

Your connection with tribal missions

NEW TRIBES MISSION OF CANADA

NTM@WORK



Looking for
a Dream Job?

NTM@WORK contents

FEATURE STORY

What kind of people translate the Bible? Why do they do it? What's it like? Could you join the team as a Bible translator? The answers may surprise you. ➤

10 *CONNECT*

Take a look at numerous ways you can get involved in Bible translation and more.

14 *CONSIDER THIS*

Why do we translate the Bible? Because of who God is and because He's told us to make disciples.



Photos by Dale Stroud



Translation

I could **never** do what you're doing!

by Debbie Burgett

Missionaries hear that all the time. Yet, once upon a time, they were just regular people with regular jobs like anyone else. Brooks Buser was a finance manager in San Diego, California. Terry Reed was a builder in Charleston, South Carolina. Darcy Berglund flunked high school typing class. And Canadian Marg Jank admits, "I'm not known for being a great student of *anything!*"

But now they all have something in common. They've translated the New Testament into a tribal language.

So how could such a drastic change take place in their lives? And why?

Brooks Buser's story answers those questions.

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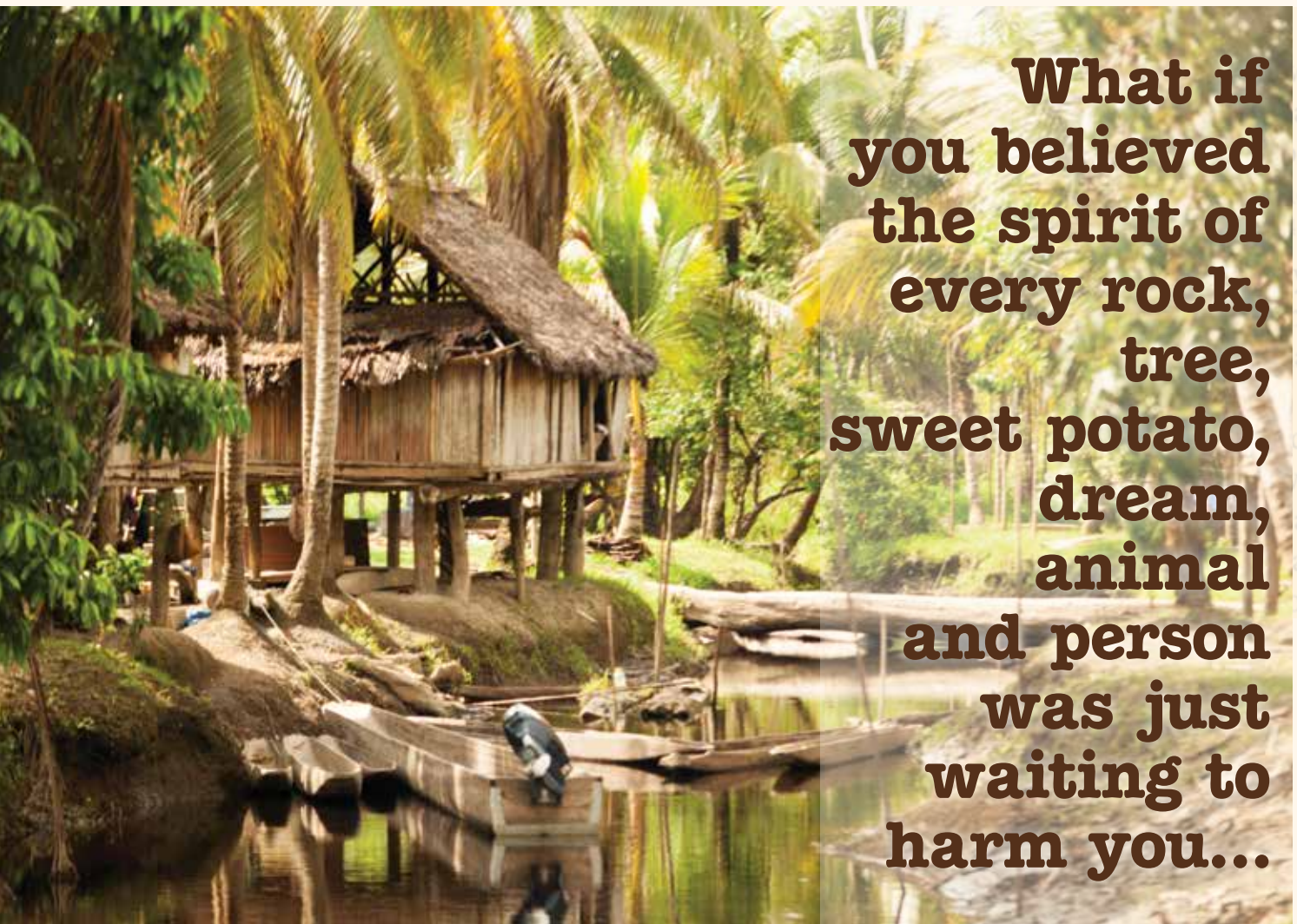
He was on track with the American dream

