



Vidunda

Why Don't They Just Learn English?

Due to the prevalence of the English language around the world, along with the vast availability of biblical literature in English, some folks are tempted to ask, “Couldn’t people who have no Bible available in their own language just learn English? That would surely solve the problem, right?” When these folks go on to learn about the painstaking, difficult and lengthy process of Bible translation, they feel their theory is confirmed.

Further consideration, however, reveals the impossibility of such a theory. By God’s grand design it’s through language that values, traditions, mindsets and beliefs are imparted. One’s mother tongue contributes at the deepest level to how one views and processes their world. A child’s first words become forever part of the very fabric of their being. Therefore, the heart and mind is most deeply penetrated by one’s first language.

One could go on to discuss the practical impossibilities of attempting to teach people English to a point where they could absorb Scripture. But these things aside, it’s clear that God Himself esteems language. In Revelation 5:9, we see the inhabitants of heaven proclaiming that Jesus was “slain and with His blood purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” When we enter eternity, it won’t be only English speakers praising the Lord, but also the sweet voices of Vidunda speakers.

- **Pray that many Vidunda people will rejoice in the words of 2 Corinthians 4:6—“For God, who said ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”**

The Word Became Flesh

Vidunda speakers are rejoicing that they have another book of the Bible in their hands. The dedication and distribution of the Gospel of John were held, as planned, and people eagerly received this simple, yet profound book. They’re now reading the Apostle John’s stirring account of Jesus, who is the Word—God who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1, 14). This book is now being used, along with the previously published Gospel of Luke, in church services, small group prayer meetings and people’s homes.



- **Location: East Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 56,000**
- **Project Goal: New Testament**
- **Year Project Began: 2009**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2015**

- **Praise God for equipping Vidunda mother-tongue translators to bring His Word to their own people in the language that speaks most clearly to their hearts!**

- **Praise the Lord that Vidunda people are now embracing the Good News as they hear the Apostle John’s testimony of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection in their mother tongue!**



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Checks, Checks and More Checks

To ensure that the Bible translation communicates clearly, accurately and naturally to mother-tongue speakers, the Vidunda team must not only initially draft each Scripture book, but also constantly check, revise, test, edit and reedit their work.

As the Vidunda translators are in the thick of going through the various checks—among themselves and with local reviewers, community members and a consultant—they’re realizing just how long the whole process takes. But they’re also getting better at planning and organizing everything as they go.

The consultant-check of 1 and 2 Corinthians was completed, in answer to prayer. The team is carefully inputting revisions to both books that the project advisor suggested based on the earlier exegetical check.

The team stayed busy as they tested Galatians and Ephesians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians with people in the community. Galatians and Ephesians were then checked by the reviewers and Ephesians was moved on to a consultant’s check, which took place on schedule. Now the first 10 books of the New Testament (Matthew through Ephesians) have all undergone the consultant-checking step.

Soon the book of Acts will be village tested. Meanwhile, steady headway is being made as the team continues laboring on the Old Testament book of Exodus.

The Heart of Man

In places where literacy is low, illustrated tools are helpful in sharing the gospel message. Back in the 1920s, a Swiss missionary had pictures drawn to assist him in his mission work in Africa. His presentation, called “The Heart of Man”, is still being used all over the world to share the Good News of Jesus with unreached people groups.

The Vidunda team is translating “The Heart of Man” and plans to use the pictures to help Vidunda people understand that a war is being waged for their hearts. Unbelievers’ hearts, which are controlled by Satan, are filled with greed, lust, laziness, jealousy and pride, while hearts controlled by the Holy Spirit are filled with love, joy, peace, patience and kindness. When Satan is in control of your heart then you’re on the wide road to destruction. But when God controls your heart you’re on the narrow path to eternal life.

- **Pray that the Lord will grant discernment to the team as they carry out the mighty task of translating His Word clearly and accurately in the Vidunda language.**

- **Pray for efficient planning and organizing of the many Bible translation steps.**

- **Pray that God will use “The Heart of Man” to draw many Vidunda people to Himself as they recognize their state of depravity and begin longing for a Savior.**

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