



# Manmal New Testament Cluster\*

## “She’s Always So Joyful and Peaceful”

A day before Jomana translator Hatika’s birthday a few months ago, her mother complained of a strange pain in her legs that she’d never experienced before. It came on suddenly, so Hatika took her to the hospital thinking it was just hypertension or maybe high cholesterol. After the tests were done, the doctor concluded it was bone cancer related to a previous thyroid condition.

For Hatika, who’s been working fulltime in Bible translation in addition to pursuing her master’s degree, the situation of her mom’s sickness is very difficult. On top of the grief she feels, she has also been accustomed to relying on her mom’s help with her two young boys and baby. This circumstance has indeed made her worried and upset, since her life was changed in an instant.

In her heart, Hatika looked to God for encouragement, and the passage that struck her most was Mark 5:21-43 about the ill woman who touched the fringe of the Lord’s robe and also the miracle of Jairus’ daughter being raised to life. Both events are related to faith in the only One who has the power to heal and save. This made Hatika’s heart grow in faith and be strengthened to wait on the Lord.

Hatika shared the same verses with her mother. She read it directly from the Jomana translation. Her mom felt the same encouragement as did Hatika. They’re both now filled with God’s peace and thankfulness. Her mom said, “I do believe that Jairus’ daughter was really dead and the Lord Jesus raised her. Therefore, even if I die from this malady, I know I’ll be resurrected on the last day and rejoice with Him in heaven.”

One of Hatika’s aunts was there and listened to Hatika’s mom’s words. She’d also experienced thyroid problems. She started to cry and Hatika asked her why she was crying. She answered, “Your mom is very strong. I could never respond like her if I had the same problem. She’s always so joyful and peaceful.”

Then Hatika said to her, “Aunty, the Lord is the same before, now and forever. He’s the same God that healed Jairus’ daughter and the woman with the bleeding problem, and He can do it for you and for my mom. It could be now or later in heaven.” These words spoke comfort to Hatika’s aunt.

- **Pray for Hatika’s work-related and home responsibilities, among which she must divide her time. Pray for her mother during the hard journey that she and Hatika must travel together as they struggle with the reality of her bone cancer.**



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

- **Location: Southeast Asia**
- **Number of Speakers: 2,260,000 people in four languages**
- **Year Project Began: 2004**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2013**

- **Praise God for the power of His Word in the mother tongue to minister strength, hope and comfort to His afflicted ones.**



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### Racing Toward the Target Date

The latest translation-related news from the Jomana team is that they've team-checked and community tested the books of Romans and 1 and 2 Corinthians. Those three books comprise a massive chunk of very complex theological material. Thankfully, the team-checking and testing steps are geared to bring the content of God's Word down to the level of the people in their own language and make it relevant, meaningful and dynamic.

So, where do the four teams (Jomana, Wolola, Kokoan and Nune) currently stand on their New Testament progress as they race toward the target date of 2013? A good gauge of how they're doing is to look at the consultant-checking step for each book, since after a book passes that stage it's approved for publication. About half the books have been consultant-checked in Jomana and a little less than half in Wolola, Kokoan and Nune. But many of the books not yet consulted have made it through a number of previous steps.

To summarize what's been printed in separate volumes in the past, Mark and Acts were published in all four languages, the five "T books" (1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) in Jomana, Wolola and Kokoan and the books of James, 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude in Jomana. On the Old Testament front, the Joseph story in Genesis and the book of Jonah have been in print in all four languages for a number of years.

### All Languages Equal in God's Eyes

Participants at the ethnic workshop earlier this year came from various local churches. They greatly enjoyed and learned new things about Bible translation, song making and preaching in their mother tongue.

Using the mother tongue to express their deepest feelings to the Lord in their heart languages is so vital to these believers. They now have a better awareness that all languages are the same in the eyes of the Lord, and that He created all people as unique individuals. And He communicates with them in the language they understand best.

- **Thank the Lord for the translation work that's been accomplished to date. Praise Him for improvements being made to the writing systems in some of the languages.**
- **Praise God for the successful Paratext training that took place recently for all the teams.**
- **Pray for the translators as they move into a new office building.**
- **Keep praying that the treatments for the translator's wife who has breast cancer will be effective.**
- **Pray for these servants of the Lord as they implement what they learned at the ethnic workshop.**

#### 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.

MANMAL NT CLUSTER PROJECT UPDATE—2

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104  
Arlington, Texas 76015

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

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