



Guan New Testament

A Rare Opportunity

As Guan translator Beti was traveling by train to another district in the language area, she met some independent pastors who were on their way to a Christian conference. One of them enquired about what she was doing. After briefly explaining about her role as a mother-tongue translator, Beti handed him a copy of the published Gospel of Mark in Guan. He and the other pastors were amazed at this ministry.

The pastor said a few Guan believers worshipped in his church, so he invited Beti to share about the Bible translation ministry with them and encourage them and also to come regularly to share the gospel with the non-Christian Guans. This kind of opening is very rare in independent churches. But God’s Word in Guan made the difference.

- **Pray that the Lord will give Beti wisdom to make use of this opportunity to share the Good News with many non-Christian Guans and to encourage the believers.**

Extending Her Ministry

Translator Salva is extending her ministry by helping translation teams in neighboring languages as a consultant, which she’s training for now. She attended a workshop where she got practical experience by checking Luke’s Gospel and 2 Thessalonians in a related language under the supervision of senior consultants. She carefully studied these Scripture portions ahead of time and prepared notes to use in the checking sessions.

- **Praise God for the hands-on experience that Salva is getting as she trains to be a translation consultant.**

God’s Word Coming to Life in Guan

The Guan team has been taking some New Testament books through the translation steps. Main translator Asaf, who is Salva’s husband, has completed an English back-translation of 1 Timothy to give to a consultant. He also made revisions to 2 Timothy and passed that book on to the local Scripture reviewers’ committee. He’s eagerly awaiting their input.

Meanwhile, mother-tongue translator Paula is drafting Acts under the tutelage of Salva, who also trained Beti to do comprehension testing of the Scriptures with other Guan speakers in the community. She’s currently busy doing this with the book of Romans. Drafting of the book of 2 Thessalonians in Guan is underway as well.

On the Old Testament front, the picturesque books of Ruth, Esther and Jonah have been drafted by the mother-tongue translators. These books are jam-packed with divine truths.



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

- Location: South Asia
- Number of Speakers: 700,000
- Year Project Began: 2000
- Expected Completion Date: 2013



Salva training to be a consultant

- **Pray that all these books from God’s Word will speak to Guan people’s hearts.**



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The Lord's Intervention

Kathy, a Guan lady, assisted literacy specialists Saju and Ladia Tomsu as they keyboarded Bible study materials into the computer. During their time together the couple shared the truth of the gospel with Kathy. Slowly she started to open her heart to them and shared about her personal life. She said she suffered a lot of pain during the delivery of her first child due to high blood pressure. Against the doctors' advice, she became pregnant again.

This time the doctors and her relatives wanted Kathy to have an abortion. So she came to the Tomsus asking them to pray for the situation. They discouraged the idea of terminating the pregnancy and prayed with her. Ladia was in frequent prayer for Kathy and accompanied her to the hospital many times.

Though Kathy's blood pressure was rising, she took courage and prayed to the Lord Jesus. By God's grace, she gave birth to a baby boy in a normal delivery with a very good doctor and a Christian nurse to take care of her. The chief doctor, a follower of another religion, realized that this was God's intervention. Kathy has begun to put her trust in Christ and the Tomsus believe she's "not far from the kingdom of God" (Mark 12:34).

Seeking More Evangelists

Saju and Ladia continue to edit the oral chronological Bible study materials. They've been training one evangelist to use them, but they would like to find more Guan people who could also become evangelists.

Church Planting Survey

Two members of a local mission agency conducted a survey in two of the Guan districts. A number of places were identified as suitable to initiate church planting. The positive response of a few Guan Christians in these areas was an encouragement to start churches there. The Tomsus are waiting to hear the results of the survey.

- **Praise God for the safe delivery of Kathy's baby. Pray that she and her household will be saved.**

- **Pray for more Christian workers who can make effective use of the chronological Bible stories when these are ready.**

- **Pray for God's guidance in planting churches in Guan communities.**

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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