

The Truth in All Places



Let's read the Bible

Matthew 5:1-16, 31-32
6:24-34
9:8-16

We consider together

I know I am a sinner when reflected by Your Word even though I sometimes keep a good thought, words and behaviors. Thank you for sending Jesus that he took our sins and died on the cross in behalf of us.



What kinds of things happen in places that teach the truth?

In the Book of Matthew we meet a wealthy young man, in the Managalasi tribe we meet an earnest tribe chief. These two men were honest and good-hearted men. They respected their parents, loved their neighbours, never stole what belonged to someone else, and did not get angry at others.

Jesus, who met the rich young man, and Jim, who helped Bible translations in the Managalasi tribe village, taught others about the Ten Commandments. The Managalasi tribe chief was a very good man. In the Managalasi tribe culture, if a wife cannot have a baby, they are thrown away. The Managalasi tribe chief did not leave his wife, and loved her a lot. So the tribe chief thought of himself as a very nice man, and the village people also said many good things about him. But when they were faced with a new truth, they had to change the way they were thinking.

It was when the village people were learning that everyone is under the curse of sin because Adam and Eve had eaten the apple in the Garden of Eden. Along with a moment of silence, a new discussion started. When there was an awkward silence, the Wycliffe Bible translator Jim prayed to God, then asked the tribe chief, "Who do you pray to for blessings?" The tribe chief knew the first of the Ten Commandments, "You shall have no other gods before Me." Through the Ten Commandments, the tribe chief acknowledged that he was a sinner, and that everyone is a sinner as well.

Later on, when they had a dedication ceremony when the New Testament translations were finished, another tribe chief, Marija, stood up and said,

"Before you (missionaries) came, we prayed to the spirits. We were always afraid. And when our people died, we cried because we would never see them again. But now, because of Jesus, we don't have to be sad when our relatives die. We will see them again."

Chululu, a Bible translation checker, also took his turn to speak.

"But the gospel you have taught us have brought us new life, and most of us are born again. And we're going to teach our children the new road, and our children will teach their children. We will all live together in God's village some day. When you go back to America, tell your friends that the money and their prayers have not been wasted. Tell your churches how thankful we are to them for sending you to give us God's Word. Tell them how it changed our lives and and that we are now God's people."

2000 years ago, the Jesus who met with the rich young man in the Book of Matthew is meeting with the Managalasi tribespeople today. The truth of God can be translated into every language in a way that fits their culture, and that truth changes people into life. Yet this only happens when churches courageously send people like Jim and his wife and make sacrifices to serve others. Won't you take courage today, too? Pray and gather your strength so that God's truth will spread to the far corners of this earth.

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