Brooks was going places — literally. After working his way up to finance manager of a company in San Diego, business took him travelling through Europe. Back home, he and his wife Nina moved into a sweet little apartment, picked out a cute car, and were thoroughly enjoying life in sunny California.

Then an innocent trip back to visit Brooks' family changed everything.

Brooks grew up in a village in Papua New Guinea. Walking those same trails again and seeing the tribal people, he and Nina's hearts were stirred for others who still needed the Gospel message.

Brooks returned to California and put in his three-month notice. He and his wife had discovered something much bigger than the American dream — the Yembiyembi nightmare.



**What if
you believed
the spirit of
every rock,
tree,
sweet potato,
dream,
animal
and person
was just
waiting to
harm you...**

da'wak
wo God
an ifate
k agwo
o, daka
Dokso
ya Jisas
naus si
amo ya
suwon
dudam,
reli seli
anamo,
a Jisas.
o lemel

They were trapped in an animistic nightmare

What if you believed everything in your world was out to get you — both the animate and inanimate objects? What if you believed the spirit of every rock, tree, sweet potato, dream, animal, and person was just waiting to harm you — unless you could “turn the tables” on them?

This is the fearful, vengeful nightmare tribal people never wake up from.

It drives the animist to continually perform rituals, sacrifices and magic spells in hopes of protecting his life, health, garden, and future. He believes that if he ever stops, these spirits will quickly engulf his existence and snuff it out for good. Every sickness, death, injury, or bad crop proves to him it's true.

But what started this living nightmare? And what keeps it going?



They believed what their ancestors told them

Stories. Stories passed down through the generations brought animism to life and keeps it going. Stories told around the fire. Stories told on hunting trips. Stories told at ceremonies. Stories told while working in the garden. And each telling breathes new “life” and “truth” into the terrifying cycle that breeds suspicion, fear, revenge, and death.

Animists believe these stories simply because they trust their ancestors and have no reason *not* to believe them. Truth is assumed because of the source — and not having anything else to compare it to.

Then one day, someone like Brooks Buser strolls unexpectedly into their nightmare — and challenges everything they've ever known.

The story that needed to be translated

Brooks and his teammates offered the Yembiyembi people a new story — a story so powerful and so important it had not been left to oral chance. Instead, it had been carefully written down so it would remain true and unchanged forever. Now he volunteered to write this same story down in their language. That decision would prove pivotal.

When Brooks left his high-profile job as a finance manager in California, he knowingly left all its benefits and perks behind. What he couldn't have imagined was the far-reaching benefits attached to becoming a Bible translator guided by NTM's goals and values. It would impact his life and the Yembiyembi people forever.

>>



oyoudam, lom fa yokbi iyok. Belambokda,
 God bililomo akato a ko'tai ya lo'mo lawom.
 5 Bela tuwanwiagom lom asi ika'anes sa
 lo'mo nimaum, lomblom lom fa yokbi
 iyok. Belambokda, God bililomo ai ya wi'ti
 ba'bak ma kuwo. 6 Bela tuwanwiagom ba
 an aites sa dok suswon nimauwak uwai,
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 God b
 danonc
 sa omo
 iyok. B
 akwa lo
 8 Bela
 gwa'la

Goal: A translation that communicates God's heart

Isaiah 55:11 says,
*"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
 It shall not return to Me void,
 But it shall accomplish what I please..."*

Only God's Word has the power to accomplish God's purposes. People's well-intentioned words carry no promise. A Bible translation must clearly and accurately communicate what God intended — what He had on His heart to say to us — or it is really no different from any other book.

Translator Terry Reed puts it well: "When the translator says, 'Thus saith the Lord,' he faces a tremendous responsibility to make sure that what he has expressed in the tribal language is an accurate reflection of what the Lord did indeed say."

