



# Guan New Testament

## The Life-changing Word

Eight years ago mother-tongue translator Paula converted to Christianity to obtain a good marriage. She started attending church regularly but her life didn't change until she became familiar with God's word as a result of working on the translation.

The Holy Spirit spoke to her heart about the real purpose of fasting as she drafted Matthew 6:16-18. Previously, before starting a fasting/prayer session, she would inform other people, especially her husband, in order to receive praise. After understanding the real meaning of fasting, she stopped informing others. Instead she prayed in solitude as this passage instructs.

Also, from Matthew 7, the Holy Spirit convicted her of the sin of judging others. She made a resolution not to judge others. God in His great mercy is helping her to keep that resolution.

- **Praise God with Paula for bringing her into this great ministry of Scripture translation. Pray she can have a close walk with the Lord.**

## Closing Out the Old Year and Ringing in the New

The team closed out the year by moving a number of books through the translation process. The team has completed the drafting<sup>1</sup> of Matthew. Guan translator Salva continued to work with Paula on revising Acts. They completed two more chapters. Salva also completed the back translation<sup>4</sup> of James to prepare for the consultant check.<sup>5</sup> Mother-tongue translator Beti tested<sup>3</sup> 10 chapters of Mark in the Guan community.

The team continues to press forward in the New Year. Salva is drafting 2 Thessalonians and Paula is working on 1 Corinthians.



Salva (right) providing exegetical help to Paula (left)



*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

- Pray that each book can be improved in quality as it goes through the translation steps.
- Pray for Salva and her husband Asaf as they also prepare materials for training courses.
- Praise God that one of the Review Committee members has accepted Christ as her personal Savior.



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### Comprehension Testing Helps Beti Understand

Mother tongue-translator Beti says of her experience testing the translation in the community, “When I test the portions for comprehension, God speaks to me through His word. When I tested the first chapter of the Mark, the Holy Spirit spoke to me through verse 35 about the quality of my prayer life. I realized if such solitary prayer is needed for His Son Jesus Christ, then how much more do I need to pray. God also spoke to me through Mark 9:50. He told me that as the salt makes the food taste good, I must be a useful vessel to others. If the salt loses its saltiness, it will not be useful. Likewise I must be useful to others.

### Expanding the Chronological Bible Storytelling

Literacy specialists Saju and Ladia Tomsu continue to expand the chronological Bible storytelling materials and ministry. With input from others, they have edited 65 lessons. Those involved in the editing say that it is personally blessing them.

In one Bible study group the Tomsus covered 26 of the lessons and completed differing numbers in four other places. Enthusiasm has been increasing on the part of the learners. They continue to witness a change of thinking taking place among non-Christians and a deepening relationship with the Lord among Christians.

The Tomsus have trained two evangelists and hope to train three more. The evangelists state that the training is helping them have a greater impact in their regular gatherings, especially among children.

### Encouraged by the Life of Joseph

Changes are taking place in the lives of many people, as the Tomsus teach the Word, through ‘Chronological Bible Teaching’ method. One lady was encouraged by the study of the life of Joseph and his brothers. Her husband was experiencing trouble in his family and his five brothers were against him. She shared with her husband that she learned that God was in control and that He would work things out for the good of His loved ones. The Tomsus noticed a difference in her husband’s attitude. He handled the situation by becoming bold and making the right decision. Though he is yet unconverted, he now comes and shares his problems with the Tomsus.

- **Pray that God will continue to teach Beti through the comprehension testing process and help her to understand Him in a better way.**



Salva (left) helps Beti (right) frame questions for village checking

- **Thank God for the 60 children who participated in a Christmas program with singing, dancing, skits, recitation and a gospel message.**

- **Praise God this family is learning to be sustained by the Word of God.**

#### 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.

GUAN NT PROJECT UPDATE—2

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104  
Arlington, Texas 76015

Toll Free: (877) 593-7333  
www.theseedcompany.org

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