

# Mission Lines

*“As we have  
opportunity, let us do  
good to all people”*

30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022    *An occasional newsletter of mission news and activities*

No.52

*Galatians 6:10*

## A RECORD YEAR FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION

This past year has been one of remarkable progress in Bible translation activity, as revealed in the annual Bible translation statistics (released 30 September). In fact, many areas of the work have seen significant acceleration. We see the favour and hand of God on translation projects and teams, enabling them to help create a world where everyone can know Jesus through the Bible. The number of language programmes that Bible translation teams are working on has seen its biggest leap on record, with new programmes starting at a rate of one per day. Also, Bibles and New Testaments have been launched at a rate of almost one per week. There is so much to be thankful for and be encouraged by. This year has seen the largest increase on record of languages where work has commenced, representing a new language programme starting for every day of the year... More people have God's word in their language... More languages have a Bible than ever before... More languages have a New Testament than ever before... All this means that God's word is available to millions of people in their own languages for the first time. It also means more individuals and communities are being transformed by the life-changing message of Jesus.

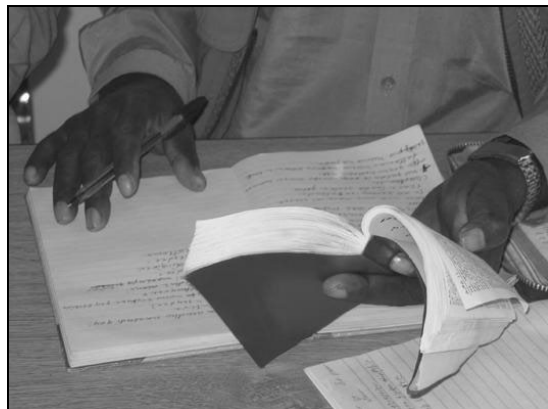
A full Bible is available in 724 languages.

A complete New Testament is available in a further 1617 languages.

Scripture portions are available in a further 1248 languages.

Scripture translation is currently underway in a further 3266 languages.

In 2022, 52 people groups have some portions of Scripture in their language for the first time. At the same time, work has begun in 367 languages. Both these figures are records for one year and are indicative of the acceleration that is happening.



We are also thankful for the increasing number of local people from the language groups being trained, equipped and released into Bible translation and for the recognition by a number of other mission agencies that the lack of Scripture in languages is one of the greatest needs in, and biggest obstacles to, world mission.

Developments in technology and software continue to increase the productivity of Bible translators and also enable Scripture to be available in formats other than written. Scriptures are now recorded so that people can listen to God's word being read. In the Guera area, for instance, people who cannot read gather in groups regularly to hear and discuss portions of Scripture. In many places Scriptures are put on to mobile phones so that people can access the words, even in places where to be seen carrying a Bible might invite hostility.

There is much to encourage but there is still much to do since 1 in 5 people still do not have access to the Bible in their language. That's around 1.5 billion people. This is why translation teams across the world continue to work with urgency to put this right, and why we should continue to support them in their important task.

### **INTRODUCING GENESIS ACAYE**

Genesis Acaye is the BMS International Mission Worker we agreed to support in place of the Sherrod family who are no longer with BMS. He is serving in his home country of Uganda in partnership with Baptist churches there.



Genesis was born and raised in Kitgum, which neighbours Gulu in Northern Uganda. He trained as an agriculturalist and is working in Gulu to support farmers to improve their living through increasing their household income. He worked for local government as part of a nationwide campaign for agricultural training and advising rural farmers in the Lamwo District. He was then employed by BMS World Mission as a field officer for their agricultural projects in 2012. Then in April 2014 he was taken on as an international mission worker to his home country. Working through local church networks Genesis is training and mentoring farmers, training them in improved methods of crop and animal production to increase productivity. He is also working to mobilise community groups, training them in improved and sustainable farming methods, helping them find markets for their produce, and encouraging them in their faith. The hope is that by increasing household incomes, standard of living is lifted, and children will be able to go to school in communities that have been isolated through war that severely damaged the region. Genesis is seconded to Justive Livelihoods Health, an organisation working with Baptist networks across Uganda. Genesis is an active member of Christ Church Gulu, where he is the youth chairperson and helps lead the choir and leads worship.