Translating true to God's heart takes a great deal of time. It's not easy to explain "grace" or "forgiveness" in a language that has no word or even the concept for it. And it takes in-depth Bible study to make sure you understand what God said in the first place. But translators like Marg Jank aren't complaining.

"What do I think is the best thing about Bible translation?" she asked. "Being in the Word all the time, having to dig deep, and being able to justify not doing anything else!"

And the benefit of such care is the living, breathing Word of God.



Goal: A translation that can be understood

A translation of mere words is not enough. The words must cross the boundaries of not only language, but of idioms, manner of speech and culture. In the end, people must be able to recognize and understand the written language as their own, or all the translation work is in vain.

A group of English-speaking tourists once discovered this for themselves while taking a river trip in Eastern Europe.

These were the posted English instructions for finding and putting on a life jacket:

"Helpsaving apparata in emergings behold many whittles! Associate the stringing apparata about the bosomes and meet behind."

While it was a translation, it wasn't one that English speakers could understand. And it rendered all the lifesaving information completely useless.

The Bible offers people the most important truth they will ever hear. But if it's met with confusion, translators have missed the mark.

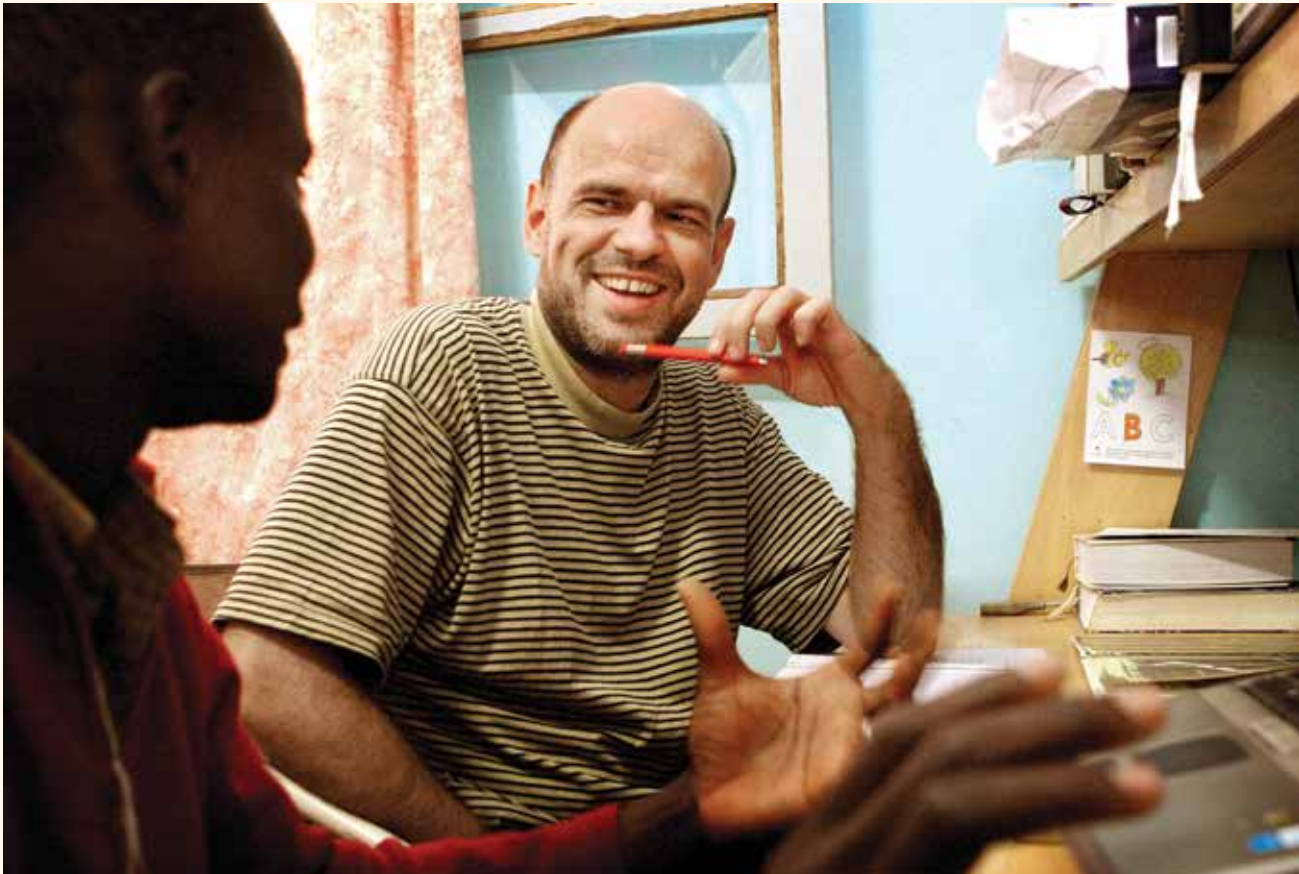
"If we are not careful and the language we are translating into is not fully utilized, the intricacies are not harnessed for communicating... then it sounds stiff, wooden, fake, and not worth reading," said translator Brooks Buser.

