



## PROJECT PROFILE

# Aramaic M-South Old Testament

### PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Aramaic M-South people of centuries past were blessed — more than 1,500 years ago — to have an early Bible translation. Yet in the long passage of time since then, their language has changed drastically. That translation no longer speaks to people’s hearts or minds. Meanwhile, a faithful remnant of Christians persists under grave persecution, while a dominant religion amasses followers each year. So it’s a great opportunity to help these speakers receive God’s Word in their current, everyday language. Then true revival can occur.

These people have already tasted Scriptures with their recently translated New Testament. Now they “beg” for the Old Testament also. In fact, it will likely resonate more deeply, because of their rich history found in it.



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- **Location:** East Mediterranean
- **Number of Speakers:** 30,000
- **Project Goal:** Complete Old Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 2010
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2017

### THE PEOPLE

From a manger in Bethlehem to the Mount of Olives, Aramaic was the language Jesus heard and spoke when He lived on earth. Several Aramaic dialects are still spoken today. But one that remains most like that of Jesus and his disciples is Aramaic M-South. Amazingly, it is still spoken by nearly 30,000 people in a community sequestered in the forbidding mountains of a barren desert.

Most Aramaic people became Christians in the early centuries of the church. They had one of the first Bible translations, the Peshitta. Though it was relevant 1,500 years ago, this translation is no longer understood. Today’s Aramaic M-South speakers struggle to make sense of the archaic language.

About 35 percent — a faithful remnant — claim to be Christians. The remaining 65 percent practice another major religion. It has quickly gained numbers, especially in the last 150 years. Believers face severe persecution here; so they gather and worship in private homes. They clearly need support from the international Christian community.

### THE NEED

Aramaic M-South people are zealous for a modern Scripture translation they can read and use — unlike perhaps any other time in history. In the past decade, local translations of the New Testament were produced. However, people wanted to know much more, and they knew only a modern Bible translation would do.



## Aramaic M-South Old Testament

Praise God their New Testament is complete; it's time to provide their Old Testament.

### THE IMPACT

With an entire Bible, the translation team knows these people will have the full Gospel story. Then they can share their faith with friends and neighbors. In fact, many followers of the dominant religion have shown a scholarly interest in Christian Scriptures, because the Old Testament holds the history of their heritage also.

God can use their interest to draw them into an understanding of Himself and His plan for them. Many people do not believe Jesus is God's son. So combining their New Testament with the Old Testament will complete the full story of Christ, by foreshadowing Him as Messiah.

### THE PLAN

One local translator and two translation consultants know this language well. They will translate the Old Testament and expect to complete it in 2017. One special focus is to reach children and the many people who cannot read their mother tongue. Wide-range literacy is a long-term goal. Therefore, the team plans to produce a Children's Story Bible and audio CDs of Old Testament stories.

### JOIN THE TEAM

Aramaic M-South 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 to commit to invest and pray for the Aramaic M-South team.

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