



Partners...

Please share this letter with a friend!

August 2020

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. (Joseph, in Genesis 50:20, NIV)

In reports from around the world, we hear echoes of what God did when Joseph's brothers threw him into a pit and sold him into slavery. That heartbreaking crisis looked very bad, but God used it for good — it's His specialty!

During phone calls, people often ask me (Dorothea) how COVID is affecting Bible translation — if the pandemic has stopped progress. While acknowledging great difficulties for about 17% of our field partners, it's been my joy to share encouraging reports, as well. We hope you'll rejoice over a few examples of God bringing good out of what looks so very bad.

First Drafts

In many communities around the world, people scarcely leave home. Therefore, Bible translation faces little competition for team members' time and energy. Many translators are reporting that in quiet, undisturbed hours they're producing a record number of first drafts. They could never have finished this many had their jobs and church obligations continued. In areas *without* a good Internet connection, drafts pile up for checking later.

Consultant Checks

In areas *with* good Internet connections, teams don't have to stop at drafts. One such project had to cancel in-person draft-checking. Instead, virtual meetings allowed the team to finish consultant checks on major books of both the Old *and* New Testaments quickly. Previously they had thought they'd be stuck checking those books for months. Now they are done! How great is that?

Printing and Distribution

We were especially delighted to hear from a translation team member in a very sensitive project. They were so close to printing and distribution, but had to cancel their plans. One by one, family members came to shelter in

place together as COVID travel restriction prevented them from returning to their respective ministries around the world. In God's providence, one of the stranded family members *just happened* to have worked as a professional app developer in a previous job — change of plans! He coded night and day in that very full household.

By mid-July, they released the New Testament over the Internet and on mobile phone apps, instead of in a big, bulky hard copy! Right now, that Scripture is freely zipping around cyberspace without hindrance — and nearly everyone has a phone. On top of that, people have more time to read and heightened spiritual interest because of the pandemic. Please join us in praying that the app will go viral, and that God will work together for good the "all things" that are COVID. (Romans 8:28)

Funding

People also ask if giving to Bible translation is down. I have not heard a formal organization-wide report, but informally I know that giving to some individual missionaries is down.

However, on our little team, giving to field projects is up — praise the Lord! By July, more funds had come in than in either of the previous two years, and the fiscal year has two more months to go.

That makes sense. Well over half of the people with whom I speak say that because of world events, they feel an increased sense of urgency to get the job done NOW. They also wonder aloud how anyone could go through this time without the Word of God.

Just like Joseph said in the verse above, we are watching God take bad situations and use them for good — it's His specialty!

Blessed and Thankful Family

Words cannot express just how blessed we feel to be on a team with you. Some people pray, some give, and some are directly involved in Bible translation. It takes a team. Jim and I are well cared for, prayed for, and our financial partners have remained constant through these very difficult times.

Beyond that, God has loaded us with benefits like interactive online church services, Sunday school classes, and prayer meetings; sweet relationships with family members in our multi-generational home and elsewhere; a garden full of produce; canning jars; blue-sky days without Oregon rain; and a prolific flock of lovely laying hens, to list just a few.



Praise & Prayer Requests

- Praise the Lord that He is taking what looks very bad (COVID) and turning it around for His good purposes in so many projects — even accelerating translation and opening better approaches in some!
- Ask God to meet needs for food, health, training, technology, as well as Scripture recording & distribution in translation projects that are suffering most severely.
- Praise the Lord for Jim's ability to assist Bible translation teams everywhere with his knowledge of the Greek New Testament.
- Ask the Lord to make Jim able to concentrate well through his continued pain.
- Praise the Lord that by working alternate schedules, our daughter, Evangel, and her husband, Scott, have each been able to work from home one day a week so that they can care for their children during COVID. Please pray that arrangement continues when online school begins here in Oregon in early September.
- Please ask God to give strength, grace, and a strong marriage to our son, Will, and his wife, Jodi, as they care for Jodi's mother, and Will works out of state.
- Please keep asking God to give our eldest daughter, Liz, the measure of health needed to accomplish all that He has planned for her to do beforehand (Ephesians 2:10).



- Pray for wisdom, direction, and safety for our granddaughter, Alyssa, while doing her student teaching in Iowa — soon to graduate!

From the desert in Northern Kenya to the Pacific NW, Jim and Dorothea have served in Bible Translation for over 35 years. To partner with them through giving, you may send funds to Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628299, Orlando, FL 32862-8200, with a *separate note saying that you prefer it be applied to the Wycliffe ministry of Jim and Dorothea Lander (221845)*. You can also give online at <https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/CACE59> or call toll free (800) 992-5433 and ask to speak with staff in Donor Relations. They can help you set up recurring gifts, an electronic funds transfer or another option. (Jim & Dorothea 16573 SE Widgeon Ln, Damascus Oregon 97089)