

Chapter 12: Oral and Written Translation

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name (Mal. 3:16). How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written... (Rom. 10:14-15a).

YOUR NOTES:

How can we serve language communities with no written form or low literacy?

Genesis 11:1 -9

Imagine a spectrum with completely oral communication on one side and completely written communication on the other side.

Over HALF the languages with no Scripture are on the oral communication side of the spectrum.

These are two of the types of oral communities:

1. Those that express important cultural information orally **and consider that**

_____ **for their**
community

2. Those that, although they do not yet have a standardized written language,

_____ **to communicate**
important cultural information in
written form.

○ **Who should make the decision on which format to use?**

○ **What should be considered in making that decision?**

YOUR NOTES:

Here are the options Wycliffe Associates offers for translation process and format:

If there is a writing system:

- Translate the Scripture in writing for a written translation.
- Translate the Scripture in writing and make an audio recording for an audio translation.

If there is no commonly used writing system:

- Translate the Scripture by speaking to produce an oral translation. (This may later be transcribed to produce a written translation.)

What might happen if the church doesn't consider the options before they start the translation?

YOUR NOTES:

Review of Core Concepts:

- Some communities are more comfortable communicating important messages orally.
- There is Bible translation software available for these communities to preserve their oral preferences.
- Only the local Church can decide the format that is best for their language community.
- The final format should be decided before translation begins, as it will determine what software can be used.