

The Omaraz People



Bible Experts Check the Work

A few months ago, the translators finished their draft of Luke's Gospel. There was a delay with the exegetical check in which a Scripture expert tests the drafts to be sure they're accurate. In the most recent report, the exegete had finished the last four chapters of Luke. Now the team can prepare Luke for a consultant's work.⁵ This step also involves mother-tongue Omaraz speakers who will interact with the consultant.

- **Pray for the team as they approach people in the community for help. Ask God to soften hearts and motivate native speakers to help with the work.**

Equipping Reviewers

An important part of the Scripture translation process involves local people reviewing the team's work and offering feedback. In order for these people to be properly prepared for their task, the team will provide some training and orientation. The team is expecting some advisors to help train the reviewers.

The translators need people who are motivated to make the Scriptures as clear and natural as possible. This may be challenging among Omaraz speakers, very few of whom are Christians.

- **Please pray that the translators can identify and equip people who will provide honest, helpful feedback about the work.**

Goals Going Forward

The team is planning to prepare Acts and Romans for the exegete to check. They'll also check 1 Corinthians as a team² and prepare Luke for a consultant's work.

Another key element, not of the work but for it, is moving into a more suitable office space. Their landlord is requiring the team to move by the end of the year. They're hoping to finish construction of the new office soon.

- **Please pray with the team that the upcoming move will facilitate the work and not prove unnecessarily disruptive to their schedule.**
- **One of the translators (unnamed in the report) will be married soon. The reporter requested, "Pray that he can start his marriage with strength and that it will help him to work well."**



- **Location: East Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 783,000**
- **Project Goal: New Testament**
- **Year Project Began: 2009**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2015**

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Community Testing in the Bible

“That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea...And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth” (Acts 17:10-11).

When Paul and Silas taught in the synagogue at Berea, the Jews living there really listened, then studied to see if what they were being told was really true. Community testing works a little like that, except that people listen and then provide feedback about what they heard to help the translators make sure what they’re writing is correct. Diligence and discernment are essential for understanding the Word of God. Teachers must be sure what they’re saying—or translating—is correct. And those who hear God’s Word need to ask the Holy Spirit to give them discernment to be sure what they understand is the correct meaning.

- Please keep praying for the Omaraz translators in the midst of their difficult task. Ask for both diligence and discernment as they work with members of the community to make the scripture translation as clear and accurate as possible.

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.

OMARAZ PROJECT UPDATE—2

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104, Arlington, Texas 76015

Toll Free: 866-One-Verse (866-663-8377) OneVerse.org

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