

The Rutara



A Well-Adorned Bride

Americans consider June a good month for weddings. Although the timing isn't so crucial for the Rutara people, strict cultural traditions govern the adorning of the bride. Appropriate Rutara bridal attire includes 32 pieces of special clothing and jewelry. They create some items from an amalgam of five precious metals. Women make all the clothing by hand, fashioning jackets from outdated coins, or at least using these coins as buttons. A bride is scarcely visible, hidden under clothing and ornaments. She even wears jewelry on her toes!

- **Pray that Rutara people will realize that someday Christ will clothe His bride (believers) in fine linen, bright and clean, which represents their righteous acts (Revelation 19:8).**

Philemon Took a Village Tour

Translators George and Beera Nashar have in hand all the valuable notes they gathered while working with mother-tongue speakers to test the translation of Philemon. They enjoyed taking the book to homes and meeting places in the community and reading it to a variety of listeners. They asked carefully-crafted questions to find out how people understood what they'd heard. This helped them decide what changes were needed.

Translation Step 3: Community Testing

The drafted translation is tested with ordinary speakers of the language to ensure that the meaning is intelligible and the wording flows naturally in the mother tongue.

- **Pray that George and Beera will use the people's feedback to best advantage as they seek to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the translation of Philemon.**

Critical Hands-On Experience

The team recently spent time in the state capital for a four-day workshop, where they received training in how to use the translation-specific software Paratext. They were able to get critical hands-on experience under the trainers' supervision. Thankfully, their new laptop is well-equipped to handle the program. Paratext will facilitate their work and make it much easier to keep texts organized.



- **Location: Restricted access area, South Asia**
- **Number of speakers: 200,000**
- **Project Goal: New Testament with Old Testament portions**
- **Year Project began: 1995 with Seed Company sponsorship in 2005**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2016**

- **Thank the Lord for the valuable training the team received at this workshop.**
- **Ask God to bless the translators with good recall and ability to apply the training to their daily work.**



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Reaching Out to the Community

In addition to their translation work, George and Beera look for other opportunities to reach out to the Rutara community. In the past several months, they've composed a couple more songs for use in the churches. They also taught a session for a local women's group about how to follow a healthy diet using locally available food.

How to Live in Peace

"A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those peoples' hearts, and they will learn the truth" (2 Timothy 2:23-25).

Sometimes a strong tension exists between living in peace and living by the truth. The Apostle Paul instructs Timothy to be kind to everyone and to be patient with difficult people. But he doesn't recommend that Timothy be kind at the expense of forsaking the truth. Being gentle while standing firm is important. The Rutara Christians need this winning counsel, and we in the U.S. need to live by it as well.

- **Pray that the Lord will use these songs to inspire worship and elevate people's thoughts toward Him.**
- **Praise God that the team is putting feet to their love as they meet practical needs in their community, such as dietary ones.**
- **Pray that Rutara believers will stand strong for the truth of Christ, but do it with meekness that's firm in its resolve and gentle in its demeanor.**
- **Pray that as believers, we in America won't back away from truth in light of the current cultural climate of "tolerance" and "political correctness"**

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