



Guan New Testament

Love Means Saying You're Sorry

Guan translator Salva recently asked mother-tongue translator Paula why she looked so sad. She said she'd had a heated argument with her husband. She even considered leaving him and going back to her parents, but changed her mind and decided just to give him the silent treatment. This went on for a week.

Salva listened to Paula's story, and through God's grace Salva was able to discern and point out to Paula the mistake she was making. She explained relevant Scripture portions to Paula and advised her to apologize to her husband. They prayed together for God's guidance and Paula went home that day.

The spirit of the Lord convicted Paula and she asked her husband to forgive her. The next day she told Salva that she'd spoken with her husband and they were happy again. She said it was the first time in her life she'd apologized to anyone. She said it was difficult to ask for forgiveness, but when she was forgiven she was very happy. She told Salva that since she's been involved with the Guan project, God has been dealing with her in different ways and transforming her life.

- **Praise God for revealing His love and power to Paula and for changing her life.**

Moving Forward in Translation

Paula has finished drafting Acts, in answer to prayer. Now Salva is helping her revise the book and they've completed two chapters so far. Salva also assisted mother-tongue translator Beti in testing the book of James in villages. Guan people are becoming used to the testing process and finding it easier to read the Guan Scriptures. Drafting of Matthew continues. Translator Asaf, Salva's husband, has typed eight chapters into the computer.

- **Continue to pray for healing for Asaf's blood pressure and Salva's back problems.**

Dictionary Developments

Asaf met with the local Scripture reviewers' committee to collect words in two of the Guan dialects and entered these into the computer dictionary program. Reviewers from the third dialect didn't attend the meeting, so words weren't collected from that group.



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

- **Thank the Lord that the Guan team has been reaching most of their Bible translation goals. Pray for Paula as she revises Acts and Asaf as he drafts Matthew.**

- **Pray that the Guan dictionary will create interest among the population for reading materials in their own language.**



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“Learning that Lasts”

Salva attended a two-week Bible translation workshop entitled “Learning That Lasts.” The instruction she received there helped her develop seven teaching modules and teach a vernacular grammar course that took place this month.

A Right View of God

Using chronological Bible storytelling materials they’ve developed, literacy specialists Saju and Ladia Tomsu have started Bible studies in 14 districts. Some days they have the studies in their home and other days they go out to Guan villages. As a result of these studies, people are beginning to have a right view of God, the spirit world and man. This is leading them into a right relationship with the Lord and helping them walk according to His ways. The Tomsus also gave an orientation to their Bible story ministry to leaders in another district.

People of different cultural and religious backgrounds and various levels of biblical understanding are attending the Bible studies. As they receive a progressive revelation of God, this is bringing about changes in their thinking patterns.

Gone are the Suicidal Thoughts

One of the Guan ladies attending Bible studies has had a tough time in her family. She felt that nobody loved her or showed her affection. Two years ago, her younger brother committed suicide and she continually had thoughts of doing the same herself.

During one of the Bible studies, this woman learned that human beings are the crown of God’s creation and that He created everything for their sake. She realized the love of God for mankind and especially for her. She said “I feel happy and comforted by the fact that God truly loves me.”

This woman also learned that everyone should make a decision to come to God personally as a sinner to receive salvation. This new learning made her think very deeply and she decided to share this message with her son.

Gone are the thoughts of suicide. She brings her son to the Bible studies, and in fact she made arrangements to hold Bible studies for her neighbors so they’ll also be freed from all their bondages. There’s victory in the name of JESUS!

- **Pray that God will equip many future Bible translators through training courses.**
- **Thank the Lord for awakening Guan people to the truth of the Scriptures.**
- **Praise God for this woman’s deliverance. Pray that she’ll grow in her faith and become a consistent witness to her neighbors.**

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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