



# Aramaic Old Testament

## Discouragement Gives Way to Praise

As Bible translators pursue their challenging mission, the Enemy wants nothing more than to thwart this eternally valuable work. So he launches his attacks, which often come in the form of personal hardships and leave translators weary and discouraged. During these desperate moments, the temptation arises to wonder if the sacrifice is worth it.

But Bible translators aren't the only ones to wrestle with doubts. The writer of Psalm 73 also faced uncertainties and was perplexed by the prosperity of the wicked, while he himself endured endless afflictions. But as he reflected on God's holiness, he understood the awful destiny of the wicked (Psalm 73:17-20) and declared: "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (verse 26).

- **Pray that the Psalms will be an encouragement to many Assyrian Aramaic speakers.**

## Printing Draws Near

The team-check of Psalms has been finished with mother-tongue translators Demsin and Homer. The consultant's exegetical check was completed as well. Now the big push is a community read-through. Comprehension questions are being prepared for this step.

Project advisor Kris' tutor and friend Alexandra and a local church leader or others may assist in the read-through of the Psalms to double-check for any dialect differences that could hinder understanding. The precious goal of a printed volume of the Psalms and second edition of the New Testament in Assyrian Aramaic draws nearer.

## No Valentine's Day

Each week Kris meets with Alexandra, who helps her read and understand more about the Assyrian Aramaic language and study the culture. As they read the New Testament in the language, she tells Kris stories about growing up in her home country where her dad was a church leader. He'd taught her to read in the language and love the Bible. As a child, though she wanted to go outside and play, her dad made her first read God's Word.

Alexandra recalled that Assyrians don't celebrate Valentine's Day. It's not part of their culture at all. In fact, it always falls in the middle of the three days of the Nineveh Fast during which Assyrians fast from food and have special prayers at church, repenting and remembering how the city of Nineveh turned to God at the preaching of Jonah.

### 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.

ARAMAIC OLD TESTAMENT PROJECT UPDATE—1



*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:** 2017

- **Praise God for the team's good progress on the Psalms. Pray for the upcoming publication of Psalms along with the revised New Testament in Assyrian Aramaic.**



*Kris and Alexandra*

- **Pray for Kris as she studies the language's grammar to ensure a natural translation.**

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