



PREPARING THE  
**GOOD**  
**SOIL**

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2019

4.2.20  
FOUNDATION  
The Whole Word for the Whole World

## "A FARMER WENT OUT TO SOW HIS SEED..."

As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown... When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

—Matthew 13:3-8; 19-23 (NIV)

**THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER:**  
Coffee on Artboard by "Tzuriel" Rovi A. Miedes,  
IBLT MA student translator



Dear brothers and sisters,

In the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:18-23) Jesus emphasized the critical role of good soil in production and multiplication of fruit. *“He who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty” (Matt. 13:23 NKJV).*

In the rocky terrain of Galilee during Jesus’ time, good soil was not so much something the farmer found as much as it was something for which he toiled. One thing which the Galilean soil always produced in abundance was rocks! The first task in the preparation of “good soil” was rock removal. This was never an easy task, nor was it ever “once through and done”. It was a process engaged in by the extended family or village over a period of years. Each time the donkey pulled the plow through, more rocks would “sprout” in abundance. The rocks would be picked up in the field and used to build terracing retainer walls, each hillside terrace level requiring two years to build. I remember from my own youth being assigned along with my friends to rock removal. It was hard work under the blazing sun but it was a critical success step toward the end of producing a good harvest.

The terracing support walls built with the rocks also played an important part in preparing good soil that would generate an abundant crop. In a semi-arid land where rainfall is limited and never guaranteed, the walls enabled retaining of moisture and prevention of erosion. It might seem unimaginable for many of us today, but the process of preparing a multi-level terraced area of really good soil could take a generation. The land was planted along the way, but it took multiple years of community teamwork to get to where it might produce a consistent hundredfold.

Preparing translators and consultants for Bible translation also requires hard, time consuming and often repetitious work. But knowing that this diligent investment on the front end enables a far greater yield in the end is the reason that we, together with our partners, have engaged in the development of training programs (retaining walls) which are grounded in the source language, culture and context of the Bible. Together we are working for sustained hundredfold yield.

Throughout 2019, and in previous years as well, the 4.2.20 Foundation–Institute for Biblical Languages & Translation team has been gathering rocks, building terraces, and preparing the soil for multiplication. In this annual report we share some of the outworking of this process. Thank you for being part of the “Rock Gatherers and Terrace Builders Team” as together we labor to prepare the way for multiplication of the Word of the Lord among those who do not yet have the full Bible.

With you in His service,

**David Swarr, PhD**  
**President & CEO, 4.2.20 Foundation**  
**Institute for Biblical Languages & Translation**  
*The whole Word for the whole world*

Watch The Old Testament Translation Gap  
<https://vimeo.com/286153353>



# PREPARING THE SOIL



“THIS IS THE BEST THING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED IN MY LIFE— READING THE SCRIPTURE FROM THE ORIGINAL SOURCE AND UNDERSTANDING THINGS THAT I HAVE MISSED BEFORE. OTHER PEOPLE SHOULD SEE THIS. EVEN IF THEY DON’T KNOW THE HEBREW, THEY WANT TO BE ABLE TO DISCOVER THE THINGS THAT I HAVE DISCOVERED, WHICH IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME TO MAKE A MORE ACCURATE TRANSLATION.”

—MILKA



Source language capacity building means preparing the soil for good growth for the extended family of translation agencies and church networks around the world.

**The 4.2.20 Foundation’s Institute for Biblical Languages & Translation is a source language capacity builder providing education and tools for Scripture translation and engagement: textual, oral or sign.**

4.2.20 Foundation is now part of the Wycliffe Global Alliance. **Ken Schmitt, Senior Advisor for Wycliffe Special Projects** describes how the 4.2.20-IBLT program plays a necessary part to prepare the good soil for great yield.

“National organizations across the globe have wrestled with the challenge of developing translation consultants for Bible translation in their country. Few such organizations have the resources within themselves for translation consultant development at a pace to address 2033 *All Access Goals*. Though there is general agreement that the Old Testament is foundational for understanding Jesus’ Gospel of the Kingdom and building sustained disciple-making movements, only 9% of the world’s languages have a full Bible. With as many as 4,000 languages that might need Old Testament translation, there is a critical need to build capacity for Old Testament translation. **One estimate is that an additional 10,000 translators and 2,000 consultants will be needed to meet the Old Testament need.**

In this project with 4.2.20 Foundation, Wycliffe USA and multiple other organizations are collaborating on a faster, cheaper, and better means of translation consultant development through two MA programs: a one-year MA in Biblical Hebrew and a two-year MA in Biblical Hebrew and Translation Consulting.”

