

Oral and Written Translation



Genesis 11:1–9



**Over 3000 language groups
do not use
a complete written form**



Differences in Oral Communities



Some Oral Communities

Respect oral messages

Express important information orally

Consider oral communication ideal



Other Oral Communities

Respect written messages

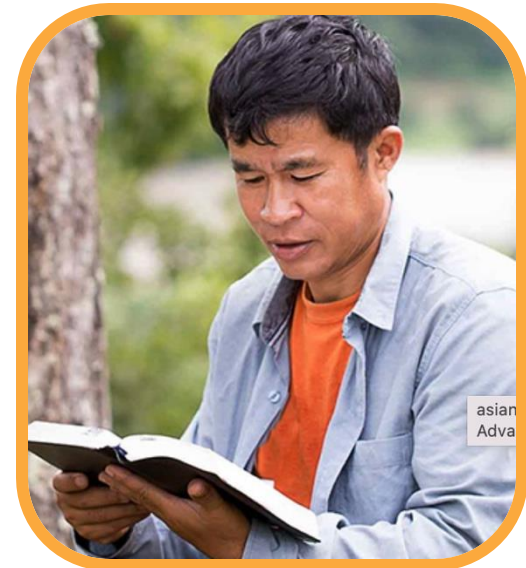
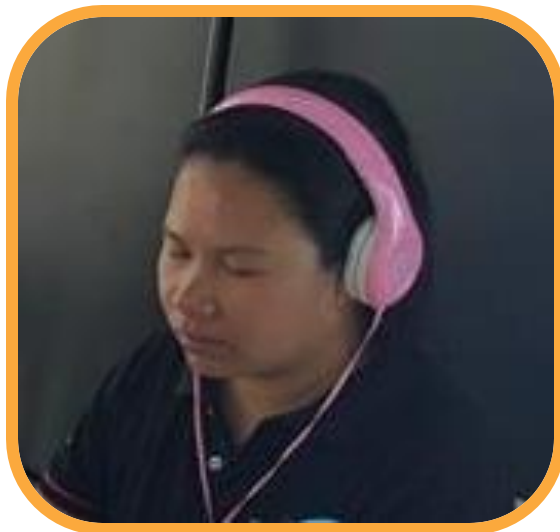
Wish important information to be written

Consider written communication ideal

Oral Translation



Written Translation



Who Decides?



Local Church



The believers in the community who are invested in getting Scripture for their heart language.

What Should the Church Consider?



- Is there a writing system for the language, even if not standardized?
- Do the people read and write in their heart language?
- Is that common?
- Is the number of readers growing?

What Should the Church Consider?



- How could people listen to an oral translation?
- What do they prefer?
- Is literacy wanted?
- Are translators able to read the source language?

What Are Options for Translation?



If there is a writing system

Translate in writing

OR

Translate in writing and also
record an audio for non-readers

**If there is no commonly
used writing system**

Translate by speaking and
produce an oral translation

