

Chapter 4: Church Owned Bible Translation—Six Behaviors

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life (Prov. 4:23).
Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time (Col. 4:5).

YOUR NOTES:

We've confirmed that the local church has the:

- **ability,**
- **authority,**
- **responsibility, and**
- **accountability**

for translating Scripture.

Now let's consider the actions that a church will take because of those beliefs.

What steps will the local church take if it believes in Church Owned Bible Translation (COBT)?

The 6 Behaviors of Church-Owned Bible Translation

1. Accept responsibility.

Mother-tongue speakers, under the authority of their local church, **take responsibility for translating** the Bible into the heart language of their local community.

- **What are some ways you can share the vision of Church-Owned Bible Translation with other believers in your language community?**
- **What might be difficult for your local church in truly owning their translation?**

2. Make Bible Translation Accessible

The local church **manages community accessibility** to the translated Scripture.

- **How could your church help your community get access to the Scripture in your language once it's translated?**

3. Refine and Revise the Translation.

Refinement and revision will continuously take place within the community, with mother-tongue speakers.

- **Who would be interested in helping with ongoing revisions in your community?**

4. Engage the Community.

The church **involves** the local community in **reading and studying Scripture**.

- **How does your community engage with Scripture right now?**
- **How can you and your church involve the community with Scripture in your language?**

5. Share COBT with Others.

The local church **shares** the opportunity of Church-Owned Bible Translation with other language communities.

YOUR NOTES:

- How can you share the vision of COBT with believers outside your own language community?

YOUR NOTES:

6. Lead Future Generations to Update and Revise.

The local church takes ownership of **generational revisions and updates** to the Scripture.

- Why would future generations need to take ownership for updates and revisions?
- What are some steps you could take to make sure this happens?
- How can you see this process working in your community?
- What challenges do you see for your local church in truly owning translation?
- What is your role in sharing the vision of COBT with others?

Exercise: COBT 6 Behaviors Scenario Match

Example:

A young pastor gathers other pastors and members of his community to be trained in Bible translation. They translate portions of

Scripture during the day and gather in the evenings to check each other's work.

- **Accept Responsibility**
- **Make Bible Translation Accessible**
- **Refine and Revise**
- **Engage the Community**
- **Share COBT with Others**
- **Lead Future Generations to Update**

Which Behavior best matches the experience of this pastor and members of his community? _____

Consider the following stories. Which behavior is being exhibited?

1. A group of believers invites other Christians to their home once a month for Bible study. They use their time to read the newly translated Scriptures in their mother tongue and talk about what they have read.

2. A pastor worked with pastors outside his language community to help fund the publication of the New Testament his own community had just completed.

3. A translation team had completed their draft translation through each of the MAST eight steps. The pastors from the language community planned a regular time to meet together to undertake doctrine checking by using the Wycliffe Associates, 'Reviewers guide' doctrine checking resource.

4. A young woman joined the translation team for her community. She shared that she did it because of her grandfather. He could not speak or read the trade language well enough to read Scripture in that language. Her desire was for him and others of his generation to be able to read Scripture for themselves in the language of their heart.

- **Accept Responsibility**
- **Make Bible Translation Accessible**
- **Refine and Revise**
- **Engage the Community**
- **Share COBT with Others**
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5. The chief of a prominent tribe helped get a translation started with the church from his wife's language community. Then he traveled to the north of his country and met with a Bishop from another tribe. He invited them to partner in learning about Bible translation for their own tribe.

Review of Core Concepts:

- When the local Church recognizes that they have the ability, authority, responsibility, and accountability for translating Scripture, they will take certain steps.
- These steps, or behaviors, include:
 - Accept responsibility.
 - Make Bible translation accessible.
 - Refine and revise the translation.
 - Engage the community.
 - Share Church-Owned Bible Translation with others.
 - Encourage generational ownership.