

Bible Translation Work is not easy and it usually takes a long time. So anyone who gets involved in this process should feel a call of God. Below you will see the advice we give to translators. It will give you a small idea of the work that is involved.



Choose the Portion of Scripture to Start with

We recommend that the translation work begin with the booklet, *God's Answers for Man's Questions*. This will translate the most basic verses to win a person to Christ. It will create a ready evangelistic tool. This will also give the translator many of the basic word choices and biblical vocabulary he will need in both the Old and New Testaments. The next step will be to translate John and Romans. After that it is the translator's choice. This procedure should be followed for each portion of Scripture translated and then go on to the next.



First Draft Stage

Make a First Draft



Research any interpretation problems in the text and any particular translation problems that are readily apparent. Questions should be presented to the translation consultants and theological advisors. The translator(s) should make a first draft of a portion of scripture working closely with the translation assistants.

Improve the First Draft

Check the translation with the translation assistants and any other missionaries and pastors in the area. Test the translation with several groups or individuals who are native speakers of the target language and who are not translation assistants. The translation should be read aloud to them to check for accuracy, clarity, and natural flow in the target language. At this point a back translation into English should be made and submitted to the translation consultant assigned to the project. He will check the translation with the Greek or Hebrew text and the KJB. After the first two books (at the most) are complete, the translation consultant may make a visit to the field to further check the translation and to assist with any difficulties being encountered. Revise the first draft in light of the suggestions and comments



Second Stage Draft

Proof read and carefully check the revised translation against the first draft copy. Send a revised English back translation to the Consultant for review. Test the translation further with other native speakers of the language. The translator may think that the translation is accurate and clear, but when it is read to others he may discover that they understand it incorrectly. There should be lots of testing with others to find out if the translation is communicating clearly. Do a verse-by-verse team-check. This includes the translator, translation consultant, translation assistants, and other native speakers. Incorporate revisions. Send copies to several churches for real-world testing. The missionaries can use it for preaching and teaching. Gather feedback. Revise the translation



Additional Drafts

There should be as many drafts as necessary for the translators to feel that the translation is as clear and accurate as possible.



The Preparation for Publication Stage

Prepare book introductions and marginal notes (if any). Choose maps to include (if any). Check the consistency of the details. Other items to prepare include section breaks, section headings and paragraph breaks. Check the spelling, and the transliteration of loan words, use of capital letters, punctuation, and hyphenation, chapter and verse numbers, cross-references, standard format markers, and special characters. Layout and format (indentation, style, etc.) of O. T. quotations, poetry, and lists should be prepared. Recheck the accuracy of the translation with the source texts. This is an absolutely necessary final check. Read through the translation. The field translation team and several church members should be certain they are satisfied with the translation. Final approval from the translation consultant and the coordinating committee should be obtained. Publish and distribute.



This is only the translation work. The real foundation and enabling comes through prayer and the power of God. Prayer must be a continual activity throughout this process. Spread it around. Get the churches everywhere praying.



Take some time to look over our listing of projects. You will find these under the “Projects” menu above.