



Bible Translation

Turning hearts to God



Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* are sharing the good news by supporting Bible translation in Taiwan, Nigeria, Cameroon and Mauritius. The Reverend Dr. Paul McLean offers a glimpse into the complexities of Bible translation.

"How should we translate Malachi 4:6?" I asked three members of the Hakka Bible translation team. We were meeting as usual in the 3rd floor Sunday school room in Chung-li Presbyterian Church. "Strictly speaking, the Hebrew says: 'And he [Elijah] will turn the hearts of fathers to the sons and the hearts of sons to the fathers...'"

We compared different versions of the Bible in Mandarin, Taiwanese, Japanese and English to see how inclusive they were. Most included 'daughters'. Mandarin versions published in 1919 and 1995 say 'sons and daughters', while English Bibles, as far back as the King James Version of 1611, all say 'children'.

"But why are mothers left out?" exclaimed Rev. Yap Mi-fi, a mother of three and grandmother of two who recently retired from over 30 years of ministry in Hakka churches.

"An excellent observation," I replied. "Does the Hebrew word mean 'fathers' to the exclusion of 'mothers'? Or is 'fathers' being used in a

generic way?" We discussed this point for about 15 minutes as we sipped piping-hot Oolong (Black Dragon) tea.

We checked elsewhere in Malachi, and discovered that Mal 2:10 also uses 'fathers' generically, in the sense of 'ancestors'. In recent years, the Jewish Tanakh (1985), NRSV (1989), NIV (2005) and others all translated the Hebrew word 'fathers' in Mal 4:6 as 'parents'. Earlier Bible translations were not consistent; they kept the male term 'fathers', yet translated 'sons' more generally as 'children'. The Hakka team and I finally agreed that we would translate both Hebrew terms inclusively: <y'a-^oi> 'fathers and mothers' and <ch'u"-ng> 'sons and daughters'.

We then asked ourselves whether the average Hakka person – young or old, Christian or not – would understand the Hebrew figure of speech 'to turn the hearts'? Or should we use an equivalent Hakka expression for 'reconciliation'? After some discussion, the team decided that Hakka people would not have difficulty with the Hebrew idiom.

When our translation work is finished, the Bible Society in Taiwan will help us typeset and publish Taiwan's first-ever Hakka Old and New Testament Bible. Hakka churches are hoping that the Bible will help them turn the hearts of Hakka parents and children to God.

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Bible translation through

- ◆ The Rev. Dr. Paul McLean, working with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the Bible Society in Taiwan to translate the Bible into the Hakka language.
- ◆ Sean Allison, working on Bible translation for the Kotoko speaking people in northern Cameroon, Africa.
- ◆ The Presbyterian Church in Nigeria's Abakaliki Literacy and Translation Trust which is translating the Bible into several Igbo dialects.
- ◆ The Mauritian Creole Bible translation project of The Bible Society of Mauritius.





Ferenc working with Roma students.

Ukraine

Building roads and relationships



Presbyterians Sharing supports Dr. David Pándy-Szekeres who is serving with the Reformed Church of the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine (RCCU), a church of ethnic Hungarians in Ukraine. David supervises the work of RCCU missionaries and coordinates four Christian secondary schools. Here David shares the impact one of the RCCU missionaries, Ferenc Homoki, is having on a Roma community in Ukraine.

In the Fall of 2008, a road leading from the Roma encampment to the adjacent village of Nagyberég was in terrible condition. It turned into a sea of mud in the wake of every rainfall, preventing the Roma children from attending school. When their parents told Ferenc Homoki, a missionary of the Reformed Church of the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine, he decided to do something about it.

With the support of mission partners, Ferenc organized the purchase and delivery of the materials needed to upgrade the road and supervised the work. Roma work teams spread gravel and dug drainage ditches on both sides of the road. The completed road was

inaugurated with a special worship service in 2009 and now ensures easy access to the town.

Rebuilding the road is only one of the activities Ferenc has done since he began working with the Roma community in Nagyberég. He has established regular worship services and Bible study sessions and built up a good relationship with the people. Recently, Ferenc and his wife Dianna began an informal school for children who had not previously attended school. A full-time teacher teaches reading, writing and math to twelve children and Ferenc and Dianna provide Christian education and homework assistance. Plans are underway to construct a multi-purpose building in this community to serve as both a place of worship and a facility for a kindergarten class.

Ferenc's ministry is just one of many RCCU mission and ministry programs that are sharing the Gospel message and improving the living conditions in Roma communities in Ukraine. Wells are being drilled and latrines delivered to families. Special programs are teaching about public health, HIV, hygiene and sanitation. Six elementary assistance schools and five kindergartens are giving Roma children a new chance at an education. Close to fifty people are serving as pastors, instructors, supervisors or assistants in these diverse programs; all working to share the Gospel message!

