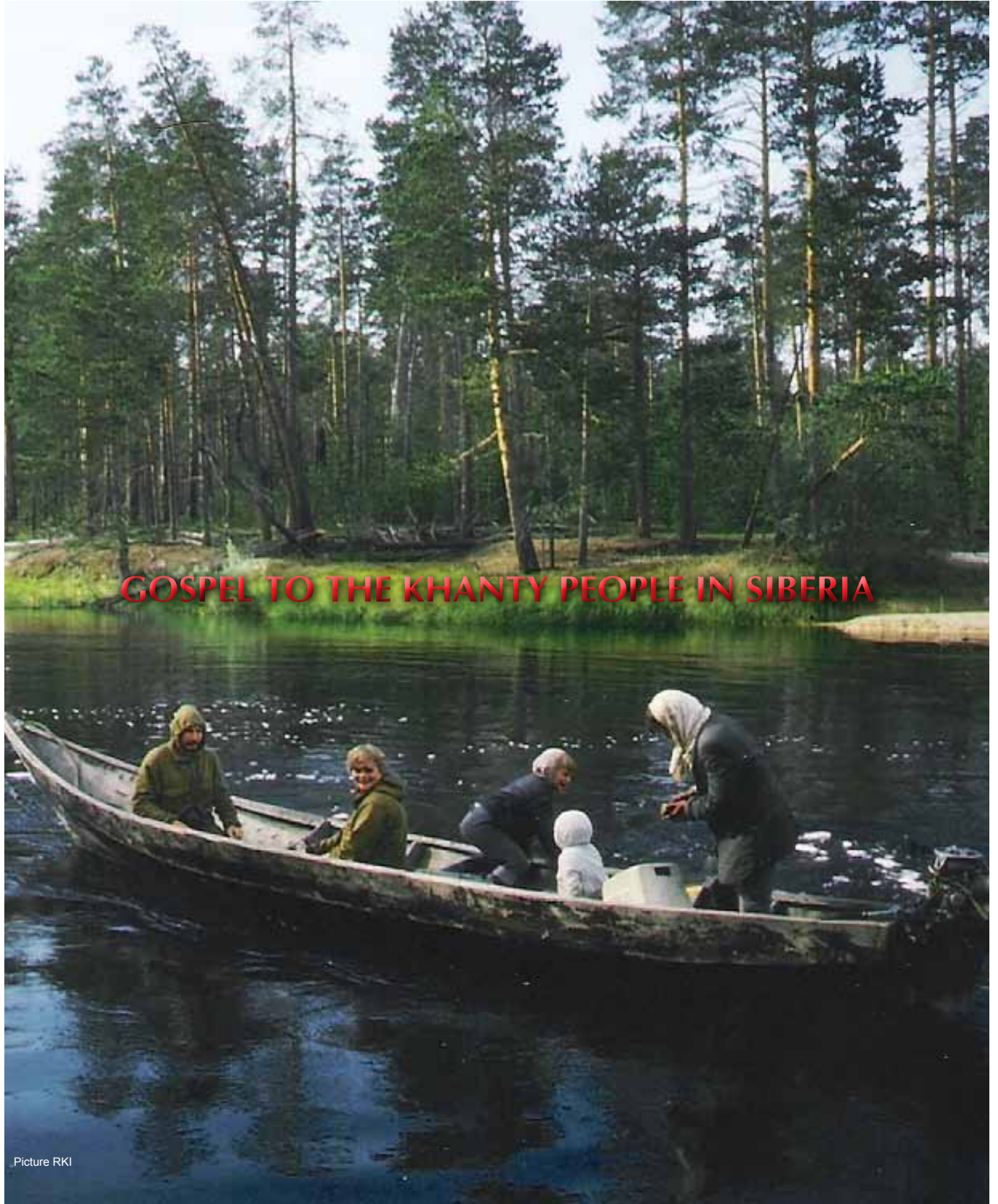


# *Translators' News*

June/July  
2009

**Institute for Bible Translation**



**GOSPEL TO THE KHANTY PEOPLE IN SIBERIA**



Khanty Sunday School Children

## LJUDMILA TRANSLATES THE BIBLE INTO KHANTY

Ljudmila lives in the capital city of Yamalo-Nenets in northwestern Siberia. The city lies beside the river Ob. Within the Yamal peninsula are Russia's largest gas and coal reserves. As a result, the pasture lands in many areas have been disturbed and the original people's traditional way of life, keeping and breeding reindeer herds, has been prevented. Due to the constant search for "black gold", the original people have become a minority in their own region. Life in these northern towns is difficult, and the options, especially for men, are limited. They can either drink or be idle. Few men live to be fifty years old.

We gave Ljudmila the opportunity to tell us about her life:

I was born in a little Siberian village and belong to the Khanty people group. I learned about the Christian faith during the time I was studying in Salehard. This is how it happened. Once there were some interesting people who came to our school's student home. Under the direction of a Baptist pastor, Anatoli, a group of Christians came for a worship service. They sang worship songs and read the Bible. Their preaching and songs moved me, and I asked where I could hear more about God. The following Sunday one of the group again visited the student home.

She came with several Christian books to give to a girl who lived in the room next to me, and invited us to a church service. One of the girls, Natasja, wanted to go there and asked me to go along. We went. God touched me and I gave my life to Him. Since that time I have followed Jesus. I was baptized in June 2004.

After I became a Christian I told everyone about the Savior. Especially close to my heart are the people from my home region, Yamalo-Nenetsien. Only an extremely small number of them have heard about God. Since the summer of 2004, other Christians and I have traveled to towns in various parts of Siberia. These were fantastic missionary journeys, but I began to understand that I needed to learn more about the Bible and Christianity. I met some Estonian Christians and through them received the opportunity to study in a Bible School in Tallinn, Estonia. This was a great joy, and two of my classmates were Khanty.

