



Institute for Bible Translation Russia/CIS

PO Box 360, Moscow,
RUSSIA 101000,
Tel: + 7 (495) 956-6446,
Fax: + 7 (495) 956-6439
E-mail: ibt_inform@ibt.org.ru
Internet: www.ibt.org.ru

Newsletter January 2009

“Why does our nation not know this?”

Every year IBT is translating and publishing books in many languages of the Russian federation and other CIS countries. In 2008 New Testaments and other Bible books were printed in Avar, Yakut, Crimean Tatar, Uzbek, Karakalpak, Khakas and Tatar, and audio-recordings published in Khakas and Tsakhur. For Easter 2008 a book containing the first seventeen verses of John's Gospel in 76 languages was published. In some areas distribution is a problem, and therefore it was a great encouragement to us to get the following reports:

"It is a blessing to have the Word of God in our language. For two years we have done outreach on the day of deportation, which is when we remember how our people were deported from their homeland. A lot of people came to pick up books. Teachers even wanted whole boxes for their schools. We gave out books to a lot of people and didn't have anything left for those who came later."

"A pastor was riding on a public bus and started a conversation with a middle aged man. They began to speak about God and after some time the pastor offered the man a Russian New Testament to read. He politely turned it down saying he wouldn't read it, as it was about the Russians' God and their religion. The pastor then pulled out the Gospel of Matthew in the man's native language. He gladly took it and told the pastor, 'This is our book', he kissed it, and asked the pastor where he could get another copy. He said that he would definitely read the book and thanked him for the gift."



"God speaks to our hearts in our own language. When my wife heard the Gospel in her mother tongue she was crying. 'Why does our nation not know this?' she asked. She was thrilled to hear Jesus' words in her language. We are a small nation and people want to keep their culture, they try to find their roots. Therefore it is important for them to read the Gospel in their own language. This will change their thinking that Jesus is a Russian God. We thank God for all who have been translating, testing, and making the books ready - it is a big job. When we distribute the books people are usually open and interested. Those who follow other religious rules come secretly so that others will not see. They often want to take more than one copy to give to their relatives. People are impressed to get a well-designed book as a gift. Some are ready to pay for it."

"Once when I was travelling I picked up a hitchhiker. I had two copies of the Injil (*New Testament*), so I gave him one. He started reading right away. I turned on a CD with worship songs and the hitchhiker was happy that it was in his language. I gave him my phone number and a few days later he asked me to come to their house and we had a service there. God is doing his work through the literature!"

In 2009 IBT is planning to continue Bible translation into 38 languages and hopes to publish two New Testaments as well as Bible portions in several languages. However, all our plans will depend on whether you, dear partners and friends, will share the responsibility with us by continuing to support our work. There is a direct connection between what we can accomplish and the support we receive. Thank you for your help!