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One Hour at IBT Russia/CIS Newsletter, February 2009

IBT has a 24-hour working day because our translation teams are spread over ten time zones! Here's a look at what can happen during **one hour** of IBT's work.

At nine o'clock in the morning Gagauz translator, Pyotr, working in southern Moldova, will make the final corrections to the Gagauzi Children's Bible before sending it to IBT's publishing department in Moscow. This book will be printed in 2009, completing IBT's 37th Children's Bible!

In St. Petersburg it is 10:00 a.m. Nadia takes a cup of coffee and sits down with a printout of the Children's Bible in the Evenki language, which is her mother tongue. Together with exegetical advisor Stefano, Nadia has been working on this text for several years. Now they are approaching the end of their work and Nadia spends the next hour reading through some of the pages and inserting changes in the text.



At the same time IBT co-workers in Moscow have started their work day at their offices in St Andrew's Monastery beside the Moscow River. They begin their day by gathering in the library for their daily Bible reading. During the next hour Tanya, head of the publishing department, makes several calls to printing houses, while designer Masha is working on the cover of the Khakas New Testament. Project coordinators Lena, Natasha, and Ketevan are in contact with some of their translation project teams by e-mail. During the same hour IBT's director, Marianne, and deputy directors, Marina and Natalia, have a meeting with a visiting church leader from Abakan, while our distribution manager, Sergey, makes a call to the Ministry of Justice to arrange for a shipment of Bible portions to prison libraries.

During the same hour, though **12 noon local time**, exegetical advisor, Eunsub, living in Salekhard (northern Siberia), is working through the corrections on the Gospel of John in Nenets together with her translator, Tanya. They are interrupted by Nastya, a Nenets friend, who wonders when the Gospel of Mark will be printed and audio-recorded. "Many people are asking for it!" Eunsub invites Nastya for a cup of tea and assures her that Mark will be ready this year.



(over)

It is 1:00 p.m. in the Altai capital of Gorno, Altaisk in southern Siberia. During their lunch break the local team is discussing the preparations for the audio-recording of the Altai New Testament. The Altai New Testament was published in 2003 and has now been revised. Among the Christian Altais there is a great interest in this audio-recording.



In Kyzyl, capital of Tuva in southern Siberia, the **local time is 2 p.m.** Nikolay, a translator, is continuing his work on the revision of the New Testament in his mother tongue, Tuvian. The Tuvian New Testament was published in 2001 and next year the whole Bible will be printed. A slight revision of the New Testament is needed so that the translation of all key terms used in both the Old and New Testaments match.

In Ulan Ude, capital of Buryatia on the Baikal Sea, **the time is 3:00 p.m.** The local coordinator, Rinchin, is visiting a well-known journalist asking him to be one of the external reviewers of the Buryat New Testament which is almost ready for publication.

In a location where the **local time is 4:00 p.m.**, Sargylana, a translator, is looking through the final corrections of the Yakut Psalms which will be published this year. Six of the psalms were printed in a separate book in 2007 and are already being used by many of the local churches in Yakutia.

In Palana, on the Kamchatka peninsula in far east Russia, **it is already 7:00 p.m.** Valentina, the philological editor for the Koryak project, has invited the exegetical advisor, Sergey, for supper in order to discuss further Bible translation in Koryak. Luke's Gospel was published in 2005, but we could not continue the translation until we found an exegetical advisor who was willing to live in this far away place. Sergey recently moved to Palana and there is new hope for the Koryak project!

As Valentina is waking up the next morning, two co-workers who worked late at the Moscow office are handing over the key to the watchman in the guard house at the monastery gate...

And so IBT continues its work hour by hour, day after day.

IBT needs only \$150 per hour to continue work on 38 translation projects in seven countries of the former Soviet Union!

For more information about the "Hour Project," please contact God's Word for the Nations at gwn@gwftn.org or 573-426-3621.



Tax deductible donations to support IBT's work are made payable to God's Word for the Nations, PO Box 1259, Rolla, MO 65402 (TIN 20-8239246).