

# Translators' News

## Institute for Bible Translation

March  
2001

[www.IBTnet.org](http://www.IBTnet.org)



### THE CHILDREN'S BIBLES HAVE ARRIVED!

Reports are streaming in to IBT's Moscow office from the distribution of the Children's Bible now taking place all over the CIS. From the Russian President's Regular Chamber of Social Associations and Religious Organizations of the Russian Federation has arrived an Honorary Diploma for "Educational and Enlightenment activities in the Russian Federation and for Publishing the Children's Bible in the Year 2000, the celebration of the Great Jubilee Year of Christ's Birth." **The very first Children's Bibles from this Millennial edition were personally delivered by the Orthodox Church's Patriarch, Alexi II, to children of sailors who died in the North Sea Submarine accident.**

**"Most have been abandoned or neglected by their parents"**

"The children in our school have suffered much", writes the principal at Boarding School Number 6 in Tomsk, Siberia. "Most have been abandoned or neglected by their parents, resulting in both physical and psychological problems. Teachers and other personnel at the school are doing their best to create a good atmosphere and learning environment for the children who already have experienced such rough lives. But it is especially hard to reach into their hearts....A sincere THANKS for the 125 Children's Bibles we received for the children in our school. It is our hope that these books will help the teachers to impart important spiritual truths."

### WAITING.....

I wait for the bus, a train and an airline. I wait for important meetings and appointments. I wait for people who are late. I wait to be able to get home to my family. A canceled meeting results in three unnecessary, additional days away from my family. Waiting. Many years of my life are spent waiting. Sometimes I wait by my own choice. But often, the wait is imposed on me by decisions made by others, or by their indifference to my circumstances and needs. I wait needlessly. Then, a miracle happens. I am offered a free ticket home. The tedious waiting comes to an end because of an "angel" in human disguise.

So what does one do while waiting? Did someone say "Read the Bible"? Good idea!

70 million people in the CIS still do not have the Bible translated into their mother tongue. **They are waiting.**

Russia's religious denominations stand ready to give Children's Bibles to people who are trapped in the worst misery and need you can imagine. They have lost all hope. Many have given up. **They no longer wait.**

At Institute for Bible Translation, we could do more to shorten the wait for the Bible translations if we had greater financial support. Hundreds of thousands of Children's Bibles could be quickly distributed if we had the money to print! Your gift is needed now! People wait and hunger for God's Word. **It is an unnecessary wait,** imposed by lack of funds! Won't you help us now!

Please help us end the wait!



Stefan Rizell  
International Director  
[Rizell@IBTnet.org](mailto:Rizell@IBTnet.org)



### Refugees from Chechnya receive the Children's Bible

“On December 27 last year the Moscow Baptist churches organized a Christmas Party for handicapped children and those who are refugees from war-torn Chechnya,” reports the leader of Compassionate Ministries. “About 300 children and their parents filled the church to capacity! Young people from the church performed a musical about the Birth of Jesus from Luke’s Gospel. All excited to be part of such a special and festive occasion, the children enjoyed singing Christmas carols and playing with both Santa Claus and Snow White. The experience was priceless for these handicapped and refugee children.”

“Before the party was over each child received a Children’s Bible and a bag of goodies. The children’s eyes sparkled when they opened the colorful books. It was especially moving to hear the children ask for more books to share with their friends – they asked for books, not for candy! The children and their parents were very grateful and promised to read their new Children’s Bibles.”



### Children's Bibles for the School Libraries

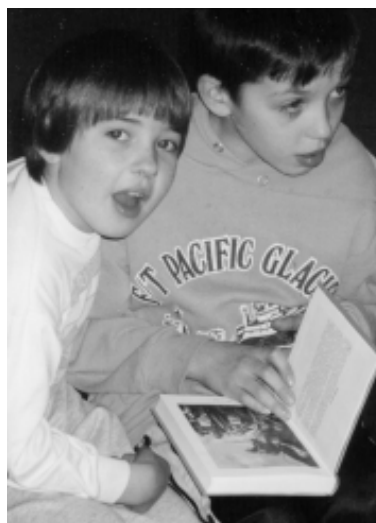
A father writes: “My daughter, who attends School Number 759 in Moscow, has studied the Children’s Bible as a part of the history course for fifth graders. But there were only 2-3 Children’s Bibles available for the entire class. The principal asked the parents to help obtain additional books for the children. I was able to get hold of 50 Children’s Bibles that I have now turned over to the school library. The librarian issues the books to the students while they study the history course and then the books are returned to the library to be used by the next group. THANK YOU for this gift of Children’s Bibles!”



### Rehabilitation Center receives Children's Bibles

“I want to express our gratefulness for the 300 Children’s Bibles we received for our hospital,” writes the Chief Physician at Children’s Sanitarium Number 5. “The children we treat have TB. Every year we see around 600 children return to health through our rehab program. Many come from poor and broken homes. Our budget has been quite limited and we have been unable to supply books or toys for our children. We are truly grateful for your help.”