In October 2019, 16 students graduated from the one-year MA program and the two-year MA program was launched with our partner organizations. 24 students graduated from the School of Biblical Hebrew in June and a new group of 29 students enrolled in the program in September.

*“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.”*

# SOWING THE SEED

It is a waste of time and resources to scatter seed carelessly upon a well trodden path. Jesus tells us to sow our seeds (the Word) upon prepared soil where the Word can be understood.

**There are 70 million Deaf people worldwide. There are approximately 400 different sign languages and each is its own language with its own structure and meanings for different signs.** Only one has a whole Bible translation. In 2019, 4.2.20 Foundation started the Center for Deaf Scriptures under the Institute for Biblical Languages & Translation (IBLT). Its vision is to develop quality academic training and resources for Deaf Bible translators. 4.2.20 Foundation began serving Deaf Bible translation through involvement in two initial training programs for the Deaf: Josiah School of Translation and a Study Tour of Israel. A Sign Language Specialization in the MA in Biblical Hebrew and Translation Consulting is being developed with partners to serve hearing consultants in sign language translation.

Adam Van Goor, Acting Director of the Center for Deaf Scriptures says, “When we were thinking where is the best place to establish biblical training programs for Deaf Bible translators it was obvious. It’s here in the land of the Bible! Because the Deaf translate into sign languages which are visual languages, it is extremely important to be able see the land where the Bible happened so that they can imagine it clearly and translate it accurately.” The Center for Deaf Scriptures is also making video Bible translations as tools for Deaf communities around the world.

As Adam goes on to say, **“In the book of Isaiah it says, ‘in that day the Deaf will hear the words of this book,’ and it is our prayer that this will be that day.”**

In 2019, 4.2.20-IBLT added another specialty for language capacity building by adding training in Oral Bible Translation. Gerhard Marx, ThM joined the faculty of IBLT as the Director of the Center for Oral Scriptures. IBLT MA programs now include a three-credit Oral Bible Translation Workshop. These programs also include the option to take additional courses in orality for oral Bible translation and Scripture engagement.

**“THE NEED FOR THE SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS HUGE BECAUSE MANY LANGUAGES DO NOT HAVE YET A SINGLE VERSE OF THE OT. WHEN I TOOK THE SCHOOL OF ORAL BIBLE TRANSLATION (OBT) I REALIZED THE NEED FOR SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IN BOTH ORAL LANGUAGES AND TEXT.”**

—OTNIEL

Watch Center for Deaf Scriptures  
<https://vimeo.com/373206343>



Oral Bible translation is critical to get the whole Word to the 80% of the world's population who are oral learners. 40% of languages that still require translation do not have an orthography (written language).

4.2.20-IBLT's Center for Oral Scriptures trains Hebrew translators to translate from the original source language in a way that can be understood and replicated in oral communities.

MA student translators created artwork depicting the Parable of the Sower during the 2019 Oral Bible Translation course. One translator, practicing to give the whole Word to an oral tribe, made a design of a woven mat that could be re-created by local believers. This is the actual mat made this year by women in the tribe. At a recent gathering, the women enjoyed using it to tell the Parable of the Sower to others in their tribe.



IF WE ARE TO WORSHIP THE RISEN LORD WITH UNDERSTANDING WE MUST HAVE AN **ACCURATE, COMPLETE BIBLE**. SEE LUKE 24:44-52, WHERE THE RISEN LORD TAKES TIME BEFORE HE ASCENDS TO EXPLAIN THE HEBREW BIBLE TO HIS CLOSEST FOLLOWERS. "THEN HE OPENED THEIR MINDS SO THEY COULD UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES" (LUKE 24:45).

EVERYONE NEEDS THE WHOLE BIBLE IN A **LANGUAGE AND MEDIUM** THAT THEY CAN UNDERSTAND. IBLT EXISTS TO ENABLE TRANSLATORS TO DO THAT WORK ACCURATELY AND EFFICIENTLY.

—DR. RANDALL BUTH

*“The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time.”*

## ROOTED IN THE SOURCE

The consultants, translators and instructors who come to be immersed in the original source language of the Old Testament become deeply rooted in understanding. The Institute for Biblical Languages & Translation (IBLT) not only nurtures them during their residence in Jerusalem but also becomes a lifelong source of available reference and tools to enhance their translation and teaching ability.