Now I am back in Salehard after my Bible School studies and there is a group of Khanty Christians in my home church. We read the Scriptures together in Khanty: the Gospel of Mark, excerpts from Luke, and a Bible story booklet. Since we have Bible verses and a spiritual vocabulary, we are able to translate Christian songs into

## KHANTY

**Population:** 23 000

**Language:** Khanty

**Language family:** Finno-Ugric

**Region:** Northern Siberia, autonomous regions of Yamalo-Nenets and Khanty-Mansi

**Religion:** Christianity was introduced to Northern Siberia by Russians but in spite of that many Khanty still practise Shamanism.

**Bible Translation:** Gospel of Mark, excerpts from Luke and Bible Stories booklet.



Picture RKI

The Khanty people are fishermen, hunters and manage reindeer herds. Part of the year they live as nomads.

Khanty. I have also helped to write several songs. What a joy to sing to the Lord in our own language! Previously we had no worship songs.

It is very important that the Bible be translated into Khanty. Our people must hear the Gospel in their own language. I desire to be a part of this work with all the strength and wisdom God gives me. I have been asked to gather feedback on the translation of the Gospel of Luke, and now together with other Khanty, have begun to translate the Gospel of Matthew.

I will translate God's Word into Khanty so that my people's lives can be changed, that many more can learn to know salvation through God and His love. This will also preserve our language and culture. We Khanty are a small people group, but thankfully, we have friends. I thank God for all the support our brothers and sisters in other lands give us. Together we are able to do much!



Picture RKI

### THIS MONTHS'S PROJECT

Bible translation of the Gospel of Mark into Khanty continues. This summer a team will travel to Tajgan to distribute excerpts from the Gospel of Luke to the people who keep reindeer.

The Khanty live in the remote territory of northern Siberia and are one of the world's most isolated people groups. Travel is long and the cost of the translation work is high.

