

Chapter 21: Sharing Church-Owned Bible Translation with Others

Objective: *Participants will understand their own part in advancing the mission of Church-Owned Bible Translation.*

Core Concepts:

- Reaching all the remaining language groups will take the whole Church spreading the word about the opportunity for Bible translation.

The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2).

Intro:

When we began, we shared that the local church has the responsibility to evangelize and disciple. We believe this because the Great Commission is a command to the entire church, all over the world.

○ **How does Bible translation fit into the Great Commission?**

Teaching all nations to obey Jesus' commands requires communicating with them in a way they understand.

Time: 30 min.

Materials:

- ✓ White board
- ✓ Slide Deck:
T3.Slides_21_Sharing.COBT
- ✓ Bible with place markers

Teacher's Notes



Sharing COBT with Others

The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2).

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The Great Commission Includes Bible Translation

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. ²⁰Amen (Matthew 28:19-20).



The Gospel



The Commands of Jesus

Matthew 28:19-20

Consider Romans 10:17.

We empower local churches to evangelize and disciple when we show them how they can have the Bible in the language of their hearts. By identifying language groups in need or mobilizing and training those around you, you can also empower them to make disciples.

- **Are there language communities around you who still need scripture?**

Notes:

Sharing COBT Experience, Training Others

Identifying, mobilizing, training, and discipling

New Language Groups



New Church Partners



Who lives
nearby?



- Scripture needs
- How to help
- Other needs in the region / country

If they don't know, ask them what they could do to figure this out. Help them come up with answers by asking further questions:

- Does their country have a Department of Indigenous Peoples?
- When they travel to a central town or city, do they encounter people who speak other languages?
- Do they know pastors from other language communities who might know of Scripture needs?

- **What do you think the Christians from those communities would say if you shared your experience with church-owned Bible translation? Would others be interested in how they could translate Scripture for their people?**

Impact Story:

George Banda heard from a pastor friend about the MAST translation process. He traveled to our checking workshop, not knowing what he was coming to in hopes of learning more. Banda is a pastor of a church with 9 languages represented. When his car broke down on the journey, he left it and found public transportation. He told us he could not go home until he had an answer for the people of his church.

Discuss:

- **Imagine if a pastor like George Banda showed up at your translation workshop. What would you tell him about Bible translation?**
- **Who is qualified to invite other people to do translation?**

Notes:

Show where to find the Conversation Guide on bibleineverylanguage.org and how it can help them share with others.

If they don't have any ideas, offer the following suggestions. Talk about what qualifies them.

- A believer with experience in Bible translation.

- **Did you feel qualified to translate when you were first invited to join a translation team?**

- **Are you motivated to tell others about COBT?**

Notes:

- A believer who has a good reputation in the area.
- A believer who is willing to share in the task.

If they don't feel qualified to share with others, explore whether they might realize their feelings are inaccurate if they tried it out.

If not, what ideas might motivate them?

If time allows, discuss the positive impact Scripture has on a community.



Confirm: Participants understand the spiritual value of telling other communities about COBT, and they will be equipped with the practical resources needed to do it.