The goal was a Bible translation that "spoke" the Yembiyembi language so well it went straight to the heart. And according to Darcy Berglund, it's a benefit translators won't want to miss.

"There is nothing more rewarding than hearing the awe in someone's voice when they say, 'God speaks my language!' It's worth giving your life for," she said.



**Only God's Word
 can accomplish
 God's purposes.**



Christoph Haerter is working on a Bible translation in Senegal, one of 100 translations currently under way by NTM translators.

Goal: A translation that transforms lives

When God's heart has been effectively communicated in a way that can be understood, one of the greatest blessings of all is witnessing change.

"It was one of the sweetest treats of my life to watch new readers hear the Scripture, watch them react with true emotion to the story, and later to be forever altered by what the Scriptures were saying to them," said Brooks.

One missionary will never forget the day a tribal man walked up and stated, "I went to the jungle by myself today."

That simple remark represented a huge shift in worldview.

The villagers had been taught since childhood that it was dangerous, even for grown men, to enter the jungle alone. The spirits lingered there. The spirits could kill. And that fear held them in bondage. But this new believer had defied the spirits. He had gone into the jungle alone — and returned unharmed. He had dared to believe that God was stronger than the spirits. He had dared to trust God.

The goal was a translation that would powerfully transform Yembiyembi hearts and lives.

But that would require more than just handing them a Bible. >>

Goal: A translation that disciples treasure and apply

Matthew 28:19-20 says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

Lasting change involves not only a Bible, but equipping people to value, study and use it. In other words, making disciples. One of the profound perks of translating with NTM is being able to entrust years of hard work to faithful disciples who believe it’s the truth and act on it. Like inhaling and exhaling, the combination ensures the church’s growth and maturity long after the missionaries are gone.

When the Busers left for a nine-month home assignment, the Yembiyembi church had the opportunity to prove how they would cope when left with only God’s Word in their language.

Would they revert back to the old nightmare or stand on the truth?

When animistic beliefs began to re-surface in the village and believers were tempted to fall away, the little tribal church rose up and spoke up. One of the Yembiyembi teachers coined the expression, “I am of the line of Berea.”

Others picked up the mantra and it is still held today.

In the book of Acts, the people of Berea examined Scripture daily to see if what Paul and Silas were preaching was the truth. When left to itself, the little tribal church was aligning itself with Scripture as well.

In the words of the Yembiyembi believers, they had chosen the Bible as their “steer”: the paddle in the back of the canoe that determines direction. They were trusting God’s Word to lead them straight.

The goal was to leave trained disciples and a Bible they knew how to use — and wanted to. Brooks and his teammates met their goals. The animistic nightmare had been silenced. The Yembiyembi church was wide awake and worshipping.



Brooks and Nina Buser at the Bible dedication.

How big is your dream?

Is your current job as big as the one that may be waiting for you? Brooks Buser is thankful he reached for more — more than he even realized.

In translator Terry Reed’s words, “There is no job in the world that you can do that will have a more lasting and eternal value than to take the words of the Almighty God and put them in the hands of a people that have thus far never heard God’s Word in their language. However, be warned: when you have tasted God’s goodness in bringing light into the hearts of a people that have lived in darkness for ages, no other job you can do will ever feel big enough again.”

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“One of the profound perks of translating with NTM is being able to entrust years of hard work to faithful disciples who believe it’s the truth and act on it...”



A huge job with huge rewards

Now there’s a different story heard around Yembiyembi fires. “What an unspeakable joy to leave a corner of the village at night,” said Brooks, “and walk by some houses on my way home and hear people reading out loud passages from Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, and the Yembiyembi’s favourite, Acts.”

