

Dear Friends,

Not long ago I (Larry) heard a wonderful story about Abang, an Indian woman who has served the Lord in Bible translation for some time. You may remember the Esther Project, which we wrote about several years ago. Christian women in several Bibleless people groups in rural India were trained to commit Scripture stories to memory so they could share them orally with their families and neighbors. Abang is a seminary graduate and was a key trainer for the Esther women storytellers, helping them learn the stories accurately.

After helping in the Esther storytelling ministry for several years, Abang began taking classes with the eventual goal of becoming a Bible translation consultant. When the Covid-19 pandemic caused her training program to temporarily shut down and travel was suspended, Abang didn't let it stop her: she didn't have a computer so she used her cellphone to interact with her professors and listen to lectures from home.

Abang comes from the Zeme people in India, a group with a strong church planted many years ago by missionaries. Scriptures were also translated long ago in Zeme, but though Abang carries her Zeme Bible around and tries to read it, she has always found the Zeme Scriptures confusing. Through her studies, Abang realized why she found it so hard to understand. One reason was that the alphabet used to write Zeme was not a good match for the complex sound system of the language. As a result, many words were not easy to read. (This is why Linda works so hard to help teams figure out a suitable alphabet in her orthography workshops). Another reason Abang discovered was that the Zeme Bible had errors and contradictions because it had been rushed to print without proper consultant checks. (This is why I have carefully checked translation drafts for so many people groups in Indonesia.) As a result, although the Zeme people have a printed Bible, many of them find it difficult to use for Bible study, devotions and worship.

Abang realized she can use her education to help: she has started retranslating the Gospel of Luke in Zeme using the best practices of Bible translation she has learned in her studies. Her friend, Mimi, who is also a Zeme speaker, seminary graduate and fellow trainer for the Esther storytellers, has agreed to help her. Abang started writing out her draft translations by hand, like translators did 100 years ago, because she had no computer where she is. She uses her cellphone to read her translation aloud to friends and relatives to see how well it is understood.



I am so grateful for God's faithful servants like Abang, who have eyes to see a need and ears to hear the Spirit's call to do something about it.

Please join us in praying God will give Abang encouragement to persevere in the face of so many challenges. Ask Him to supply all she needs to do His work. Pray He will defend her from the attacks of the Evil One.

Thank you for sharing in this work through your prayers and generous gifts. You are a part of God's global workforce bringing His truth to the nations in the languages they understand best.

Many blessings,

Larry and for Linda

Contributions for our ministry:

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