

All Scripture to All People Missions Festival

Set-up – see notes at end:

Prelude - CD (3 min)

- Symbol for entrance in worship folder
- Music played on CD
- Soloist and reader seated on platform

Song – Other language song by soloist & choir

- Symbol for music note
- Background music played on CD
- After song, soloist walks off stage. Reader stays seated on the stage

Welcome by pastor

- Information symbol.
- Pastor seated on the floor of the main platform, face mic.
- Socks but no shoes.
- Indian outfit

Good morning! Welcome to _____ Church and our missions festival. Our theme for the festival is All Scripture to All People.

If you are new to the church, this service isn't how we normally do it, but hopefully it will give you a sense for our love for God's word and our desire that everyone, whatever their language or ethnicity, enjoy the same access to scripture that we enjoy every day.

So visitors, we invite you to stop by the Information Table in the Narthex after the service for a copy of our welcome booklet. And we encourage everyone to get a copy of our church newsletter to stay current with upcoming events at _____ Church.

Introduction

There are nearly 7,000 languages in the world today, with the entire Bible translated into 438 of them.

2,000 languages have the New Testament or portions of scripture but they don't have the whole Bible. Translation projects are underway in another 2,000 language groups but these also don't have the whole Bible.

And there are still 2,200 languages – representing 200 million people – that don't possess a single translated portion of God's Word. Not one verse

What would it be like for us if we didn't have the Bible in a language we can understand? Or if the Bible's message was communicated in a form that seemed foreign? Or if we couldn't read and could only understand symbols on a page and not the riches of God's written word?

This service is designed to help us understand how that might feel and to consider how God might use our unique gifts and skills to participate in His plan bring all Scripture to all people in a language they can understand.

Research is the first stage in getting All Scripture to All People and you've just heard the stats that briefly outline the need.

Now we want to share with you the core message of the Bible. If you look in your pew racks, you'll see that you don't have a Bible this morning so _____ is going to chronologically explain the Gospel message using an effective method called oral storytelling that is frequently used among Bible-less people.

She is going to explain this good news in a language that is the primary language of the country she called home for many years. Millions of people speak her language – and it has borrowed words from English – so hopefully you can understand the message as she explains the wonderful news of the Gospel.

Just in case you have a hard time following _____, when we continue in worship through the giving of our tithes and offerings and the reading of God's word we will switch to one of the six official languages of the United Nations and the third most spoken language in the world. Hopefully that will be close enough for you.

Creed - Oral Storytelling

A missionary

- Cross symbol
- _____ enters from off stage on the ORGAN side of the platform.
- **Brief** chronological explanation of the Gospel message in another language.

Offertory Hymn (Spanish) – Oral

A Ti Cantamos

- Symbol for three music notes
- Reader will introduce the offering in Spanish and return to seat on stage
- In Spanish, Reader will say: "As we continue in worship through the giving of our tithes and offerings, let us be mindful of Jesus's praise in Mark 12 for the widow who out of her poverty gave everything she had. Generous, joyful giving can demonstrate our love for God and strengthen our walk with Him. And Jesus knows our hearts. May we all prayerfully give as we approach the end of our fiscal year in just ten weeks. Thank you." (Or he/she could simply say, "As we continue in worship, the ushers will come forward to receive our morning offering.")
- Words NOT printed in worship folder

***Scripture Reading – Literacy (Isaiah 40:6-8) -(Spanish) – Reader**

- This should be in Spanish: Las Escrituras (Isaias 40:6-8)
- Use cordless mic on stand on PIANO side of main platform
- In Spanish, Reader will say, "Our scripture reading this morning is from Isaiah 40: 6-8. Since we don't have Bibles this morning, these verses have been printed in your worship folder. Please stand for the reading of God's word." At the end of the reading, in Spanish say, "This is God's word."
- Since there will be no Bibles in the pews, have these verses printed in Spanish in the worship folder itself.
- After scripture reading, Kelly will return to seat on stage.

