



# Guan New Testament

## Eager to Participate

Guan literacy specialists Saju and Ladia Tomsu have started using the chronological Bible stories they've prepared. They're holding a Bible study in the house of mother-tongue speaker Mr. Vinny in a Guan village.

For many years, Mr. Vinny's daughter Krissy was resistant to the gospel, giving one reason or another. But then she thoroughly read the Bible study materials that Saju and Ladia had given to the group and shared them with her parents also. Now all her family members have begun showing an interest in knowing the Lord and are eager to participate in the Bible study.

Saju and Ladia frequently receive phone calls from Krissy asking them to come and lead the Bible study and to give the group more Guan Scripture materials to read. Their enthusiasm gives the Tomsus the encouragement to move forward. The Tomsus are hoping to establish 15 more Bible studies in various Guan villages. Pastors from some of the districts have agreed to help.

- **Pray that Mr. Vinny's family members will come to salvation through the chronological Bible stories.**
- **Pray that these Bible studies will equip Christians to know the Bible well and to bring non-Christians to faith in Jesus.**
- **Pray that the Tomsus can identify committed people to become involved in the Guan translation project.**

## Gaining Valuable Insights

Guan translator Salva attended a series of lectures on different theological topics towards her Master's degree. For her required research paper, she chose the topic of the Holy Spirit's work in the church with reference to spiritual gifts. To write that paper she studied books on systematic theology and these helped her understand effectively the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

Saju and Ladia are also working on a study program, recently focusing on the book of Hebrews. They gained insights into the supremacy of Jesus Christ and what He accomplished as our great high priest.

## Advances on the Translation

The Guan translation team continues to make progress on various New Testament books. Main translator Asaf (Salva's husband) completed the back-translation for 2 Timothy in preparation for a



*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

- **Praise God that Salva's research has given her in-depth understanding of the process of exegetical Bible study needed to produce a good Scripture translation.**



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consultant's check. He made use of the feedback provided by the local Scripture reviewers' committee.

Salva's mentoring of mother-tongue translator Beti is ongoing as she recently completed comprehension testing of the book of Romans in the Guan community. She'll test 1 and 2 Timothy next. The team also finished drafting one chapter in 2 Thessalonians.

After completing her research paper Salva will return to offering exegetical advice to mother-tongue translator Paula as she drafts Acts. The team is pleased to report that drafting of the Gospel of Matthew is now underway as well.

### Words Times Three

Asaf has been working for some time on a trilingual dictionary. This entails collecting words from the three Guan dialects. He recently met with the reviewers for this purpose. He'll enter the words into a special computer program for dictionary making.

### Putting the Scriptures to Work

The Tomsus completed the first draft of their chronological Bible study materials, printed them and made these available to other mission agencies. Final editions of 20 lessons are now ready in both the state language and Guan. They also plan to publish two Guan Christian pamphlets.

Saju and Ladia have used the Bible study materials to teach a two-week seminar for tribal mission workers. The participants learned the skill of teaching the Word of God in story form to the various people groups.

- **Pray for wisdom for the Guan team as they seek to complete work on all these New Testament books.**
- **Please pray for improvement in Asaf's blood pressure and Salva's lower back pain.**
- **Pray that Asaf will find useful vocabulary for the Bible translation work as he collects Guan words for the dictionary.**
- **Pray that the Guan team members and people in the community burdened for this task may be united in Spirit to carry out the work of building God's kingdom.**

#### 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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