The Novosibirsk Regional Organization of the Deaf expresses gratitude for 450 Children’s Bibles that have been distributed to Special Boarding Schools and a Kindergarten for deaf children. The Organization also expresses a concern. “We would be most grateful for more help, especially help to elderly deaf people who also would benefit from special attention and care.”





**“Some of the children have been picked up from the street”**

In the beginning of December last year, I was able to join with several coworkers from IBT to visit a children’s home in Moscow and distribute Children’s Bibles to the 37 children who live there. Their ages range from 4 to 12 years old and some of the children have been picked up from the streets. Others have been taken from parents caught in serious alcohol abuse. The atmosphere in the children’s home was warm and caring. On the walls of the director’s office hung photos showing the children’s former “home” environment. Each picture was contrasted by a photo of the child as he or she looks today. The differences were remarkable!

### **Children’s Bibles to the Caucasus area**

“In January 2001, we distributed 150 Children’s Bibles to participants in a children’s music festival” says the director of the Welfare Center. The center, known as “Soglasie”, is located in the Caucasus, and exists to unite people from various cultures, religions and ethnic groups.

**“The IBT Children’s Bible is the very first Christian book many have ever read”**

The workers of a Lutheran organization in Moscow received 500 Children’s Bibles and they report the following: “We are distributing the Children’s Bibles to schools and hospitals and even by mail. It is a joy to observe how the children’s hearts are being opened through God’s Word. We hope that this fruitful ministry and cooperative effort will continue to grow between our organizations. It is of utmost importance, not only for us, but especially for the children because the IBT Children’s Bible is the very first Christian book many have ever read.” Within a year we would be able to distribute 10,000 books.”



**“One boy tenderly kissed his Children’s Bible while a little girl hugged hers tightly in her arms”**

Wide-eyed, the children listened as we told the story of Jesus’ birth, showed some pictures, and sang several Christmas songs. After we had distributed the Children’s Bibles, all the children eagerly began turning the pages and looking at the beautiful pictures. One boy tenderly kissed his Children’s Bible while a little girl hugged hers tightly in her arms.”

154,000 Children’s Bibles are being distributed right now in cooperation with many organizations, partnering with IBT—but it is only a drop in the ocean of many thousands of needy and forgotten children in Russia! Please help us give Children’s Bibles to thousands more of these needy children!

*Barbro Lindström*

## The Completion of the New Testaments in 6 of 15 Languages!

In 1998, IBT marked its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. That year also saw the initiation of the “Target 2005” project, an effort to complete the New Testament in 15 languages of the former Soviet Union by the year 2005. **Six of these 15 New Testaments are soon to be printed!**



*The Kurmanji-Kurdish New Testament*

The first off the press is the Kurmanji-Kurdish New Testament. “If your God is a God of all people – why, then, is His Word not available in our language?” This question motivated Mustafa to begin to translate the Bible into his mother-tongue. After many years of tedious work the book is now finished! The first of the 15 New Testaments in the “Target 2005” project has been printed!

Another translation ready for publication is the first New Testament in the Tatar language. The remaining four New Testaments to be completed this year are in the Kalmyk, Tuvyn, Gagauzi, and Ossete languages. Next year all of these are scheduled for printing.

We invite you to participate in moving these projects forward through your prayers and contributions.

### **This Month's Project:**

*Help us give many more children a copy of the Children's Bible!*

“Within a year we would be able to distribute 10,000 books”, writes the Russian Lutheran organization in their report. Other denominations and organizations give similar indications that the need for Children's Bibles is enormous! We plan to print 300,000 books this year—but your support is needed! **The printing of one Children's Bible will cost only \$2.50.**

**For every \$50 you give, 20 children will receive the Children's Bible.**

## *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 into more than 80 of these languages. We have printed the Bible or portions of it in about 50 languages, including two first whole Bibles, in Moldavian and Tajik, and 12 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.

**We sincerely invite you to support Bible translation work.**

### **In North America: WORDpress International**

PO Box 216  
Alhambra, CA 91802  
Tel. 1-626-281-4740  
Fax 1-626-458-0677  
E-mail: [ibtna@IBTnet.org](mailto:ibtna@IBTnet.org)

### **In the UK: IBT UK**

PO Box 6481  
Colchester, CO4 3AF  
E-mail: [ibtuk@IBTnet.org](mailto:ibtuk@IBTnet.org)

### **Main Office: Institute for Bible Translation**

Box 20100  
SE-10460 Stockholm, Sweden  
Tel. +46-8-722-2340  
Fax +46-8-722-2345  
E-mail: [info@IBTnet.org](mailto:info@IBTnet.org)

WORDpress International is a US registered non-profit organization. All contributions to Bible translation, publishing and printing are tax deductible.