Explanation of Scripture Reading and Introduction of speaker by pastor

How are you doing? Have you clearly understood God's word?

Although Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the United States and the most popular foreign language studied in US schools and universities, if you don't speak Spanish fluently, you may have only partially understood what was sung or spoken, but not caught the full power of God's word. You need the word in your primary language. And for most of us that's English.

When we translate God's word into the language that we understand best, the foreign becomes familiar. The truth penetrates our hearts. The veil of misunderstanding is removed. That's the importance of **translation**.

- Two people take the veil off the Bibles on stage. Leave veil folded at base of communion table.

But it's not enough just to translate God's word. Worldwide, there are one billion non-literate adults. People need to be taught to read so that they can read the Bible themselves.

Imagine if in our church, no one seated to my left could read. Wouldn't we see **literacy** as an important priority for their discipleship? Teaching people to read is a crucial step in getting scripture into the hearts of all people.

Making God's word accessible and affordable for every person on earth in a language they can understand is another priority in the all scripture to all people continuum.

Enough Bibles for everyone in this room are available behind me. You just don't have them in your hands. We have a **distribution** problem.

In some parts of the world, the Bible has been translated but there are significant distribution challenges – government or religious restrictions, affordability, and inadequate distribution channels.

Introduce speaker – preferably someone connected to Bible translation, printing, or distribution for Focus on Missions – The Distribution of Scripture

Hymn 220

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Morning Message

Pastor

- Near the end of talk someone will help unroll the "Languages without Scripture" Tumbler. (see set up notes at end for this)
- Near the end of the talk, some else will make sure all the missionaries are lined up near the elevator door, ready to enter the sanctuary.

***Hymn 483 (congregation stand)**

We've a Story to Tell the Nations

- As the Hymn begins someone will fold up the Bibleless People poster.
- Missionaries enter at the beginning of the 3rd verse

Introduction of Missionaries (congregation sit)

Pastor

The missionaries attending our Missions Festival are involved in different aspects of taking God's word to the world. Several are involved in training, others are involved in mission leadership overseeing the stages we've described this morning, some are involved in taking God's word to places where the distribution of God's word is limited or restricted.

As we sing our final hymn they are going to literally and symbolically take God's word out to the world.

Our missionaries attending the Missions Festival are:
Introduce all missionaries attending festival

Now let's join our hearts together in singing, Lift High the Cross.

***Recessional Song, Hymn 141 (stand)** *"Lift High the Cross"*
▪ Use all three aisles to have the missionaries recess out of the sanctuary

***Benediction and Closing Challenge (stand)** **Pastor**
You can see that there is still a large stack of Bibles on the table. This is God's word that we need to bring to the world.

We've commissioned our missionaries to take God's word to the world; but each one of us has a unique role to play too. May God give you great joy in discovering your role in bringing all scripture to all people.

Amen.

Postlude

- *Lift High the Cross* on the organ

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- In the worship folder, in the early sections only use symbols to indicate what is happening.

Set – up Notes:

- Have a small lectern in the far corner of the sanctuary (far stage left), ready to be placed on the platform when speaker is introduced for the "Focus on Missions" segment of the service.
- Have "All Scripture" banners on the side of the platform, about where the choir loft juts out.
- Put the "Languages without Scripture" Tumbler on the main floor, stage left, where the stairs are usually set up. "The Tumbler" is available through Media Resources Center. Media_Resources_center_Orlando@wycliffe.org
- 800-WYCLIFF (992-5433) ext 3778
- Have the communion table placed in the center stage on the main platform. This will have all of the pew Bibles stacked on top of it, with a beautiful, rich cloth underneath them on top of the table. Also have colorful cloth as decorations on each side of the table. A black shroud will be covering the entire table, ready to be lifted off, symbolizing that translation has taken place and that the Scriptures are now accessible to people in their own heart language.

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