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Newsletter November/December 2009

The full Bible is being prepared for publication in several new languages!

Right now we are in the middle of an exciting process - after many years' work the full Bible is being prepared for publication in several new languages. Since 2000 IBT Russia/CIS has published 13 New Testaments but so far no complete Bible. In August the Tuvin team in southern Siberia handed over their text to the publishing department; in October one of the Central Asian translation teams celebrated their last consultant checking session on the Old Testament; and at the end of that month we had a celebration here in Moscow as a translation group finished their work on the complete Bible in one of the Caucasian languages.



The translator from the Caucasus said: "When I was first asked to become involved in Bible translation I thought: 'Why translate the Bible at all, and why for my people who have another faith?' Then I was told that this book had been translated into hundreds of languages and that it would contribute to the cultural wealth of our people. When I asked my uncle, who is a mullah, he said: 'The Bible contains the Torah and other books and it will only be good for you to work with it.'

"The Bible was not completely unknown to me," continued the translator. "In the 1980s I visited Kiev on a business trip. There I was invited to the home of an old colleague. From the books on his shelves I understood that he was a Christian. We had an interesting conversation about faith, and when I left my colleague said: 'I have a book with the Gospel in your language. I will give it to you, but only if you promise to read it.' So I took the book and read it, but I did not understand much, as the language was old fashioned. Then ten years later I got to know a foreigner who asked if I would be willing to check the translation of a text from the Bible. He was surprised to hear that for many years already I had in my possession a book with the Gospel in my language. I began to work and became more and more involved. We had many discussions, and six years ago I became a believer. It was only later that I found out that the Gospel I received from my Ukrainian friend was one of only 200 copies printed by IBT many years ago."

Although these teams have now completed an important step, it will still take some more work and time until the Bibles will be published. The Tuvin Bible will be the first to be printed – and this will be only the second complete Bible ever published in the Russian Federation after Russian!

***Thank you for your support in 2009!
We wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!
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