

## 14 Community Acceptance – Walkthrough

*(Slide deck and white board recommended; Acceptance exercise part 1 and 2 handouts – 30 min. discussion, and 60 min. exercises.)*

**Intro: Each language community has unique cultural expectations for sacred teachings.** This is important to keep in mind when planning to share the completed Scripture translation.

As the Quality Assessment Guide helps the team plan for the content to be of good quality, and a Scripture Access Plan gives believers exposure to God's Word, a Community Acceptance Plan helps make the Bible acceptable for use in the local church. 1 Corinthians 9:22 tells us that Paul became all things to all people so that the way he did things would not be a hindrance to the truth. In the same way, we can plan wisely so that the way the translation is done or the finished product does not limit people's willingness to use it. **Let's discuss what makes a Bible translation acceptable to your language community and make a plan to meet that expectation.**

*(If you have not already addressed Cultural and Social Challenges, do so briefly here.)*

- **Ask** the team to identify and address current cultural and social challenges that may affect the translation effort of the local church. *(You may want to share an example to give them an idea of what kinds of things you are looking for. BUT only give 1 example. Don't give all the answers.)*
  - Examples:
    - It may be difficult for the older generation to accept (or use) an electronic version of the Bible.
    - Some people may not think books printed on regular printer paper would be an appropriate presentation for God's Word.
    - People might not want hard copies if they fear persecution.
    - Some might not accept a translation if they do not trust the people who do it or promote it.
- **Ask: What suggestions do you have for overcoming the challenges you have identified?** (Luke 14:28–29)

*(If the Cultural/Social conversation has occurred, do the following. Use Community Acceptance **Exercise** Part 1 for the conversation and Part 2 to make a plan.)*

- **Use the white board (a breakout session with the handout is recommended)** to guide leaders in creating a Community Acceptance Plan by asking them to list the characteristics that need to be present for their translation to be acceptable in their culture. (They need not come up with 10 characteristics. It may only take 4 or 5.)

- **Ask: Are there expectations about how sacred writings should be formatted, printed, and bound?**
- After they have listed the characteristics, **ask** them to define or explain any that seem unclear.
- Inform leaders that, when finished, this will be the plan their team members refer to throughout the translation and Scripture formatting process.

When they have finished, **ask the following questions:**

- *(If you are working with a team of MAST translators)* **Is the Community Acceptance Plan clear and agreeable to each member of the team?**
- **What resources can you suggest to help address the practical challenges identified through these discussions?**

**Confirm:** The team has a plan to translate and release Scripture in an acceptable manner and format. The Community Acceptance Plan should be made available for continued reference.