



PROJECT PROFILE

Aramaic M-North Old Testament

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Aramaic M-North people take pride in their long Christian history. They have a Bible called the Peshitta that dates back thousands of years. Although they revere God's Word, the Peshitta's language is no longer understood. Christians appreciate the Scriptures but have minimal comprehension of what it says for their daily lives.

Clergy members are eager for their mother-tongue Old Testament. Believers already welcomed the New Testament into their religious life, translated in 2008. Christians in 13 churches want their culture reclaimed for Christ.

The "JESUS" film opened the door for evangelism and discipleship. Though some people are devotees of another major religion, Christians and non-believers are hungry to know more about the Jesus in this film.



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- **Location:** East Mediterranean
- **Number of Speakers:** 1,000,000
- **Project Goal:** Old Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 2009
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2017

THE PEOPLE

Historically, Aramaic M-North communities were highly skilled in stonecutting, masonry and stone carving. They built cities into the hillsides, with huge upland terraces. They created ornately carved portals and arches for stone palaces, churches, monasteries and mosques. Their "cities of gold" overlooked arid valleys, crisscrossed with fruit orchards and fields of wheat and barley. Flocks of sheep still graze low-rising hills on the surrounding plains.

Situated at a crossroads of ancient caravans from the East, these people also became known for fine textiles. For generations they have created beautiful silks, velvets, brocades, lace, bright tapestries and embroidered furnishings. They also perfected the art of making breads and sweet nut pastries like baklava and marzipan. Spicy favorite foods include pilafs, stuffed pastas and vegetables, mutton shishkabobs, soups, cheeses, yogurts and grilled fish.

THE NEED

Believers do suffer persecution here, from governments and individuals hostile to their faith. But translators hope this Old Testament history will communicate well between Christians and their contemptuous neighbors. They want to see their churches grow in deeper understanding and evangelistic fervor.



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THE TEAM

Lead translator Samuel speaks Aramaic M-North as his mother tongue. He has been an Arabic teacher for many years. He is also highly proficient in English and Hebrew. Through the completed New Testament project, Samuel gained valuable translation experience. More recently he has also been recording the Scriptures with a professional audio team.

Abraham is a translator who also speaks Aramaic M-North as his first language. Like his colleague Samuel, Abraham worked on their New Testament. He served as a consultant on that project as well as for the Assyrian Old Testament. His English fluency and his proficiency in biblical languages also give him keen insights into the nuances of his heart language.

Three American linguists also work closely with this team. And the translators have trained a committee that assists them in checking each draft as well. Both Samuel and Abraham have the potential to train as future consultants for a more Scripture projects.

THE SOLUTION

This translation will be based on the Hebrew, Peshitta, Greek and Aramaic texts. The team is familiar with all these. Their goal is to produce an Old Testament that's understood by common people as well as scholars. And because fewer than 5 percent here are literate, the team is producing an audio edition as well as printed text.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Aramaic M-North translators cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer. Your financial 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 www.theseedcompany.org/projects to commit to invest and pray for the Aramaic M-North team.

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