



PROJECT PROFILE

Aramaic Old Testament

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Dr. Peter Talia served for many years as a pastor in Chicago's Assyrian community. With the partnership of other Christians through The Seed Company, he and his team completed the Assyrian Aramaic New Testament, which was published in 2002 with the blessing of the Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East.

Dr. Talia then started translating the Old Testament. After his death, other translators took the reins and have continued the work. This project will complete the Bible for Aramaic speakers around the world.



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THE PEOPLE

The Assyrian Aramaic people have lived in Eurasia for thousands of years, and their Christian heritage stretches back to the time of the New Testament. Traditionally, these people made their homes in villages and worked as shepherds. They have lived for centuries in a culture much like that depicted in the Bible.

Today, many of the estimated 1 million Aramaic speakers still live in their ancient homelands. Others families, due to persecution, economic and political pressures, have scattered to various countries around the world, including the United States. While they have adapted to the modern cultures of the countries where they now live, many of these people continue to honor their Christian religious traditions.

THE NEED

We know Jesus and His disciples read and spoke Aramaic. In addition, we know the Bible was translated for Aramaic-speaking people in the early centuries after Christ. But Aramaic — like all languages — has changed over the past 2,000 years. Unfortunately, none of the different Aramaic languages spoken today have had the Word of God in a readable, written form for several centuries. Many people, however, still revere their historical translation. It is now about 1,700 years old; and it was written in the ancient, classical right-to-left script. However, it remains a symbol of their identity.

Today, translators and consultants in several countries are working together to complete this Old Testament translation. But the illnesses of various team members, plus the often dangerous

- **Location:** East Mediterranean
- **Number of Speakers:** 1,000,000
- **Project Goal:** Full Old Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 1999
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2017



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political climate in some of their home countries has often slowed the progress.

THE PLAN

Despite his struggle with heart disease, Dr. Talia translated nearly 8,000 verses of the Old Testament. Then after his death, one of his colleagues stepped forward to help lead a team that could carry on the work.

Today, team leaders continue to train new translators and work as best they can with teams in other nearby countries. They also check with their Assyrian community, to see if people understand the drafts and if their translation communicates clearly. Outside consultants monitor the Scripture text for exegetical correctness.

THE IMPACT

This Old Testament translation will offer the entire Bible to Aramaic-speaking believers around the world. It will touch the minds and lives of more than 1 million people. This includes a group of families still living in their middle-eastern ancient home country.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Aramaic Old Testament translators cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer. Your investment makes translation possible, providing training, adequate computer equipment, translation supplies and living expenses for the translators' families.

Your prayer helps translators and their families face problems like sickness, conflict and spiritual opposition that can threaten their work.

Call The Seed Company toll free at 1-877-593-7333, or visit theseedcompany.org/projects to commit to invest and pray for the Aramaic Old Testament team.

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