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Announcement: Translation Insights and Perspectives

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Announcement: *Translation Insights and Perspectives*

For the last three years, UBS has been sponsoring work on the *Translation Insights & Perspectives* (TIPs) tool, available at https://tips.translation.bible.

The idea behind the tool is both simple and potentially revelatory. According to the TIPs website:

> God's communication with humanity was intended from the beginning for "every nation, tribe, and language." While all languages are equally competent in expressing the message of the Bible, each language has particular and sometimes unique capacities to communicate certain biblical messages in exceptionally enriching ways that other languages cannot. The *Translation Insights and Perspectives* tool collects these outstanding translation insights in the form of stories so they can be made available to everyone in the church as well as researchers and other interested parties.

So far there are close to 4,000 of these "stories" or "insights" that deal with 600+ languages and relate to more than 16,000 Bible verses. The stories are presented via a straightforward user interface in an easy-to-read format that is designed to appeal to experts—Bible translators and Bible translation consultants—as well as to the general Bible-reading public.

Bible translation experts can easily access how dozens of languages translate core biblical concepts or how smaller handfuls of languages have found creative and culturally-specific solutions to individual Bible passages. They can also find other relevant information such as comprehensive collections of how languages that use inclusive and exclusive pronouns find solutions for each occurrence in the biblical text, or how languages that differentiate between formal and informal pronouns translate accordingly.

The data is richly interlinked, and a free-form search field gives the user instantaneous search results for any text that is used in each of the data records. It is also possible to search by verse, by source, and by language. Each language entry is linked to an online version of its translated Scripture (if applicable), a link to the language's Wikipedia page, and is placed within the taxonomical structure of language groups and related languages, thus helping to facilitate comparisons to related languages.

The sources for the data in the TIPs tool range from many examples in Nida's publications, to the early *Translators' Handbooks*, to data in publications like *The Bible Translator* and *Notes on Translation*, to hundreds of personal contributions from active or retired Bible translation experts.

Users are encouraged to use the comment field below each data record. This helps to update any existing data in the tool (such as when a new translation in a given language finds different translation solutions than the one being described) and to add data about new languages, new verses, and new translation insights. There are links to contact the curator team directly or submit data via a specifically designed web form. Any submitted data is curated with the help of an advisory team of Bible translation consultants from UBS, Wycliffe, and other translation associations. The curation process is designed to ensure that sensitive data is either excluded or presented in a manner that avoids any potential risk.

As mentioned above, the data in TIPs is also available to general readers, those who may have struggled to grasp the value of Bible translation in far-flung places and "obscure" languages. TIPs provides a vehicle for them to access insights into the biblical text that can be gained only through multilingual translation.

As readers begin to find the tool indispensable for their own Bible studies, sermon preparation, and general interest in foreign languages and cultures, they will naturally gain an appreciation for the relevance of Bible translation activity around the world. This shifts the popular understanding of Bible translation from a laudable but foreign activity that "should be done because it's the right thing to do" to something vitally and personally important: "Because there is Bible translation in thousands of languages, I can understand the Bible better and will invest in the ongoing work of translation."

Please feel free to use the tool for your own translation purposes and also as a vehicle to promote and explain Bible translation as an activity that can have immediate benefits for everyone through a tool like TIPs.