PROJECT UPDATE

DECEMBER 2011

Aramaic M-South OT*

Imitating the Faith of Joseph

Even though the Aramaic M-South believers suffer hardship and trouble, they're able to give thanks to God for their struggles. They trust Him now more than in previous years. They see this as the same kind of experience Joseph had in the book of Genesis when he encountered famine with the people of Egypt and his family and people. They imitate his faith (Hebrews 11:22). Their desire to receive the Bible in their mother tongue is unceasing.

- **Thank the Lord for giving His children strong faith in the midst of difficult circumstances.**
- **Pray that the Lord will deliver the Aramaic M-South believers from their adversities, as He has promised so often in the Psalms.**
- **Please remember in prayer God's laborers as they do Bible translation.**

A Valuable Translation Tool

The Aramaic M-South translator came to the U.S. this month, as planned, to get training in Paratext. This software is designed to help teams keyboard their translations in a standard format, so that the format and layout will be consistent. It also facilitates editing and has tools to help check the consistency of spelling, punctuation and other features. It enables translators to view two or three translations side by side so that they can be compared.

- **Praise God that the Aramaic M-South Old Testament will be on Paratext. Pray for the translator as he applies what he learned.**

Exciting Goals

A review of the completed drafts of Genesis and Psalms and ongoing drafting of Leviticus are the team's current Old Testament goals. Meanwhile, they're getting the New Testament ready for a consultant check and continue revising the spelling. The Paratext feature will greatly help them prepare the New Testament for publication.

- **Pray that the Lord will empower the team to achieve their translation goals. Pray that He'll remove hurdles from their path.**

***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: 2010
- Expected Completion Date: 2019

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Six Steps of Translation

1. **First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
2. **Team Check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
3. **Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
4. **Back Translation:** translators translate the draft "back" into a major language for a non-native consultant.
5. **Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
6. **Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

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**OT projects involve translating the Old Testament.*