



Aramaic Old Testament

Imitating the Faith of Joseph

Even though the Assyrian Aramaic 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 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.

- **Praise God for giving His children strong faith in the midst of difficult circumstances. Pray that He'll deliver the Assyrian Aramaic believers from their adversities, as He has promised so often in the Psalms.**

Where the Team Stands

Here's a summary of the Assyrian Aramaic Old Testament team's progress to date:

A third of the Old Testament (13 books) has now been drafted. These are the first ten books plus Esther, Psalms and Jonah. Of those, five books (Genesis, Joshua, Ruth, Esther and Jonah) have moved through all translation steps and been published.

Another three books (Exodus, Judges and 1 Samuel) are now ready for publication. On the team's agenda for 2010 is to bring those three books along with another four (2 Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah and Psalms) through the publishing stage. Preparing English back-translations for the consultant, community testing of each book and accuracy checks by project advisor Kris are all a critical part of the task. A team-check of Numbers and a first draft of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are currently underway.

The most recent activity has included finishing the draft of Psalms and starting to draft Ezra and Nehemiah, which is almost complete.

A Beneficial Tool

Kris got the team up and running in using the computer program Paratext. They were able to convert all drafted Old Testament books into Paratext format, which greatly facilitates the editing process. Kris and mother-tongue translator Demsin spent time working with new features of this helpful computer editing program.

- **Pray for Kris who's in need of increased financial support. This situation will require her to take time to pursue more extensive partnership development and travel in the next six to nine months.**



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: 1999
- Expected Completion Date: 2014

- **Please remember in prayer the Lord's laborers as they do Bible translation.**

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God's Word Online

The team plans to get help on how to put vernacular Scripture readings online, either on the Aramaic Bible Translation website or develop a website specifically for the translation. These readings are Bible passages used in weekly Sunday services. Kris started to design a website from one of the many free templates out there, but she needs more assistance. The next Aramaic Bible Translation board meeting will include a special workshop on website issues.

- **Pray that God will pave the way for the team to get His Word increasingly out to people through posting on a website.**
- **Pray for consultant Randy as he needs more time to spend with his wife Anna and her health issues.**
- **Pray that the good working relationship that exists among the team members will be ongoing.**

A Wealth of Teaching about Christ

In the book of Acts, we learn that for 40 days after Christ arose He was “*speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God*” (1:3). In the four Gospels, the content of Jesus’ teaching on the subject during His whole earthly ministry is more fully elaborated upon. This instruction included an exposition of the Old Testament testimony “*concerning Himself*”, with reference especially to His suffering and subsequent glory (Luke 24:26-27). Jesus’ followers in the book of Acts preached on this exalted theme as well.

And in the epistles and book of Revelation, the sacred authors delve more thoroughly yet into the theological implications of Jesus’ resurrection, which became the connecting link between His suffering and glory, solving the mystery of a Messiah who must die for His people and yet who also must reign over them gloriously in a coming kingdom.

- **Thank the Lord for the Assyrian Aramaic team's continued ability to work via the internet.**

- **Thank the Lord for the wealth of teachings about Christ in the New Testament.**
- **Pray for the Aramaic team as they set their sights on the goal of a revised New Testament for a second printing.**