The Roma are a widely dispersed ethnic group with origins in South Asia. Their largest concentrated populations are in Central and Eastern Europe. Formerly referred to as gypsies, a term now considered offensive, the Roma are often treated as outcasts and too often live in communities with little access to adequate housing, clean water, health care, and education facilities. Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* are sharing the love of God with the Roma people in Ukraine!





Inner-city Ministries

A place for hugs



Flemingdon Gateway Mission's after school program serves over 70 children from Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Iraq, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Sudan and Canada. The Mission provides homework support, leadership training, health and nutrition education, arts and crafts, dance and structured play.

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support inner-city ministries in Canada. The Reverend Paulette Brown shares a few of the ways Flemingdon Gateway Mission is making a difference in inner-city Toronto.

Six months ago, a young mother stood in the hallway with her two little boys. She did not speak English, so a high-school girl translated for her. She had heard of Flemingdown Gateway Mission's after school program and wanted her boys to attend, but was worried that the program might not be able to cope with children in grade one.

Now, these same two boys confidently enter the building, go straight to the homework room, unzip their plastic bags and take out their homework with a sense of urgency. Too short for the tables, they kneel on the chairs. They feel that they belong.

Upstairs in the office, the high school students walk in one by one. The first stop – the office – is a place for hugs, sighs, stories, laughter, sometimes tears. One grade 10 girl opens her book and points to the word ‘plagiarize.’ “What is this Miss? Is it a bad word? My teacher says my sister did my homework and gives me a zero.”

The Wednesday chefs arrive – three grade 11 students. “Miss, do you have everything we need? Ground chicken? Rice? Tomatoes? Cucumbers? Did you remember the gloves?”

A grade ten girl climbs the stairs. “What’s up, M?” I ask. “You should be downstairs!”

“I know Miss, but I need time out. My school counselor says that when this happens, I should take time out or else I’ll explode!” The girl’s eyes fill with tears.

A place for hugs. A place for tears. A place for friends. A place where God’s love shines into the lives of children and teens, bringing hope – that’s what Flemingdon Gateway Mission is about.

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help the following ministries meet spiritual and physical needs in inner-city communities.

- ◆ Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, Montreal, Quebec
- ◆ Flemingdon Gateway Mission, Toronto, Ontario
- ◆ St. David’s Inner City Outreach Ministry, Hamilton, Ontario
- ◆ Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry, Etobicoke, Ontario
- ◆ Anamiewigummig: The Kenora Fellowship Centre, Ontario
- ◆ Winnipeg Inner City Missions, Manitoba
- ◆ Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry, Saskatchewan





Presbyterians Sharing

We are in this together!



Presbyterians Sharing is the national church fund that supports the mission and ministries Presbyterian congregations do together in Canada and around the world. This is our ministry, our mission work.

Our gifts create, sustain and renew congregations. Together, we support inner-city, native, refugee, urban, remote and chaplaincy ministries. We equip church leaders for Christian education, worship, evangelism, mission, stewardship, youth ministries and justice work. We train ministers and lay leaders through our theological colleges. We recruit and send mission personnel to serve our partners around the world, facilitate exchange visits and work with other churches in ecumenical partnerships. Together, we speak on issues important to us at national and international forums.

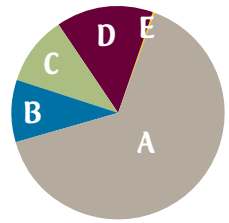


Through
Presbyterians Sharing
we make mission and
ministry happen!

How our gifts are used

- A: Life and Mission Agency – 65.0%**
Canada Ministries, International Ministries, Justice Ministries, The Vine, Stewardship, Youth in Mission, Planned Giving, Ministry and Church Vocations, Communications, Regional Staff, Program Support
- B: Theological Education – 9.5%**
Knox College, Toronto; Presbyterian College, Montreal; St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver
- C: The General Assembly Office – 10.6%**
General Assembly, Assembly Council, Assembly Office and Archives
- D: Support Services – 14.7%**
Church office building, mission residence, administration, financial resources, resource distribution
- E: Contingency Fund – 0.2%**

*based on the
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What's the Difference between *Presbyterians Sharing* and Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)?

Presbyterians Sharing is the national church fund that supports the overall mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

PWS&D is the PCC's development and relief agency. It is not funded by *Presbyterians Sharing* but raises funds directly from congregations, individuals and government (CIDA) grants. International Ministries mission personnel, funded through *Presbyterians Sharing*, often work with partners who receive grants from PWS&D.



Presbyterians Sharing

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