



Scripture Partnership Goals

Statement of Intent¹

Forum of Bible Agencies-International
April 2008

¹ This document is a statement of intent of members as an expression of the outworking of the vision and mission of the Forum at this time. Consistent with the nature of the Forum as a voluntary association, fulfillment of the goals and targets rests solely on member's voluntary support of their implementation.

Introduction

The Forum exists to bring together the collective experience, competencies, resources and passion of its members in service to the Church and language communities around the world. To this end, we have committed ourselves to *“work together to maximize worldwide access and impact of God’s Word.”*

We pursue this vision in hopeful expectation of the day when *“People in every language group in this and every generation are experiencing transformation through engagement with God’s Word accessible in the most appropriate language (s), media and cultural forms.”* When we speak of *“people in every language group”* we are including ourselves as individuals and Bible agencies, as well as those we are seeking to serve through our ministries.

The “Scripture Partnership Goals” are designed to help us as Bible agencies and as a Forum to focus our collective efforts on fulfilling our vision. These goals are separated into an “overarching and intersecting” goal and “partnership” goals. The former reflects the ultimate impact desired by all our members acting individually and as the Forum. The “partnership” goals concern the mission of the Forum and include specific benchmarks, the “targets,” to assess progress in particular focus areas

This statement of Forum goals is ***not a fixed statement but rather a dynamic work in progress***, to be reviewed regularly to account for desired and emerging developments, such as expanding the benchmarks concerning other equally important focus areas (i.e. translations in majority languages) and changes along the way, as we remain open to God’s leading and revelation.

Fulfillment of these goals and targets, as well as future emerging targets in other focus areas, is ***built on the assumption of continuing and deepening collaboration*** among all groups within the Forum at national, regional and international levels, as well as with external partners. This reflects one of the specific aims in our mission statement- to strengthen interagency understanding and relationships. Without a strong foundation of trust and unity, the partnership goals will become mere “paper” declarations without meaningful significance.

We recognize that the fulfillment of these goals will not ultimately depend on the strengths that each organization brings to the process, as important as those are. Rather it will happen because we are joining with others in the Body of Christ in interceding for the people groups in focus and for collaborative efforts such as national partnerships. It will happen because we are serving one another in humility, looking for ways to encourage each other, and building the kind of community that gains energy from coming together—out of a shared commitment to one another and to our common vision.

While we believe there is strong merit in pursuing this initiative, ***we fully recognize that we are totally dependent on the triune God, the Father, Son and Spirit.*** When we pray for the peoples of the earth and their need to be transformed through His Word, we pray knowing God is ultimately sovereign over our ministries. At the same time we gratefully rejoice in the privilege that God gives us to participate with Him as He builds His kingdom. He gives us the opportunity

and capacity to dream, to plan and to engage. We can set goals, develop strategies and implement action plans to accomplish goals.

However, as we plan we note that *the LORD takes us on the actual journey*. Proverbs 10:9 says: “In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.” We recognize that God is ultimately the builder. Psalm 127:1 reminds us: “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.” We depend on the infinite knowledge of God referred to in Psalm 147:4-5 “He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.” Our desire is not our kingdom or our glory, but our shared longing to see the future hope of Habakkuk 2:14 fulfilled: “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” These goals are proposed and adopted by the Forum within this larger theological understanding.

Overarching and Intersecting Goal

“People in every language group in this and every generation are experiencing transformation through engagement with God’s Word accessible in the most appropriate language(s), media and cultural forms.”

Partnership Goals

Goal #1: Achieve greater effectiveness and coordination in Scripture translation, distribution and engagement ministries.

Goal #2: Achieve greater effectiveness and coordination in Bible advocacy efforts.

Goal #3: Enhance partnerships for Scripture access and impact at the regional and national levels.

Goal #1: Achieve greater effectiveness and coordination in Scripture translation, distribution and engagement ministries

Enhancing strategic coordination in Translation Programs

The targets below focus on languages without Scripture and are generally minority languages within their national and geographical contexts. However, the Forum recognizes that these are targets limited in scope and that there exists other equally significant areas of translation need. Many Forum members and collaborating agencies focus on majority languages and respond to churches and their need for updated translations. These ministries are called to do retranlations and revisions in major languages so the Church is well served in those communities. In addition, major languages benefit from niche translations that meet the needs for sub-groups within majority language communities. The Forum aspires to reach an agreement on targets relative to retranlations, revisions and niche translations in majority languages.

