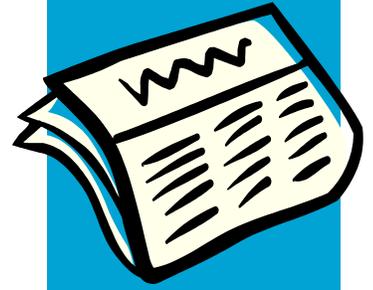


The Bunge Bulletin

December 2018

ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD AND PROFITABLE
FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION,
AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.
2 TIMOTHY 3:16



*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6.*

Our mighty God is indeed wonderful. He does give us peace – true and lasting peace. This peace does not come from us. This peace can only come from Him – healing our diseases and forgiving our sins. This peace comes from the actions of the Prince of Peace. At this we celebrate His birth – the birth of Jesus Christ – which happened for the purpose of His death and resurrection – all for us. Have a blessed Christmas.



Chaldean Translation Update

We are still working through Exodus. We still look for more help. We still need more translators and proofreaders for work on the Old Testament.

We rejoice in the recording this year of the Gospel of Mark. We are seeking to find more Chaldeans to record other portions of the New Testament.

Chaldean Church History

Catholic missionaries began to arrive in China at the end of the 12th century. The first of these, the Franciscan monk John of Montecorvino, reached Khanbaliq in 1294 and shortly after converted the Ongut Prince George to Catholicism. Despite ongoing opposition from the Nestorians, the work grew, until Montecorvino was appointed the Catholic archbishop of Khanbaliq in 1307 and was responsible for a vast area, initially including Persia. Under his leadership, itinerant preachers worked in various locations throughout the Mongol Empire. Montecorvino himself, who worked in Khanbaliq, is reported to have baptized 10,000 Tatars (Mongols). In 1318, the pope appointed an archbishop of Sultaniyah, responsible for Catholic work in Persia. In 1326, a Dominican, Thomas of Mancasol, apparently received permission from the Chaghatayid khan Ilchigedai to build a church in Samarkand. Meanwhile, the Franciscans had established a bishopric in the Chaghatayid capital of Almaliq (modern-day Kulja in Chinese Turkestan) in 1320. This was elevated to an episcopate, the seat of an archbishop, in 1334, but four years later, at the death of the last Chaghatayid khan, a Muslim who permitted the Catholics to baptize and teach his son, the Christians in the city were all massacred, including the Franciscans. The Catholic presence in Persia only lasted until 1348, after which the Romans focused their efforts on the Christian Armenians and Georgians. In China, the Franciscans vanished with the fall of the Mongol dynasty in 1368. There are records of Ongut Christians converting to Taoism and Confucianism. The Mongols in Mongolia and China converted to Buddhism. In Persia, the last Il-khan died in 1335 and his realm was plunged into anarchy. Similar situations occurred as the direct descendants of Chingiz Khan ran out in the Chaghatayid Khanate and the Golden Horde in 1338 and 1357, respectively. The situation was ripe for the next conqueror to sweep in from the East: Timur (1336-1405), known in the West as Tamerlane. For the Nestorians, the writing was on the wall.

[Adapted from *The Church of the East* by Mark Dickens (www.oxuscom.com/ch-of-east.htm)]

Prayer and Praise:

- **Praise for the recording of Mark for the Chaldean community to listen to.**
- **Pray for additional translators and proofreaders for the work in translating, as well as for speakers to make additional recordings.**
- **Pray for additional funding sources for Aramaic Bible Translators.**
- **Thank God for all who pray and give to the Bunge Ministry at LBT to sustain this Ministry.**

For Contributions

Make checks out to
Lutheran Bible Translators
P.O. Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020
Designate: *Bunge Ministry*

Contact Information

Phone: (218) 640-7032
E-Mail: Ken.Bunge@lbt.org
Office: 129 Westfield Loop
Lufkin, TX 75904

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