

Newscast - Compass Braille Annual Newsletter 2019

Suriname - New Language

Compass Braille Transcribing the Sranantongo language for use in Suriname:

We are currently transcribing the Sranantongo Bible into Braille. This is a new language project which is for use in the South American country of Suriname. The project came about as a direct result of Colin and Jake's attendance at the DBL Summit in Athens earlier this year. The following details, extracted from the Suriname BS's website, will explain a little about their valuable work:-

'The Suriname BS has its responsibility in serving two countries, Suriname and Guyana by distributing the Word of God. In these countries part of the challenge is that we need to serve minority language groups. Because of this, translation is a very important part of our mission. Besides translation, Bible distribution has also been an important part of our mission in reaching the many minority groups in Suriname and Guyana.

The mission of the Suriname BS is to provide the Holy Scriptures to every person in Suriname and Guyana in a language and format each can readily understand.'

The Language: 'Sranan (also known as Sranan Tongo or Sranantongo "Surinamese tongue", Surinaams, Surinamese, Suriname Creole, Taki Taki) is a creole language spoken as a lingua franca by approximately 500,000 people in Suriname.

Because the language is shared between the Dutch- Javanese- Hindustani- and Chinese-speaking communities. Most Surinamese speak it as a lingua franca among both the Surinamese in Suriname, a former Dutch colony and the immigrants of Surinamese origin in the Netherlands.'

When we have completed the transcription and we receive the proof readers' approval we will initially produce only a small number of Braille portions. This is a new project for a new country so we, as yet, do not know what the take up will be. If, as we trust, the project goes well, there will be more requests in the future.

As we have mentioned before, now that we have the new transcription program and through networking through the DBL, new languages can be processed more easily, speedily and accurately.

Digital Bible Library Explained:

About the Digital Bible Library (DBL)

The aim of the DBL is to store digital copies of the Scriptures in every language, in a variety of formats by the year 2033. Its purpose is to give ministry partners the resources to reach all people with God's Word in their own language.

The DBL was conceived when some of the world's leading Bible translation agencies - including Wycliffe Bible Translators, SIL International, Biblica, Seed Company and the United Bible Societies - were moved to work together to reach the billions of people still awaiting the Scriptures in their own written language. This alliance of Bible translators is called "Every Tribe, Every Nation" (ETEN) and the heads of the organisations within it regularly meet together to pray for the work.

'ETEN envision a world in which everyone has immediate access to a high-quality translation of God's Word in their own language. It starts with building the world's largest library for Bible translations. All translations in one place digitised for easy and immediate release in print, audio, and video.'

For those with Disability or No Written Language

To enable all people to be reached, including those with visual or hearing disabilities and those whose language has, as yet, no written script, the Scripture formats must include Braille as well as audio and sign-language videos.

What the DBL means to Compass Braille

As a member of the DBL, Compass Braille is helped in three main ways: Firstly, it simplifies the process of obtaining permission to use the source text from the copyright holders. Secondly, once we receive permission we are able to access these texts through the DBL. Our software can then convert the text files into Braille files ready for us to emboss. Thirdly, we are able to store electronic Braille files within the DBL. This means they are safely archived and catalogued enabling other agencies to see which Bible translations have been produced in Braille.

DBL Summit:

Colin and Jake recently attended the DBL Summit in Athens where presentations by some of the main DBL contributors were shown, including a presentation about the work of CB. It was an exciting and encouraging time hearing of the progress being made. It was also an opportunity to meet and chat with fellow members of the DBL including BSs, Translators and Programmers. This networking process enables members to plan future developments and collaborations.

This was a great platform for us to encourage delegates to consider the value of Braille in the overall plan to reach all people. This has led to the new language project we have for the Braille transcription of the Suriname Bible in the language of Sranantongo. (see Page 1).

New Braillo

New languages and large orders this year have put pressure on the Braille embossers and with the growing popularity of the DBL it seems more BSs are wanting the Braille Bible - Suriname being one example.

Of course, we cannot precisely forecast what lies ahead from year to year but with the possibility of more groups wanting Braille we need to be prepared.

At present we have the Impacto and the smaller Braillo 300 S2. One of the 30 year old Braillos was still working as a standby until recently but now is defunct.

We are therefore looking to purchase another Braillo (Impacto have ceased trading) but this time we feel we should go for the faster, larger Braillo which, including delivery, costs £34,590.00. This is more than the small one but surprisingly less than original Braillos which in the 90s cost £50,000 each.

We realise this is still a considerable amount of money to raise but we are trusting that if it is the right thing to do the funds will become available.

The Braillo 600 S2 is a nice compact machine just like the smaller 300 S2 that we already have but it has the potential to double our Braille output.

If we are able to raise the funds then we will have the capacity to produce larger quantities without having to prioritise the requests.

Accounts - April 2018- March

The CB accounts have now been completed by the Independent Examiner and have been agreed by the Trustees as correct.

During this period, April 2018-March 2019, our balance sheet showed Income at £119,811 and Expenditure at £120,037 leaving a small loss caused by the larger depreciation value of the new machines purchased during the year. Despite this small loss, the charity is still in a healthy position thanks to the ongoing gifts from our individual supporters and those from Churches and Trusts.

As a faith mission we are very much aware that we are in God's hands and that each of our donors respond to the needs as they are led by God. We want to thank everyone for their faithful and continued support.

