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Translations in Multiple Languages

Importance of Course Translation



Imagine you are rushing into a meeting. As you get to the door, the speaker says: “Notre vision est de promouvoir des mouvements de formation autonomes dans le monde entier pour équiper bibliquement les dirigeants des Églises». What would you do? Wrong meeting? Wrong speaker? What are they saying? Can't they say it in English? (This is iTEE Global Vision Statement translated in French). Translation makes communication possible

regardless of the different languages, cultures and backgrounds and helps to break down language barriers. Today several computer applications are facilitating translation in different languages.

Communication Without Barriers

There are an estimated 8 billion people in the world, speaking over 7,000 languages according to Linguistic Society of America. As believers of Jesus Christ, how do we preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and make disciple makers? To our benefit, the Bible has been translated into many languages initially from the biblical languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. As of September 2023 all of the Bible has been translated into 736 languages. The New Testament has been translated into an additional 1,658 languages, and smaller portions of the Bible have been translated into 1,264 other languages, according to Wycliffe Global Alliance.

iTEE Global's in Multiple Languages

iTEE Global works in many nations, and is tasked to translate materials frequently. After translation, national trainers are taught to disciple pastoral leaders in their own communities. We now have materials in Chinese, Burmese, Hindi, Tamil, Punjabi, Telugu, Spanish, Swahili, English, and Urdu. Recently, we started teaching in Maa (from the Massai Tribe in Kenya). Currently there are 15 core courses in foreign languages that need to be translated and produced online and in printed form.



Many of our students speak more than one language. Pastor Paul Yeze is a student at iTEE Global and lives in Lubumbashi, DR Congo. He speaks French, Swahili and English. His life has



been greatly transformed, and he now shares what he is learning with other pastors. But to do that, he has to translate the materials into French and Swahili. He keeps several notes so he can help them.

His work has doubled as the number of pastors to train is increasing. He says that materials are more helpful in a language they can best understand.

The Vital Role of iTEE University

iTEE University is the training arm of iTEE Global and was established to deliver discipleship, pastoral, and leadership education through courses at Certificate, Diploma and Associate of Arts Degree in Ministry. iTEE University initiates and coordinates translation of designated courses and materials.



How Translation Is Done?

The original text to be translated is the most important thing because the meaning or intent should not change. So, the translator must be bilingual, and fluent in both languages. The work of translation starts with identifying and defining the need first. For example, we have “200 pastors that speak Russian, and do not read nor speak English, but willing to learn.” This is the need. The second necessity is a champion: someone with the ability and the passion to teach these 200 pastors in Russian. This champion must have the necessary training and must develop a trusted relationship with these pastors. And that takes time.

The next thing is a translation team, so we have a “library” to include the course into our online education platform—Moodle—with an electronic version ready for printing in face-to-face study. This team does the translation, the proofreading and typing. The translated and proofread material is migrated and finally it is formatted to allow for print-ready copies. Once a person is designated to coordinate tasks from start to finish, a translation team is developed.



Challenges in Translation

What kind of challenges do we face? We have opportunities for free translation that volunteers can do in their spare time. That is a major constraint. We can also work with experienced teams of translation companies. They can complete the work quickly. However, the cost is extremely high. The ideal situation is to work with someone who passionately loves the Lord and does affordable translation as a ministry. Another challenge is the difficulty to stay ahead of the demand, so that a course in one language is not put on hold for a year before the next course is translated and made available. So far, we have translated materials in 11 languages on 2 study levels: The Certificate and Diploma in Ministry levels.

How much does it cost? The cost of translation varies. With limited financial resources, iTEE Global has to determine the effective use of resources without creating learning gaps.

How long does it take? The time frame for translation varies depending on the course, the language, the team and other constraints. A translation team can complete an entire course in less than three months. In another case, one translator has taken one year to translate Galatians, our most basic course. A dedicated and motivated team should be able to translate and migrate three courses to Moodle within one year in one language.

Successes In Translation



We have accomplished a lot. For our Spanish courses, a completed library for both Certificate and Diploma in Ministry study is almost finalized. For Hindi and Tamil, online studies began for the first time in 2023. For Urdu, online study has also started for the first time. For Burmese, a hybrid online curriculum will soon be ready for face-to-face study and ready for printing. We are grateful when a team and the required funds are available to move forward.