**YOUR GIFT IS NEEDED TO REACH THE KHANTY PEOPLE WITH THE GOSPEL!**

<b>Books printed since 1973</b>	2007 Chechen 2007 Kumyk 2008 Avar	2005 Koryak 2005 Nganasan
Bibles and NTs: over 2.5 million Bible Portions: ca. 2 million Children's Bibles: ca. 9 million Children's Bible Portions: ca. 3.5 million	<b>Bible Portions in 43 Languages:</b> 1978 Karachai 1978 Crimean-Tatar 1979 Avar 1981 Abkhaz (1982 Uighur) 1983 Kazakh (1984 Chuvash) 1995 Enets + 1995 Mordvin-Moksha 1996 Bashkir 1996 Buryat 1996 Dolgan 1996 Komi-Permyak 1996 Lak 1996 Lezgin 1996 North Karelian 1997 Mari Mountain 1997 Tabassaran 1999 Bezhta 1999 Nogai 2000 Khanty 2000 Mansi 2001 Even 2001 Yazgulyami + 2001 Roshani + 2001 Shugni + 2001 Wakhi + 2002 Dargin 2002 Digor-Ossetic 2002 Dungan 2002 Evenk 2002 Itelmen 2002 Liiv + 2002 Nanai 2003 Tsakhur 2004 Nenets 2004 Rutul 2004 Shor 2004 Chukchi 2005 Agul 2005 Baludzhi 2005 Ingush	<b>The Children's Bible in 38 Languages:</b> 1983 Russian 1983 Lithuanian 1983 Tajik 1986 Armenian (Eastern) 1986 Azeri 1986 Uzbek 1988 Estonian 1998 Moldavian 1990 Mari-Meadow 1990 Udmurt 1992 Latvian 1992 Ukrainian 1992 Belorussian 1992 Romanian 1993 Mordvin-Erzya 1993 Ossetic 1993 Spanish 1994 Croatian 1995 Yakut 1995 Karelian-Olonets 1996 Balkar 1996 Kyrgyz 1996 Turkmen 1996 Veps 1997 Serbian 1998 Georgian 1998 Kalmyk 1999 Mordvin-Moksha 2001 Kazakh 2001 Tuvin 2002 Altai 2003 Komi-Permyak 2005 Buryat 2006 Chuvash 2008 Karakalpak (both Cyrillic and Latin scripts) 2008 Kabardian 2009 Tatar 2009 Lezgin
<b>Full Bibles in 5 Languages:</b> 1978 Armenian* 1981 Russian "Götze Bible," with extensive notes 1984 Moldavian (IBT's transliteration to Cyrillic script) 1989-1990 Georgian 1987-1990 Russian, 3-volume Bible with commentaries* 1992 Tajik		
<b>The New Testament in 26 Languages:</b> 1973 Chuvash* 1973 Komi-Zyrian 1982 Azeri 1986 Mari-Meadow; new trsl. 2007 1986 Uighur* (Arabic script) 1991 Adygei 1991 Kyrgyz 1992 Uzbek 1993 Kabardian 1993 Ossetic, new trsl. 2004 1994 Balkar 1994 Turkmen, (cyrillic script) 1997 Udmurt 2000 Kudish-Kurmanji 2001 Tatar 2001 Tuvin 2002 Kalmyk 2003 Altai 2003 Karelian-Olonets 2004 Yakut 2004 Karakalpak 2005 Turkmen (Latin script) 2006 Gagauz (Cyrillic script) 2006 Gagauz (Latin script ) 2006 Mordvin-Erzya 2006 Veps		
		* Printed but not translated by IBT + Portion of Bible book

## *Institute for Bible Translation*

Institute for Bible Translation was founded in Stockholm, Sweden in 1973, its main task being to publish Bibles for "non-Slavic peoples in Slavic countries." In the CIS 130 different languages are spoken. Since then we have worked on Bible translation in more than 80 of these languages. We have printed the Bible or portions of it in over 60 languages, including three whole Bibles, in Georgian, Moldavian and Tajik, and 26 New Testaments. We welcome your support for our continuing efforts in bringing the Word to those in the former Soviet nations. All peoples of the world should have the Bible available in their native language.