



PROJECT PROFILE

Suryoyo Old Testament

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Suryoyo people take pride in their long Christian history. Their Bible, the Peshitta, dates back thousands of years. And although they revere God's Word, the Peshitta is not understood. Christians appreciate what Scripture is, but they have minimal knowledge of what it says for their daily lives.

Clergy members are eager for their mother-tongue Old Testament. They already welcomed and began to implement the recently completed New Testament into their religious life. Christians now want their culture reclaimed for Christ.

A computer-assisted adaptation from the Aramaic M-North Old Testament also in progress will allow this work to progress quickly. Translators are working simultaneously on the Aramaic M-North Old Testament.



- **Location:** East Mediterranean
- **Number of Speakers:** 500,000
- **Project Goal:** Complete Old Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 2008
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2017

THE CONTEXT

Recently these people received the New Testament in their current mother tongue. Many have seen the "JESUS" film, also recently produced. Now, at least 13 local churches and many people abroad eagerly anticipate this project's completion.

THE NEED

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

Christians here suffer persecution. It comes from governments in this area and from individuals who are hostile to their faith. The Suryoyo translators hope the Old Testament will open communication between Christians and their contemptuous neighbors, because it reveals the history of all their people. Believers also want to see their churches grow deeper in understanding and in evangelistic fervor.

THE TEAM

Dr. Abdul-Massih is the lead translator for this project. He worked on the New Testament projects in both Suryoyo and the related Aramaic M-North language. In addition, he served as a



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consultant for the Assyrian Old Testament. His fluency in English and his proficiency in biblical languages give him keen insights into the nuances of his mother tongue. Although Dr. Abdul-Massih works from his home in Indiana, he has trained a translation team who live at a monastic community in the Middle East to work locally.

The lead translator's brother Saad will help check the accuracy and comprehension of the drafts. These brothers serve as key players on the Suryoyo project. Dr. Abdul-Massih is the lead translator for the Suryoyo project and Saad leads the Aramaic M-North project. Both men are involved with both projects and have the potential to train as consultants for future projects.

Three American linguists also help this work. They work closely with the team, who make their headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

THE SOLUTION

The Suryoyo Old Testament translation is based on Hebrew, Peshitta, Greek and Aramaic texts. The translators are familiar with all these languages. But their goal in producing this Old Testament material is to make it understandable to common people as well as to scholars.

To work quickly, they will use a computer-assisted adaptation of Scripture from the Aramaic M-North Old Testament translation. This will streamline the work and make the translators more efficient.

Unfortunately, fewer than five percent of Suryoyo Christians are literate. So to meet their need for God's Word, the team is producing an audio translation as well as printed text.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Suryoyo 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 Suryoyo team.

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