

How many people are we talking about?

The English language marks two values for grammatical number: SINGULAR and PLURAL. However, what if your language includes a third, namely DUAL? This means that every verse in the Bible that refers to TWO people, as opposed to three or more, must be identified and marked using the DUAL markers in order to translate accurately – and there are more than 400 such verses in the New Testament! In some cases it is difficult to know if a verse is referring to two people or more than two people.

Perhaps the most well known example of this is large portions of 2 Corinthians, where Paul uses “we” more than 200 times. Yet for a good number of verses in this book, Biblical scholars are divided as to whether he is referring only to himself and Timothy, or to himself, Timothy, and other companions. Bible translators in these languages are forced to make a decision whether to use the DUAL or PLURAL forms for each one of these verses.

Another example of this translation challenge is cases where the DUAL is only identified by looking back at a passage from the Old Testament. For example, in Hebrews 11:31 where the author simply refers to “the spies” (PLURAL), we know from the account in Joshua 2:1 that there were only two spies sent!

Pray for God’s wisdom for the Bible translation team facing this challenge and making choices as they translate the New Testament for the first time ever for this language community.

Do you see yourself serving in missions?

I appreciate your prayer for work. Please pray for my job and my team and the additional IT staff we need. I don’t feel able to pull off what people are hoping I will be able to accomplish and instead of more resources, it appears our team is diminishing — literally we’re losing people to glory! If God is leading you any kind of way toward missions — especially IT in missions — “the harvest is plentiful, the workers are few”. Pray that the LORD of the harvest will send more workers into his fields.

Please let me know how I can be praying for you



Vacation: Scott and I went to Michigan for vacation and visited with some of my fun relatives. It was Scott’s first time meeting anyone on my dad’s side. Unfortunately our trip up north to escape “Hot-lanta” (Atlanta) coincided with a Michigan heat wave. A theme for us: See Honeymoon in Nova Scotia heatwave for instance.