## UPDATE FROM THE LEPROSY MISSION

**Praise** for the opening of the new trauma centre at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. The new centre was opened officially by the government health minister on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. This replaces and greatly updates the facilities damaged in the earthquake of 2015. It now houses in one building the patient treatment areas that were spread in separate buildings around this very hilly site. It also includes facilities to benefit the local community with maternity and paediatric units as well as an A & E dept.

**Praise** that the Nepal government has renewed the licence of the existing Research Laboratory damaged in the earthquake although not currently fit for purpose because they have confidence in TLM's ability to replace it with a new research centre being designed at present with a view to commencing building work in early 2023.

**Praise** that a new method of treating ulcers has been developed by Dr Indra at Anandaban which greatly improves the curative process. It is expected that this new procedure will benefit ulcer treatment caused by other conditions such as diabetes.

**Pray** that the current research into achieving early diagnosis of leprosy before outward signs are evident through blood test analyses will yield miraculous breakthroughs.

**Pray** for successful the development of the use of mobile phone technology for remote communities to identify early signs of leprosy without clinical teams being present.

**Pray** for the Holy Spirit to inspire researchers to identify means whereby there will be no new cases of leprosy by 2035.

## SAT-7 BRINGING HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN

This Autumn has been a challenging time in **Iran** with continued protests sparked by the death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini who was detained for incorrectly wearing the hijab. Demonstrators have been killed and thousands arrested as the authorities try to suppress the protests.

There also continue to be challenges in **Afghanistan** as its people continue to suffer in multiple ways. While many Christians have fled the country, some remain but live in fear of being discovered, reported and executed.

SAT-7 is providing spiritual support in these challenging times through focused television programmes and viewer support teams. The team is continuing to receive messages from viewers in Iran despite the internet blocks and restrictions on social media sites imposed by the authorities. Several live programmes have tackled the question of how Christians in Iran should respond.

Dari TV programmes offer prayer support and guidance to viewers inside Afghanistan. While Afghanistan has no authorised churches, the number of Christian believers has been growing over the last two decades. Many viewers share that their faith is sustaining them through terrible hardship.

A couple of examples of SAT-7 PARS programmes are:-

**Sanctuary of the Heart** - Inspired by viewers' increasing requests for prayer, the programme was created to help them understand the role and impact of prayer in our lives. The presenter explains "Within the Iranian context, prayer can be ritualistic/formulaic, so people coming to Christ often don't quite understand what prayer is. Through Sanctuary of the Heart, we want to show them what Christian prayer is."

The Instagram live series **Church4Kids** which demonstrates how Persian-speaking children and teens are learning to turn to God in prayer in any and all circumstances. Children have contacted the interactive programmes to pray for personal matters such as school, exams, and family, as well as for major crises, including the difficulties faced by girls in Afghanistan, and for people across Iran and the world to come to know Christ.

### **Continue to pray for others involved in mission work overseas:-**

**Cally and the Eagle Project** - Praise God for all that has been accomplished in the 10 years that the Eagle Project has been running. Cally has recently started teaching about restorative justice at the Sao Paulo University. Praise God for the partnership between the Eagle Project and the University that will allow students to attend sessions in the prisons and boys from the prison to visit the university.



**Claire Bedford** – Pray for Claire and the other BMS staff at the Guinebor II Hospital in Chad as they face many challenges. Pray especially concerning leadership of the Pharmacy department as the Chadian Claire has been training to be the leader has been accepted to work in the government hospital.

**Peter and Louise Lynch** - Give thanks for the new missions department of the Bangladesh Baptist Church and for the growth of the churches in a number of rural areas. Pray for those training and mentoring pastors and others involved in church leadership.

**Bench Bible Translation Team** – Give thanks that the whole Bible is being recorded so that people can listen to it being read through mobile phones and other audio equipment.

*If you have a news item for inclusion in the next edition of Mission Lines, please send it to [mary.breeze44@gmail.com](mailto:mary.breeze44@gmail.com).*