

Heart language translation opens doors to greater Bible understanding

Studying the Bible is an intimate and personal relationship between the Holy Spirit, the text, and the person who is studying. This is why CBS has always seen a critical need to translate our Bible study courses into other languages. At the core of our mission statement is a desire to make studying the Bible available to all – and the best way to do that is to use someone’s heart language.

The term “heart language” has been used to describe the first language someone speaks at home. It’s powerfully connected with one’s culture and geographic identity. It’s also typically the most effective language for a person to learn new concepts or deeper truths, which is why it’s important to make CBS studies available in as many languages as we can.

We have heard repeatedly how important it is that participants all over the world are able to study the Bible in a language that speaks to their heart. One pastor in South Asia recently shared this with us:

We see that many commentaries are available in the English language but [only] one or two commentaries are available in Marathi. It is expensive, so ordinary pastors can't afford them. Mostly it is out of stock.

But Community Bible Study provides us with insightful commentaries after each lesson. We can read the views of different Bible scholars of the world in our Marathi language. Through it, we can have a deep and accurate study of God's Word. As a Pastor, we must understand the Word correctly so we can teach the congregation well.

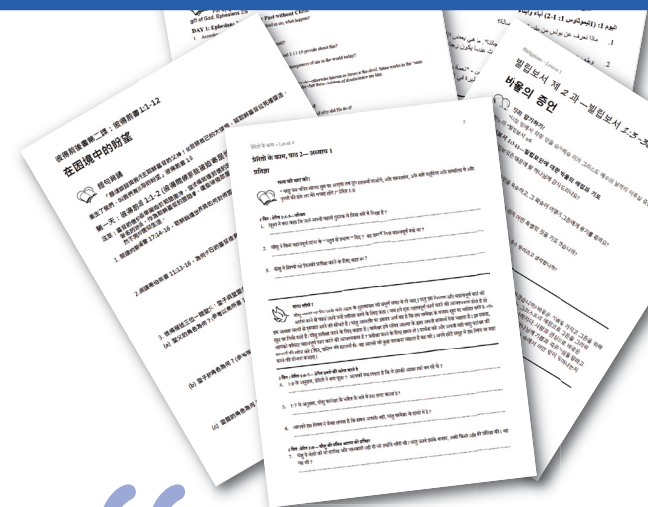
Our translation process is rigorous and begins with identifying a qualified translator who is a strong believer and typically living in the country where the language is spoken.

Once a translator is identified, we share with them our goals for the translation of our lessons. It needs to be dynamically equivalent to the English words (communicating the same idea, but not word-for-word), and culturally relevant, while remaining theologically neutral. We’ll often send some sample lessons as a test before an entire course is translated.

When the translator is done, the lessons will be sent to a reviewer who is also typically an in-country translator who also understands our goals and mission. Only after the lessons are translated, reviewed, formatted, and stored in different formats will they be ready for distribution.

Would you prayerfully consider financially supporting this important aspect of the ministry? A donation of any amount helps, and perhaps you’re in a position to cover the cost of a 12- or 30-lesson course.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a lasting impact. Our Lord commanded us “to make disciples of all nations;” together, let’s ensure that the in-depth study of the Word of God is accessible to all, regardless of language barriers.



“The translation of CBSI books into Sinhala has opened doors for a detailed exploration of the Bible, offering the opportunity to study it chapter by chapter and verse by verse.”

Sri Lanka