

Update: Cree Initiative



Progress:

■ 380 verses have been translated recently into Oji-Cree! A translation consultant visited twice this fall, working through checking their translation of the Gospel of Mark.

- The First Nations Translators workshop in Guelph, Ontario was a huge success. Larry Beardy, the new Anglican Bishop in the Western Swampy Cree area, said, "That was the most thoughtful overall picture of one's own language. It clears my thoughts about what has to be planned as a community."
- Language learning continues to take place for the team assigned to Western Swampy Cree.
- The second year of Vacation Bible School was held in Kingfisher Lake and nearly half the children in the community participated in the daycamp.



Current Goals:

- Western Swampy Cree: Explore the possibility of Bible translation projects with new contacts from Cross Lake and Shoal Lake Communities. Continue Swampy Cree language learning.
- Oji-Cree publish portions of Scripture, solidify the steps of the translation process with the Oji-Cree translation team, provide technical support, recruit more translators.
- Naskapi final preparations for the publication of the books of Exodus and Psalms, support the translation team with their current Old Testament translation projects.
- Plains Cree: Continue audio-editing of the Bible for access on handheld devices and the Internet.
- Mushuau Innu, James Bay Cree, and other First Nations languages as requested: Continue to seek the Lord's guidance on what the future involvement may be in these areas.



Quick facts:

Potential population impacted:
100,000 people

Number of languages:
At least five related Cree languages

Focus ministry:
Bible translation, training

Geographic area: Canada

Timeline: 2012-2024

Total ministry year need (to August 20, 2019): \$179,540



Stories of impact: Oji-Cree respond to use of the Mother-tongue in church

The Oji-Cree team has translated thousands of verses so far. They're used in their church's Bible readings each Sunday. "People say it makes it so much clearer to understand the message and what God is saying. It becomes so real," says Bishop Lydia Mamakwa. Bible School for the local people and other similar initiatives are also taking place.

Project leader Bill Jancewicz reports that families and individuals are using translated Scriptures to find comfort and healing in all aspects of their lives. Further, as speakers are encouraged to become literate in their mother tongue, an entire world of education and personal growth is opening up for them.

Productive workshops

Workshops bring together many mother tongue translators from several communities. This allows translators to compare experiences, share tools, learn together and encourage each other.

The results of the most recent workshop in Guelph, Ontario, exceeded expectations. Teams found solutions to many problems they were having with their translations, and participants were trained to craft the story of the Bible in their own language and to tell these stories orally.

Learning the Word as a family

One mother who is involved in the translation project told us that she has been reading the New Testament in the Naskapi language regularly to her young children. The children love the stories and it is so much clearer to them when read in Naskapi. This displays a growing hunger for the Word of God in the Naskapi mother tongue.



Pray with us:

- God, we ask that you open doors ahead of us in Cross Lake, Oxford House and Shoal Lake. Please pave the way so that work can begin in these communities.
- Lord, we pray for all of the mother tongue translators and Wycliffe staff involved. Please provide for them and bless their ministry initiatives. Thank you for the new Wycliffe members and interns. Let your presence be palatable to them.
- Father, we pray for Bill as he completes the final preparations for the publication of the books of Exodus and Psalms in Naskapi (First Nation in Quebec). We also pray for the ongoing work on the Plains Cree audio Scripture editing that Bill is doing in conjunction with the team at the Bible Society.



Thank you for supporting the Cree initiative. You are helping Cree people translate the Word of God into the language that speaks to their hearts.