If we don’t know there is something higher to reach for, we may never look up. Brooks Buser — and a host of other translators — looked up from their everyday lives. And when they did, they saw a dream much bigger than they ever could have imagined.

You can too. Shift your gaze.

Become a Bible translator with NTM.

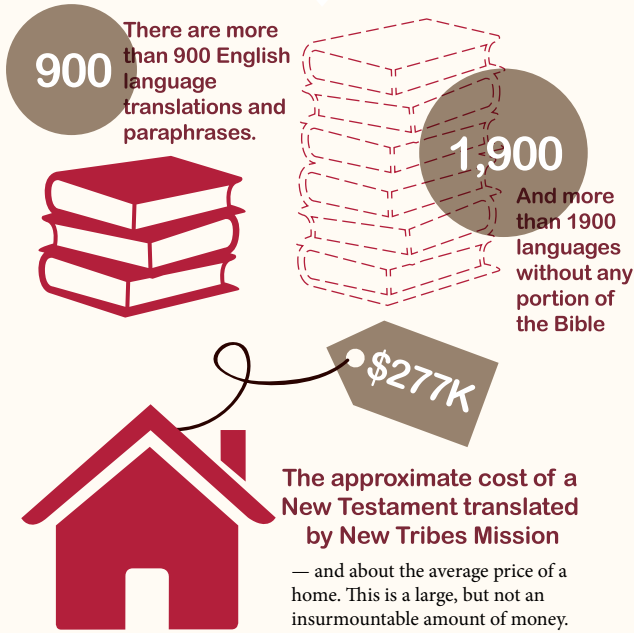
519-369-2622 or connect@canada.ntm.org

Or go to canada.ntm.org/career-missions, or scan the QR code.



BIBLE TRANSLATION FACTS & FIGURES

Did you know there are more than 900 English translations and paraphrased versions of the Bible? However, there are more than 1,900 languages without any portion of the Bible, totaling about 180 million speakers. This is the approximate population of all the southern and western states combined. Here is the good news — for about the cost of one American home, we can translate the complete New Testament. Partner with us as we take hope to the most unreached.



What if none of these people had the Bible?

The 1,900 languages that have no portion of the Bible consist of 180 million speakers, equal to the population of Canada, Australia, Italy, and the United Kingdom, combined.

Partner with us to help reach the 180M without the Word of God.

Sources: American Bible Society, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Wikipedia

Simple? No. Worth it? Yes.

“I’m flying back to Papua New Guinea.” Sounds simple, right? Kind of like a flight from New York to Los Angeles? Far from it.

After 30 hours of globe-trotting through airports, the travel-weary missionary finally landed in the country’s capital. A three-hour layover before her 5 p.m. flight sounded perfect. It would give her the opportunity to stretch her legs and get a bite to eat before the final leg of the journey.

It wasn’t quite perfect. It could have been if she had booked a 5

p.m. flight — instead of a 5 a.m. one. A few extra nights in the capital, six hours on standby, and additional overweight luggage charges resulted. Not perfect. Not in the least bit simple. But knowing what God was doing in and through the Mengen church made it so worth it.

With 50 percent of the New Testament already translated into the Mengen language, Canadian Becky Preheim and her coworker, Keri Pacheco, are refreshed and motivated to press on with the remainder. They know firsthand

that translation can have challenges along the way, like that long trip. It’s not always simple — but oh, so worth it!



Becky teaches literacy as well as translates.

Help accelerate the spread of the Gospel

Because 100% of all designated gifts are used exclusively as designated, your gift to the Where Most Needed Fund will be used to meet critical needs facing the ministry of NTM Canada, both overseas and across Canada.

Your investment in NTM Canada will be used in the most strategic way to perform behind the scenes work in Canada to recruit, equip and support missionaries.

To give, please call 519-369-2622 or visit canada.ntm.org/projects/where-most-needed

or scan:



"Don't worry about feeling you are not capable for this job. Just be available." — Ralf Schegel

New Testament dedication

It's a translator's dream come true: The dedication of the Southwestern Palawano New Testament is this month! Bill and Donna Davis and their church in the Philippines, along with the Southwestern Palawano believers, are excited that more than 2,500 copies of God's Word in their language will be on hand. Praise the Lord with us — and pray for this special dedication.

Want to be part of what God is doing around the world by praying?

canada.ntm.org/email-updates



CONNECT WITH...

