

Христос любит вас



# World Kids

Fun for kids!



True stories!

## PAL Project

Number 22 - March 2010



Have you ever met someone who can't speak your language, but speaks a foreign language instead? It can be very confusing as we really have no idea what they are talking about! Most of us can only speak one language - that of the country we live in or where our family is from. For those of us in the **United States**, that is usually English, and because it is such a large country most people never think of learning another language. In most of **Latin America** the people speak Spanish, and of course in the huge country of **Russia**, most people speak Russian. But if we visit other countries especially such as **India**, **China** or many parts of **Africa**, we find that even in one country there can be people who speak many DIFFERENT local languages! In fact there are about 200 countries in the world today, yet there are about 6,800 known languages all together!! Now THAT'S confusing!



Do you know where all the languages come from according to the Bible?

But not all the languages are also written down! In fact only about 2,261 of them - and the rest are only spoken! That means that many people who lived in remote areas could never learn to read or write!

But as communication and roads have improved in recent years, and governments in many countries have built schools even in isolated areas, many children today at last have a chance to be educated and learn about things outside their own small village. But often, when they do go to school they find that the teachers speak a different language and all the books are written in that foreign language as well! It is usually a language that is more widely used in the country, often known as that country's "official" language. Just imagine how hard it must be for those children to sit in school every day and not understand what they are being taught! But do you know that children everywhere are VERY quick to learn, even if they have to first figure out how to understand and speak the language!! When our family went to live in **Mexico**, my husband and I had to study very hard for a year in language school and even then it was several years before we could really speak, write and understand Spanish well; yet our two children became fluent in Spanish in just 6 months - by just playing and talking with the neighborhood children!

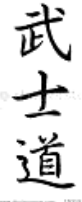


When tourists visit other countries, they often cannot speak the local language and so need an interpreter or someone who will translate for them and show them around. It is not unusual to find several eager children come running up to a tourist to "help" - though of course they expect to be paid for doing so! Such children realize quickly that those who can speak a little English, German, Spanish or Japanese and so understand what the tourists want, are the ones who will be allowed to help and receive the tip! Even in places where there are many orphaned and abandoned children who live on the street and cannot attend school, you can find many who have learned to speak at least a few words in a foreign language!



Although there are so many thousands of different languages, many of them fall into certain categories - often according to the type of alphabet used, but mostly according to the location of where they are mostly spoken, and the fact that they have common similarities with languages in surrounding areas. Of course, if you encounter a foreign language that uses the same alphabet that you are familiar with, it is easier to guess and at least TRY to pronounce some of the words you find in your bilingual dictionary! But if the language is written with totally different alphabet or characters it is IMPOSSIBLE!! Also, sometimes words are written from right to left (such as in Arabic) or vertically (such as Japanese)!! That may mean that when you open a book you should start reading from the back!

See if you can guess what language these phrases are written in:

- |                       |   |             |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. ο Ιησούς σας αγαπά | 5.  | a) Russian  |
| 2. كتب حي عوسي        |  | b) Japanese |
| 3. Христос любит вас  |   | c) French   |
| 4. Jésus vous aime    |   | d) Greek    |
|                       |   | e) Arabic   |

The four on the left all mean the same thing - can you guess what it is? It's much easier when the language shares the same alphabet as our own!



I remember once when our family went deep into **Mexico**, we were pulling a travel-trailer behind our van so that we could stay in it while helping some missionary friends. At the time we hadn't been to language school and so we could only speak a few simple words of Spanish. It was almost dark and so we had to stop for the night. We wanted to get a room in a hotel, but there was **NOWHERE** to park our van with the travel trailer behind!! You can read the whole funny story on our website via this link <http://www.imofinc.org/subpage17.html> I tried to explain



our situation using my pocket dictionary, but I ended up having to use **SIGN LANGUAGE** - drawing pictures and making hand movements!! But this finally worked! The important thing when we are with someone who speaks a different language is to **COMMUNICATE** using whatever means necessary! Of course, people who are deaf and dumb do in fact communicate with sign language, no matter where they live around the world. Did you know that there are over 60 countries where different types of sign language are recognized and used by deaf people?

Do you know which languages the Bible was written in originally? The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament was mostly written in Greek - although these languages have both changed greatly since then. When Jesus told his disciples to "*Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone*" we can now understand what a **HUGE** task that was!! With so many different languages and so many people scattered around the world, it wasn't just a question of traveling and preaching in different countries! No wonder we all need the power of the Holy Spirit to help accomplish the task! Around 400 A.D. the Bible had been translated into Latin by a man named Jerome in Bethlehem. That meant it could be read by many more people in the Ancient World, but it was about 1,000 years later before it was translated into English and several other European languages. After the invention of the printing press soon after that, the Bible quickly began to change the lives of many people in many different places around the world.

In fact today the Bible has been translated **MORE TIMES** and into **MORE LANGUAGES** than any other book; and **MORE COPIES** of the Bible have been distributed than any other book in the whole world! It has now been translated into 2,500 languages and in recent years, because of new technology such as audio tapes, CDs and the Internet, it is now available to 90% of the world's population! At last people around the world can hear the Bible on audio tapes or radio even if they can't read! Also, because of the Internet, we are now able to send Bible verses to other people in languages that we can't even understand or speak! Ethnic Harvest has a wonderful website ([www.ethnicharvest.org](http://www.ethnicharvest.org)) where you can copy scripture portions in other languages and they have links to the Bible in 250 different languages online, on audio or in print!



But there is much work to be done as millions of people still have not heard the Gospel, and there are still thousands of languages that the Bible has not been translated into! Let's all do our part and continue to pray that the message of God's love and Salvation will soon reach **EVERYONE** around the world!

'Til next time,

Your Friend, Shirley

First answer: Genesis 11:1-9 at the Tower of Babel. Language puzzle: 1-d; 2-e; 3-a; 4-c; 5-b. The four on the left all mean "Jesus loves you"

Facts from various websites including [www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk)

World Kids PAL Project is a ministry of IMOF Inc, 8069 FM 1251E, Henderson, TX, USA Tel: (903) 889-2233

E-mail: [shirley@imofinc.org](mailto:shirley@imofinc.org) [www.imofinc.org](http://www.imofinc.org)