

PROJECT NO: 82200

TAX | NON-TAX

Mongolia



Bible Translation



Overview

This project aims to meet the demand for a new Mongolian translation that is easier to understand for both readers and listeners. The project seeks to produce an exemplary translation in Mongolian and to have a strong impact among Mongol-speakers around the world. Started in 2015, the translation is projected for completion in 2027.

The Need

The population of Mongolia is three million, which includes approximately 65,000 Christians.

Mongolia uses the Khalkh dialect in all its official documents and all Mongolians understand this main dialect. With literacy rates of over 95 per cent, most Mongolian people can read and write the Khalkh dialect.

A translation that is more understandable and naturally flowing in this dialect has been greatly needed for many years now, as expressed by church leaders and believers.

This translation has the potential of being widely used in all Protestant as well as Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches in Mongolia.

3m

people in Mongolia.

±65k

Christians in Mongolia.

95%

of Mongolian people can read and write in the Khalkh dialect.

Goals

This project aims to fulfil Bible Society's mission of providing the Bible in written form to every Mongolian family.

The goals of this project are: to translate the Bible from the original languages; to be accurate; to be natural with Mongolian sentence structures and phrases; to be easy to understand for both readers and listeners. Those working on the project will employ a balanced-

approach in translation, as well as an emphasis on Hebrew language acquisition by aural and reading immersion methods.

So far, the Old Testament was completed as a first draft and nineteen books have been fully translated. Work has begun on the New Testament — with emphasis on Greek language training and translation — and will continue throughout 2023.

This is a 14-year project, with portions of the Bible to be released for consultation and review throughout the process. The near-final translations are made accessible to readers as soon as possible through the project website. This helps in receiving immediate feedback and in encouraging the Scripture engagement aspect of the project.

Impact

This project will ultimately impact 80,000 people. This takes into account the approximate number of Christians in Mongolia (65,000) and abroad (1,000), plus those who would be interested in reading the Bible.

Mongolian Christians will be able to read the Bible with greater ease and comprehension. The newly translated version will benefit not only Mongolia but has the potential to be used by 5 million Khalkh speakers around the world, some of whom are also in China and Russia.

Testimonies

"I was inspired many times while translating God's word. I am moved [by] how biblical authors offer us [a] deeply profound diagnosis of human nature, especially our sinful nature. We try to find out the whole array of meanings of a word considering its different usages in different contexts. Having a whole picture of the words is very important in solving translation issues. Thank you for your prayer and support for our work in Mongolia."

B Orgi, Project Translator.

"We expect this project to have a lasting impact and contribution to the growth of Mongolian Church."

Purevdorj J., Principal of Union Bible Theological College

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the effective training of translators in biblical languages, linguistics and Bible translation.
- Pray for cooperation and unity among translators, Mongolian churches, committee members and the Mongolian Bible Society.
- Pray for the team as they work to accurately and faithfully translate the New Testament in 2023.
- Pray for the staff working full-time on this project to overcome the economic hardships Mongolia is currently facing due to COVID-19 and the Russian war in Ukraine.