Brent Ristau

NTM Aviation

Sending Church: Riverdale Baptist Church, Whitehorse, YT

Born in 1982 to loving parents and two older brothers, I joined my family in rural Manitoba and moved eastward to PEI, before stepping out on my own when my parents and I were living in Alberta.

Building on the good start I received at home, it was at university that began a genuine relationship with God through the saving knowledge of His son Jesus Christ.

As I looked at the lives of people around me at university, I could not rest with my observations; doing as best as one can in school, to get into a good university, to find the best paying job, only to be restrained by it all because of the bills they were now committed to! I felt there had to be more to life than that.

A curiosity for faith began to develop within me when I began meeting Christians who, like me, came from good homes, had friends and appeared to have everything they needed to do well enough in life. Their trust in Christ and their unspoken acknowledgement that they were still lacking apart from Him drew me in for a more intimate look. Without explanation, I knew what they were saying; apart from Jesus Christ, they were incomplete.

My thinking at the time was not perfectly sound, but it was enough for God to draw me in to His presence. As I began attending church and then eventually a Bible study, it became apparent. I needed Him. Not as an accessory, or as an improvement to an already "good" Brent, but so much more than that. I knew He would be the one and only true Master that I could give my life to.

As a missionary pilot, my skills and training will help tribal missionaries plant churches faster by supporting their needs for safe transportation to remote areas. Without access to a neighbourhood grocery store, or pharmacy, tribal missionary teams require equipment, medicine, medical evacuation, and mail to be supplied by air.

It is much more than just transporting people and supplies — as their pilot, I also will be playing an active role in the spiritual encouragement of my remotely located co-workers and indigenous people.

brentristau.blogspot.ca



"When one of my language helpers arrived, I showed him a copy of the Gerai New Testament, which had recently been finished. He hugged that book to his heart and said, 'I can't wait until we have this in OUR language!'"
— Linda Rosengren

\$35 a verse

How do you price a Bible verse?

New Tribes Mission translates Bibles as part of the work of making disciples and establishing churches. Therefore, a fund has been established that pays for:

- the costs of translating God's Word, such as paying translation co-workers and bringing in experts to check translations.
- materials to teach people to read and write, so they can study God's Word for themselves.
- lessons that help people understand God's Word and to train them to teach others themselves.
- printing and shipping costs for New Testaments, literacy books and Bible lessons.

Yet with all that, the cost is still only \$35 a verse. Would you like to help bring God's Word to a people who do not have it?

canada.ntm.org/projects/translation-ca



CONNECT WITH ...

Steven and Penny Enns Zion and Miriam

Ministry in Asia-Pacific: Tribal Church Planting
Sending Churches: Waldheim Mennonite Brethren Church (SK) • Faith Baptist Church, Mount Forest (ON)

We were both fortunate to grow up in Christian homes and attend Bible-believing churches. We both came to know and love God at a young age. It was during high school that Steven felt God was calling him to be a missionary to unreached people. For Penny the calling came while attending Nipawin Bible College. With one vision and one mission in mind, we got married and completed New Tribes Mission's training program. It was during training that we became aware of the many needs in Asia-Pacific. We arrived on the field in 2008, and have been serving there for six years now.

Our last term has been a testament of the need for more labourers in ministry (Luke 10:2). We had expected to be interior, learning language and culture in preparation to plant an indigenous church over four years ago. Instead, we found ourselves waiting for partners.

While we waited and prayed for partners, we were asked to fill in a few of the support ministries that were also unstaffed at the time. These various ministries are essential to keeping our church planters interior doing vital work like Bible teaching, translating and discipleship.

Finally in 2013 our team was allowed to take the first steps toward moving interior. Lord willing in early 2015 we will be moving into our long term ministry, church planting among an unreached people group.

steve_enns@ntm.org

Which do You Believe In?

By Doug Schaible, NTM Representative

My wife and I had just begun missionary training in January of 1979, and sat down in our first class on prayer. Our teacher walked to the blackboard and wrote, “Do you believe in prayer?” He looked at all of us and we nodded. Then he returned to the blackboard and wrote, “OR, do you believe in God?”

He turned around and said, “If you believe in prayer, your prayers will never get any higher than your boots; but if you believe in God, all things are possible.”

Focused on God Himself

His name was Clarence Preedy, and he knew what he was talking about. He was a missionary in China at the outbreak of World War 2. He lived under Japanese occupation, Communist control, and then, briefly, freedom — only to be taken prisoner by the Japanese again.

