.

- **Pray that the Lord will remove obstacles in the path that leads to the finish line.**



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

- **Location: East Mediterranean**
- **Number of Speakers: 15,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2003**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2010**

- **Praise God with the team as they zoom in toward the end—it's an exciting time in the life of a translation project.**





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Sculpting God's Word

An ongoing job by the team is looking at their renderings of key biblical terms such as *grace* and *faith* and ensuring that these will achieve the goals of accuracy and naturalness. The translators are committed to this work of finalizing important words and phrases in the Bible—a critical effort when considering how crucial these thematic elements are to communicating the central biblical message dynamically. This is a vital aspect of the team's whole task of sculpting God's Word to make it speak relevantly to this and later generations.

The Enemy Turns Up the Heat

The challenges that Bible translators face are daunting, especially in the final months when the Enemy, who desperately opposes the work they're doing, turns up the heat. That's why it's crucial that vital Christian partners and other interested believers be kept abreast of these workers' concerns, victories, reversals and other details of their work, which need to be undergirded by the strong and loving support of God's people at each juncture of their journey.

This is where you come in. As the information in these Updates comes to you, you play a key role by your prayers, as the Lord lays it on your hearts, to help see the Bible translation project through to completion.

- **Pray that God will give special grace and guidance to the translators as they chisel and give final shape to the Bible's key terms.**
- **Pray expectantly that the Lord will do even "*beyond all that we ask or think*" (Ephesians 3:20) and bring the Aramaic M-South New Testament work to a triumphant conclusion.**