

# The Bunge Bulletin

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



## Chaldean Translation Update

It is always interesting when working with a translation to see how other cultures look at things. For example, how do you refer to someone who does not have much money? When Salim was working on Exodus 23, a few verses dealt with “the poor.” He deliberated between two words in Aramaic. One word that is pronounced mes-KEE-nah refers to someone who has very little possessions. Another word, fah-QEE-rah, means having nothing at all – “like a homeless person.” A person who is fahQEErah is worse off than someone who is mesKEEnah. We have the same distinctions in America, but I cannot think of a way to describe each one with only one word!

## Spring Aramaic Bible Translation Meeting

The Aramaic Bible Translation (ABT) Board held its Spring meeting in March. At this meeting the translators working on the various projects shared their insights on various translation passages. It is always good to hear from the translators, because they have such cultural insight. Project advisors also updated the board on the progress of the projects.

I share with you some pictures from the Board meeting:



Jim Leonard – former director of ABT still lends his insights and expertise



David Snyder, a member of the board and part of the staff of Lutheran Bible Translators, shares some suggestions with the Board and others attending the meeting.



Souad Saadi introduced herself to the ABT Board and ABT translation teams this spring. Souad is learning to be a translator for the Mardini project. She is the sister of Abdul-Masih and Bashir, also Mardini translators. She carries on the legacy of brother Saad, whom the Lord called to heaven last year.

## Chaldean Church History

Last newsletter I wrote briefly about devastating effects on the church as a result of the territorial conquest of Timur, a Mongul-Turk by descant and Muslim by faith. “In truth, external and internal factors weakened the church in the east for some time before Timur's arrival. Some reflected the social, religious and political context the church was surrounded by and others revealed its inner spiritual health. Among the former, perhaps the most basic hindrance to growth was the enormous geographical distances involved in communicating between the church center in Persia and the outer extremities of Asia, a situation which European Christianity in the west did not share. Nor can we ignore the crippling effects of either persecution or suppression under the Persians, the Arabs and finally, the Mongol-Turks who converted to Islam. Furthermore, the persistent status of Christianity as a minority religion, lacking political power and conceived as a "foreign" faith, left it unable to leave any permanent impact on Asia. Again, these were situations which European Christianity did not share, apart from persecution prior to Constantine.”

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

### Prayer and Praise:

- **Pray for additional workers to assist in translating and recording.**
- **Pray for additional funding sources for Aramaic Bible Translators.**
- **Thank God for all who help sustain Bunge Ministry at LBT with gifting and prayers.**

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### For Contributions

Make checks out to  
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Designate: *Bunge Ministry*



**Lutheran Bible  
Translators**