James Southwick: The Relationship Pastor



For James Southwick, relationship is key. This has been his conviction since childhood. At age 11, he prayed with his father to start a relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior. After High School, the Lord called him to serve vocationally.

While studying at Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas, James was grateful to have a campus pastor disciple him. James indicates, "This experience absolutely changed my life." Also in college, he met Sharon, his lifelong sweetheart. They have been married for 45 wonderful years, and they raised two sons and a daughter. They now have four grandsons.



After college, James served as a church planter before attending Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. He graduated in 1988. In the years following, James pastored several ailing churches on a bi-vocational basis. He was also marketing for civil engineering services at that time. In his free time, he loved reading or being involved in local sports ministries, which included refereeing soccer and training young players. He also enjoyed hiking and family outings.

Prior to the pandemic, James served for 10 years as the Pastor of the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church in Arnold, Missouri. He supervised the sports and fitness ministry, the arts and hospitality. The center also hosted church conferences, anniversaries and baby showers.

From Pastor to Missionary

James worked in that capacity for several years. However, the Lord had been turning his focus toward global missions. In February 2020, he went to north India for the third time. A few weeks later, the pandemic hit. As the year progressed, James

was convinced that he should leave public ministry and pursue a ministry in missions. He wanted to do discipleship missions in India. iTEE Global fits both criteria. James facilitates courses as a Global Trainer, and is also the Translation Manager.

James explains, "I believe the salvation that Jesus provides is our world's only hope. Evangelism is a good start, but the Gospel is fully advanced with discipleship and leadership development. With iTEE Global, I make a difference by making disciples and developing pastoral leaders."



James tells stories about those he is serving. He shares how one of his students in the Galatians course had been too scared to ever evangelize, but the course convinced her of her own security in Christ. With new confidence, she began to

share the gospel with her friends. Another student, a youth minister, takes what he learns from the Romans class and shares it with his youth group each week.

James has developed personal friendships with non-native English students. He has a passion to see courses translated for them to relate in their own heart languages. This helps them become more effective disciple-makers.

James serves in other areas of the curriculum department. Truly, iTEE Global is blessed to have James Southwick as part of our ministry team.



Student Connection to iTEE Global

How do students get involved with iTEE Global? The successful partnerships of iTEE Global with several ministry organizations around the world have been instrumental over the years. These are organizations that have assisted in spreading the word about the courses that iTEE Global offers locally. Many of our students hear about iTEE Global through word-of-mouth testimonies that people have shared about a course's impact on their lives. It is through these positive interactions that iTEE Global has been able to reach more students.



Pastor Mario in El Salvador first encountered iTEE Global through the Project Nehemiah Workshop that was conducted at his church. The following year, he and church members taught it to others.



He said that the workshop was very challenging. However, the pastor admitted that "It's worth it. It is a great blessing!" He began using what

he learned to disciple others. They use the tools for effective learning and teaching, learn from each other and apply Jesus' principles and teaching methods. Pastor Mario and more people in his church are taking courses with iTEE Global.

A recent Galatians cohort facilitator learned that most of the students came from one person who had taken the Galatians course in a previous term. She told her friends and relatives who live in Ethiopia, Spain, Canada, and the UK about its impact on her life and recruited five new students for the following term. This is how iTEE Global has also been effective in multiplying disciple-makers.

Prayer Points

Please join us in prayer:

For successful outcomes of new projects this quarter.

For opportunities to partner with international organizations in South America and the Caribbean.

For qualified staff and volunteers to join our ministry.

For our donors and their families.

For translation and production of three courses in 10 languages, i.e. Portuguese, French, and Tamil.

Send your personal prayer requests for our staff to pray for you, pray@iteeg.org

Ministry Opportunities

Global Trainers

Biblically trains students online and in-person. Will travel at least once a year.

Graphic Artist

Supports the graphics needs for the Curriculum Development, Communications, and Public Relations areas of the ministry.

Writer/Editor

Assists course writers in writing and editing courses. Helps in the development of communications materials, and resources for funding development.

HRinfo@iteeg.org

<https://iteeg.org/opportunities/>

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