I remember seeing him pace back and forth in his apartment from 6 to 8 every morning, praying for all the students in New

Tribes Bible Institute, as well as missionaries around the world.

He prayed for more labourers. He prayed that they would not get sidetracked. He prayed for their finances. Most of all, he prayed that those who have never heard would one day hear the gospel of the grace of God.

When Mr. Preedy shared those questions on the blackboard, he refocused our attention on what was really important: the Lord Himself.

Pray According to God’s Will

The world is too big, too diverse, too challenging and just too much for us to reach — but that is where the Lord comes in. He can take our humble requests and turn them into realities, because we ask according to His will. We know He is not willing that any should perish, and we know that he desires that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Why aren’t people hearing of God’s redemptive plan? Is it

because we are not asking the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers into His harvest? Maybe so. Maybe so...

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The Weekly Digest comes out each Sunday with prayer items for each day of the week. Or sign up for the Daily Bulletin and get reminders for those requests.

canada.ntm.org/email-updates



“If you love the Word, and desire to grapple with each passage till you understand it so well that you can express it in a different language; if you want to be able to make those passages meaningful to others who have never had a chance to hear His Word in their own language before, I can guarantee that Bible translation is something you will find very rewarding!” — Mary Aspinwall

Guess what's **not** in the Bible?

by Ian Fallis

A few years ago, as we prepared to do a magazine issue about NTM missionaries translating the Bible, I searched for verses we could use. And searched. And searched.

The New Testament says a lot about sharing the gospel, teaching and discipling. It talks about prayer, giving and encouraging. It speaks of sending and serving.

Not once are we told to translate the Bible.

Does this mean we're not supposed to translate the Bible? Certainly not.

In Jesus' time, Greek was a common language, and the Old Testament had been translated from Hebrew into Greek. While it's likely that Jesus read the Scriptures in the original Hebrew, some of the Scripture quotations in the New Testament come

from the Greek translation. So the men who wrote the Gospels, inspired by God, had no problem with translation.

More importantly, Bible translation fits God's character. His nature, demonstrated repeatedly in Scripture, is to communicate clearly. So just as it made sense then to translate the Old Testament into the marketplace Greek commonly spoken in Jesus' day, it makes sense today to translate His Word into people's heart language.

So why is translation never spoken about?

I think the answer is clear in what the Bible *does* speak about.

We were given a task: Make disciples of all nations. That's the way Matthew 28:19 puts it, but similar commands are in each of the Gospels and in



[God's] nature, demonstrated repeatedly in Scripture, **is to communicate clearly.**

Wayne Gibson, missionary in Colombia

We translate because God is a communicator and has told us to make disciples.

Acts. And that concept — that we're supposed to be disciples of Christ and make disciples — is a central theme of the New Testament.

When we're talking about a people group that has few or no believers, Bible translation is an important step in the process of making disciples. But is it more important than others? It's probably more correct to say each step locks together with the others.

- In order to teach or translate, it's critical to understand a people group's worldview and language.
- Since discipleship begins with faith, a clear presentation of the gospel is necessary.
- Teaching people to read and write, and establishing a means to continue the teaching, is also necessary — or what use is the Bible translation?

In other words, Bible translation is one of the important parts of the big-picture, long-term task God has given us of making disciples.

Certainly, God's Word alone can change the course of someone's life. But usually, God's disciples and God's Word work in concert to change lives. Isn't



that why Acts 8 tells us about Philip and the eunuch? The eunuch is reading the Scriptures, but does not understand them. The Holy Spirit brings Philip to explain them to him.

And consider this: A 2012 survey by the Barna Group for the American Bible Society revealed that 85 percent of US households have at least one Bible, and the average number of Bibles in each household is 4.3. That's a lot of Bibles. If simply having a Bible translation available is enough, then Americans — who have more than 900 translations and paraphrases available — should be doing great.

If we take God's Word seriously, our focus will be on making disciples. And if that's our goal, we'll strive to provide believers with a clear translation that communicates God's heart.



NTM@WORK

Vol. 73 | No. 2 | Issue 2, 2014

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NTM@work is published by NTM Canada.

NTM@work is provided free to readers in North America on a year-to-year basis. To receive the magazine or have it sent to a friend, sign up online at:

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The magazine may be read online at
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As the first disciples in Jerusalem spread the gospel near and far, today's NTBI graduates continue sharing the good news with those in their generation.

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