



Vidunda New Testament

John—An Exalted Message

The Gospel of John conveys in a most compelling way the spiritual dimensions of the Person and saving work of Christ. The author uses such terminology as the truth and the witness, light and glory, and judgment and life to get his weighty message across.

Among the book's exalted themes are Christ's eternal relationship to the Father, His inherent majesty as Son and His indispensability to men in their spiritual need. These are expressed by the parallel development of belief and unbelief through the historical presence of Christ. The crises of this development are mainly seen at the feasts in Jerusalem, and the whole controversy is gathered around three main signs: The healing of the impotent man (chapter 5), the healing of the man born blind (chapter 9) and the raising of Lazarus (chapter 11). The conflict over the Lord's self-revelation issues in His suffering, death and resurrection, which are for John manifestations of His divine Person.

- **Pray that the lofty teaching of John's Gospel will resonate with many Vidunda speakers and impact their hearts and lives for the Lord Jesus.**

Nuts and Bolts

Here's where the Vidunda team stands in their work on the New Testament: All 27 books have been drafted and only several books still need to be team-checked. The big push now is on the community testing and consultant-checking steps.

Testing of the translation is being done with the help of ordinary speakers of the language to gauge if the meaning is clear and the wording sounds natural. The local Scripture reviewers' committee also reads through each book to determine these criteria. Comprehension questions are prepared beforehand to serve as a guide for what to ask people to see if they understand what they're hearing and reading.

The consultant-check is the final stage before official approval can be granted for publication. In addition, an exegetical check by the project advisor and a back-translation into literal English are done in preparation for the consultant. These processes are underway for a number of books. This month a consultant-check of 1 and 2 Corinthians is taking place. Both books were tested with people ahead of time and they along with Philipians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Philemon were exegetically checked.

- **Thank the Lord for the Vidunda team's stunning translation progress as they march steadily forward.**



- **Location: Tanzania, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 56,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2009**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2014**

- **Pray that God will prepare people's hearts to receive the translated Scriptures.**



Vidunda translators at Romans consultant-checking workshop earlier this year



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Scriptures Produce Life-Change

The Gospels of Luke and John in Vidunda have been printed in single volumes—Luke in 2008 and John this year. More copies of Luke were recently distributed to various local people. Some churches are using these during their prayer times in church services. The distribution of John is expected to happen by year's end. This will involve church leaders and many other speakers of the language.

The Bible translation has helped further the faith and spiritual knowledge of the translators themselves and, as God's Word in Vidunda is being read aloud in churches, it's proving to be a great help to many people in the congregations. They now hear and understand the truth about Jesus. They're happy and proud, seeing that God is speaking in their mother tongue and a gradual change in their lives is noticed.

Thorny Translation Issues

Some Old Testament books are also part of the team's goals. Genesis and Leviticus have been drafted and Exodus is in progress. Translator Damas found Exodus chapters 19 and 20 difficult to translate due to unfamiliar words like circumcision. Because of this, it's necessary to ask local speakers to offer suggestions on how to express such unknown biblical concepts in the Vidunda language.

Translator Conostancia found the book of Revelation particularly challenging, because it's hard to find the right Vidunda words for items like scroll and seal.

- Pray that the Vidunda team can get more resources such as commentaries to help them in their task.
- Praise God that recent training took place for the translators and that it went well.
- Pray that the Lord will give the translators strength and encouragement. Pray for the health and wellbeing of them and their families.

- Thank the Lord for indications that His Word is having a powerful effect in the Vidunda churches and communities. Pray that this trend will continue and increase.
- Pray for the development of literacy materials in Vidunda to facilitate the reading ability of the people in their own mother tongue.



Damas and Kiliani

- Pray for translator Kiliani's wife who's troubled by a mental affliction. This makes it hard for Kiliani to continue with his work.