

Mongolia

NON-TAX

Project No: 82200



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 over 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.

3.3m

is the population in Mongolia

65,000

Christians in Mongolia

95%

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

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV

Goals

The goal of this project is 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.

So far, over 80% of the translation project has been completed. In 2023, the Old Testament translation was prepared for print in trial version. Work translating the New Testament progressed throughout 2023, and will continue in 2024 with external reviews, including reviewing the translation of footnotes and Book introductions. Translation consultant checks will also be carried out, as well as the digital publication of 16 New Testament books, including all four Gospels. These will be accessible to readers through the project website, which 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 (and non-Christians) will be able to read the Bible with greater ease and comprehension. The newly translated version will benefit not only 3.3 million in Mongolia, but has the potential to be used by 5 million Mongolic 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 the 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 review the draft translations of the New Testament, as well as footnotes and introductions. Pray too for the consultant translation checks and the digital publication of 16 New Testament books.