Target 1: By 2008, identify every language group with more than 100,000 speakers having no Scripture in such language and no translation project in progress.

Target 2: By 2010, agree on a collaborative plan to partner with local churches, ministries and believers and develop programs focused on both translation and Scripture impact in every language group with more than 100,000 speakers deemed to have a need including specific goals and scope for print and audio-visual resources

Target 3: By 2012 initiate the training and programs for all languages (or at least one language of a targeted cluster) with more than 100,000 speakers deemed to have a need, in accordance with the agreed goals and scope
By 2012 initiate the above programs for all the above respective languages (or at least one language of a targeted cluster), in accordance with the agreed goals and scope

Target 4: By 2018, complete an evaluation survey of every remaining language group to determine translation need and readiness

Target 5: By 2022, agree on a collaborative plan to partner with local churches, ministries and believers and develop programs focused on both translation and Scripture impact in every language group without such program and deemed to have a need, including specific goals and scope for print and audio-visual resources.

Target 6: By 2025, initiate training and programs focused on both translation and Scripture impact on all languages (or at least one language of a targeted cluster) deemed to have a need in accordance with the agreed goals and scope.

Target 7: By 2030, complete the New Testament and portions of the Old Testament in accordance with production goals in every language with more than 100,000 speakers, deemed to have a need, in adequate format

Target 8: By 2040, complete the full Bible or sufficient portions in accordance with production goals in every language with more than 100,000 speakers deemed to have a need, in an adequate format.

Target 9: By 2050, complete the full Bible or sufficient portions in every language deemed to have a need, in an adequate format

Enhancing effectiveness in Translation Practice

Target 1: The Forum translation principles and procedures and the standards on consultant qualifications are systematically updated, widely distributed and observed

Target 2: Member agencies experience measurable and material increase in effectiveness and efficiency through systematic exchange of information and training activities

Enhancing coordination and effectiveness in Scripture availability

Target 1: By 2010, make available through the Forum's website basic information about Scripture resources (Bible, New Testaments, Portions in print and audio-visual) in every language group

Target 2: By 2010, establish a global database on Scripture distribution in all media by language group

Target 3: By 2015, national networks make substantial progress in developing and implementing strategic and collaborative responses to Scripture-related distribution needs

Enhancing coordination and effectiveness in Scripture engagement

Target 1: By 2008, agree on key factors in Scripture engagement that will provide a guide for designing, implementing and evaluating resources and activities to facilitate engagement with Scripture

Target 2: By 2008, consider appropriate ways of testing the above key factors including research and collaborative initiatives

Target 3: By 2009, hold a major consultation on Scripture engagement and consider potential impact on future practice

Target 4: By 2010, agree on a plan for assisting and encouraging agencies to evaluate current practice and possible changes and support that may be required in order to influence future mission priorities and ways of working in member agencies

Target 5: By 2012, carry out an initial assessment to consider if priorities and ways of working have changed

Target 6: By 2015, all members are applying best practices in the design, implementation and evaluation of resources and activities to facilitate engagement with Scripture

Goal #2: Achieve greater effectiveness and coordination in Bible advocacy efforts

Target 1: By 2009 identify and develop best practices and tools for Bible advocacy by members of the Forum, acting individually and collectively, including a survey of existing advocacy resources, development of core messaging points and resources for unified and adaptable sets of messages

Target 2: By 2010 members are applying best practices and tools in their Bible advocacy efforts, individually and collectively

Target 3: By 2012 the Forum, has a clear and recognizable presence and voice for Bible advocacy in international venues and in the funding community resulting in greater awareness of, and support for, the Bible cause and the particular role and ministry of Forum members.

Goal #3: Enhance partnerships for Scripture access and impact at the regional and national levels

Target 1: By 2008, and thereafter, initiate every year the formation of national partnerships for Scripture access and impact in, at least, one country per region

Target 2: By 2009, and thereafter, sponsor at least two annual training events worldwide to equip these national partnerships (i.e. Bible agencies and other potential partners) to build the relational, spiritual and collaborative foundations needed to strategize and work together well

Target 3: By 2010, substantial progress is made by existing national partnerships in relationship building, collaborative planning and working together in accordance with agreed goals

Target 4: By 2012, at least one national partnership in each region is formulating and implementing integrated strategies and programs for Scripture access and impact

Target 5: By 2015, substantial progress is made by existing national partnerships in formulating and implementing integrated strategies and programs for Scripture access and impact