Those wishing to do so can send gifts by: cheque payable to 'Compass Braille' or via our

website to donate through the Stewardship or PayPal links, or by Stewardship or CAF vouchers or setting up a Standing Order. Those who are tax payers can maximise their gifts by signing up to Gift Aid [NB. if you were signed up but are now no longer eligible please let us know].

At the present time our financial position remains stable and we are confident in God's provision.

From Ware to the World in pictures:

In this edition of Newscast we have included photographs that depict some of the many countries to which our Braille is despatched. These include a photo of Nicola with two of our volunteers, Robert and Pauline, who are preparing Braille Bible portions ready for despatch. The countries included in the photos are: Suriname people, Kenyan School Children, Peter Lim who works in Prison outreach in Singapore, Indian House Church where one of our Mini-Braille Bible libraries are installed, an Uzbek couple proof reading, a Bangladeshi Madrassa Teacher who is reading a Braille Bible portion out of an interest in other religions, an Armenian Church group who have just received Bible portions in their language, an Ethiopian School, a Bulgarian Youth group with Braille books and an older female Braille reader reading a Braille portion with a big smile on her face.

Gone Home: Former volunteers Margaret (Pearl) Love, Kishori MacWan and Eileen Talbot have all gone to be with the Lord recently.

Pearl, who lived in Edinburgh was a CB Telugu proof reader who was first introduced to us, in May 1995, by Joyce Harding [deceased 2010].

Kishori, also from Edinburgh, was a CB Gujarati proof reader who joined in April 1994, having served as a Nurse Skilled in Anaesthetics in Uganda and then in Nepal.

Eileen, from Exeter, also joined us in April 1994. She was a CB Nepali typist (also typing-in other Indian languages) and served in Nepal as a Medical Secretary.

We give thanks for each these ladies who leave a legacy of God's Word for many hundreds of Telugu, Gujarati and Nepali Braille readers. We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of these very special ladies.

Transcription:

Over the past few months the following languages have been in varying stages of transcription and now some of them are completed and the Braille Bible files have been uploaded to the DBL webpage:-

Assamese; Khasi CL [we believe CL stands for Common Language]; Zimbabwe updating English books; Paraguay Spanish book 'Life of Jesus'; Malayalam proof reading of the complete Bible continues; Luganda; New English Free Bible Version - Psalms and NT, translated by Dr Jonathan Gallagher. Both the transcription project for the Free Bible Version and the Sranantongo language resulted from our attendance at the DBL Summit [page 2]. Sranantongo whole Bible; Urdu should recommence in a month or two.

Production:

Ghana: English GNB Grade II - 10 complete Bibles = 430; India: Bengali 272, Gujarati 80, Hindi 851, Kannada 245, Khasi 40, Malayalam 157 (on hold), Marathi 116, Mizo 215, Odia (was Oriya) 149, Tamil 70 vols, Telugu 570. Uganda: English GNB Catholic edition, 10 complete Bibles = 480; English GNB (Grade 2), 10 complete Bibles = 430; Luganda: 5 complete Bibles = 215; Zimbabwe: 4 Complete English GNB = 172 and 135 Gospels. Total so far this year: 4,627, plus a 2018 backlog of 518 for Kenya and India: 46 Bible volumes in English, Hindi, Malayalam, Nepali & Odia. Making a grand total so far this year of 5191 Braille volumes. We also did 46 vols. in various languages using the CB Special Bible Fund.

Compass Braille Languages:

We have transcribed the languages below into Braille. We have not necessarily worked on

the entire Bible in every case but once initial transcription work is complete, it is then simpler to do further work in each language.

Africa: English (various destinations); Kinyarwanda; Kirundi; Kiswahili; Luganda

Americas: Purepecha (Mexico); French (Haiti); English (Jamaica); Spanish (Costa Rica); *Sranantongo

Central Asia: Armenian; Azeri (Azerbaijan); Kazakh; Mongolian; Uzbek

Europe: Bulgarian; French; Georgian; **German; Latvian; Maltese; Macedonian; Portuguese; Russian

Oceania: **Bislama (Vanuatu); English (Papua New Guinea)

South Asia: Burmese; Bangla (Bangla Mussalmani-booklet); Sinhala (Sri Lanka) plus *1 other

South Asia - India: Garo; Gujarati; Hindi; Kannada; Khasi; Malayalam; Manipuri; Marathi; Mizo; Nepali; Oriya; Tamil; Telugu

South East Asia: Cebuano; Hiligaynon; Ilocano; Indonesian; Malay; Tagalog; Thai *in progress, **Giant Print only.

Our Other Publications:

If this Annual Newscast is the only publication you receive from us but you would like more regular updates please feel free to contact us so that we can also send you mini-Newscast which includes Prayer Pointers. All of our publications are available in Text, Braille or Giant Print as well as digitally via email. You are also free to contact us if you no longer wish to remain on the mailing list.

Abbreviations: BS(s)= Bible Society(ies); DBL = Digital Bible Library; MTB=Mission to the Blind; GNB = Good News Bible.

Contact Details: Compass Braille, 16 Crane Mead Business Park, Crane Mead, Ware, SG12 9PZ, UK; tel: +44 (0)1920 413572 - website: www.compassbraille.org; registered charity no: 292625. Produced by Glennis Dowling - 01920 413572.