

End Goals and Recommendation of BT/SU Training Movement

Vision beyond 2025

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Abstract

In this short paper I start with a brief discussion about what BT training is. Then I share that the vision beyond 2025 is to develop self-sustainable BT/SU task force in every languages group and the end goals is to equip them with the abilities in the domains of Bible translation, biblical living style, self-sustainability(Training, Managing & Developing resources) and, Vision Casting. At the end I also suggest some ideas about the strategy, for examples. result oriented approach, collaboration with others and serving all in an open source community, rediscover SIL history and BT philosophy, reengineering the BT process, be good stewards of advanced technology and extend & strengthen our consultant developing system through a mentoring approach.

What is Bible Translation training?

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I consider training as the initiation and process of changing of values and behavior in a planed desirable ways.

What is Bible Translation?

Bible translation is to understand and commit to God's message, usually via a specific language, then communicate God's message by retelling God's message faithfully in another heart language in a culturally appropriate, natural way in order that the lives of message receivers can be transformed. Bible translation is actually a form of training.

In what aspect is Bible Translation training different from other training?

The main difference is BT is more specific and aimed at the Biblical mandates of the g¹reat commission and managing the world.

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A suggestion of What Bible Translation is

Bible Translation Training is to train people to understand and commit to God's message and is an on going process of retelling God's message across the cultural, language and time barriers.

Vision 2025 and beyond

In 1930s, Uncle Cam was being asked by someone in South America, "Why can't God speak our own language?" In 2000s, in Asia I was asking myself, "Why can't we use Asian languages to do BT now?" It is a shame that the Asian have had Asian versions for decades, but we have waited until the last 30 years before becoming more involved. We wait until so late that we became involved in BT in last thirty years or so.

As some of our translators were sharing the Book with a farmer in Asia, the farmer asked,

"How long have you had this Book?"

"You dad's time?" The translator shook his head.

"Your grand father's time?" he shook his head again.

"Your great grand father's time?" he shook his head again.

Sigh! "Why do you bring this to us so late?"

Now let's ask the following questions:

"How long have we been working in BT?

Why it has taken us so long to begin training other?

Why do we train others to train so late?

How can what we have learned last?"

Proposed Outcome

The outcomes of the BT&SU training movement are to have at least a team of individuals for every language group able to:

1. produce and revise a quality translation of God's Word in their heart language
2. be consistent in their life with their words and what has been faithfully translated
3. train and equip each generation to be a better team doing the same and ensuring pass on and refine such Vision, Attitude, Skill and Knowledge(ASK).
4. further develop and improve the ASK for better value(know why), methodology(know how - plan and implement) aiming as the best quality product with naturalness, accuracy, communicative, acceptability and usability in a wide audience.
5. share the Vision and ASK within the language group and with other language communities who are in need of their own translation
6. be good steward, making good use of resources and advanced technologies.

Recommendation for Training

Result oriented

Training needs to focus on the result, which is the indicator for the outcome of successful training. However, it is important to ensure that administration has a good balance in empowering and keeping teams accountable as well as to provide accurate information about the teams' training needs and goals. We should learn from the experience of successful teams and encourage the constructive and heuristic approach of self-learning. Teams can keep learning through all the process, based on feedback the teams can change the course of their training in order to get the planned results. The role of training is to place the stepping stones to fill the gaps just in time, on their path to success.

Partnership with other and Serving All

We should take the advantage of synergy within and outside the organization. We should encourage the results of our collaborative effort to be shared with the larger public, e.g. Open Source. We should improve our communication in order to avoid duplication of resources, make good use of our diversity, and ensure that our unity with our shared core values. I would highly encourage organizations to share the proprietary knowledge of resources in a open source like community, so that other people can participate in the developing pool of open resources.

Innovative

Apart from our existing direction of research, I think there should be more research on the philosophy and practice of BT. Example, through systematic thinking about the process of translation and consultant development procedures to see whether there need to be obvious changes to achieve better results, using fewer resources. We should also well document SIL's history, consultant records, back translations and pay special attention to accidental success and accidental failure. We should also think about the trend, besides formal training/education not conforming to other institute's standard, but aim for being the standards.

Keep the mentoring system, ensure accountability, dealing with implicit transfer -- not just by books, encourage more observation and reflection. Find a path to fit the situation and culture.

Good Steward

We need to make good use of our advanced technology and knowledge to attain the best result according to our end goals. Uncle Cam saw the vision of JAARS as aviation and radio were the most advanced technology at that time. What we can envision nowadays: distant learning, Skype consultation and training, computer based training, working on a draft online?

Mentoring

I would also suggest that we keep and strengthen our consultant development program a mentoring program. Hopefully the mentoring and growth planning should be extended to all members and staff of the organization in order to form a vibrant lifelong learning organization. As we are thinking of the end goals as transforming lives, thus role modeling for spiritual maturity and formation should be strengthened in our consultant development/mentoring program. ■