Dr. Aaron Hornkohl is the Language Teaching Officer in Hebrew for the University of Cambridge, UK. He also teaches at the IBLT School of Biblical Hebrew. He explains why there is a need for immersion in the source language of Hebrew.

**“There is one overriding factor between students who know Hebrew at an arm’s length and those who actually deal with and decipher difficult ancient Hebrew (biblical Hebrew). The single overriding factor is understanding modern Hebrew. Just on a practical level, if we want a student or pastor or teacher to reach a good level of any language they will need massive amounts of comprehensible input. For instance, to read the hundreds of chapters of Hebrew in the Old Testament, you need fluency, and in order to be fluent you need immersion in Hebrew.”**

**“YOU’RE NOT JUST LEARNING THE LANGUAGE, BECAUSE YOU NEVER JUST LEARN THE LANGUAGE. YOU ARE ACTUALLY LEARNING THE THINGS THAT WERE IMPLIED, THINGS THAT WERE SEEN BUT NOT REPRESENTED IN WORDS.”**

—ASHER



Watch Learn from the Source  
<https://vimeo.com/326505144>



“I THINK THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING ABLE TO DO THE PROGRAM HERE IN ISRAEL IS ONE OF THE GREATEST ADVANTAGES. YOU ARE ABLE TO GO TO THE PLACES WHERE THE THINGS YOU ARE READING ABOUT HAPPENED. AND YOU ARE ABLE TO SEE THE PROOF OF THESE THINGS AND SOME OF THE WRITINGS. ANOTHER ADVANTAGE OF DOING IT HERE IN ISRAEL IS THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO LEARN THE CULTURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. BEING ABLE TO UNDERSTAND, SO THAT AS YOU GO INTO TRANSLATION YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT AND ARE ABLE TO GIVE MORE DETAILS FOR FUTURE TRANSLATIONS.”

—MILKA

“IN MY TRIBE WE HAVE AROUND 70,000-100,000 SPEAKERS. FOR MY DIALECT, AMERICAN WORKERS TRANSLATED GENESIS. WHEN WE RECRUITED READERS FROM OTHER DIALECTS AND STARTED TRANSLATING THE OLD TESTAMENT INTO NEW LANGUAGES FROM THIS TRANSLATION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE KNOWLEDGE RECEIVED FROM THE TRANSLATION WAS TOTALLY INADEQUATE. SO, THERE IS NOW A LOT OF SYNCRETISM THAT IS HAPPENING IN MY TRIBE. MANY SAY THEY ARE CHRISTIANS, BUT IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS THAT WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, SUCH AS ORIGINAL SIN AND ALL THAT YOU LEARN FROM GENESIS AND BEYOND, THE GOSPEL JUST BECOMES LIKE A MEDICINE YOU TAKE WHEN YOU NEED IT.

WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT WHICH I HAVE JUST FINISHED, IT MAKES ME REALLY SAD, BECAUSE I WISH A PROGRAM LIKE THIS COULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO ME WHEN I WAS STARTING 20 YEARS AGO. I STARTED TRAINING IN TRANSLATION IN 1998. I NOW BELIEVE THAT TRANSLATION OF MY LANGUAGE COULD HAVE BEEN MORE ACCURATE AND CLEAR AND EASIER IF I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A PROGRAM LIKE THIS.”

—RIVKA



*"But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*

# ON GOOD SOIL

It can seem to take too much time, energy and resources to prepare a whole Bible translation from the original source language for a new language group. It is tempting to work from existing translations. However, as Jesus implies, shortcuts do not ultimately pay and the results can be a waste of resources. With the right preparation, growth will not only be better, but also faster, cheaper, and have much greater long-term benefits and results.

David Schartz is President of a Bible translation agency (and manager of a worldwide American company situated in Luxembourg). He has over 10 years of experience in project management, as well as being a former audit and compliance officer. David concludes an analysis report on the IBLT training based on the criteria of *better, faster, cheaper*.

"The Board of Directors believes that **the quality of the translation will significantly increase** due to the IBLT/Masters, which in turn speeds up the project by 6 years. Having invested 42,000.00 EUR into the IBLT/Masters, we will be able to **reduce our translation costs 4 times the investment** (by 397 %), i.e. 166,764.36 EUR. We as directors believe that this is a significant return on BfL investment and hope that our donors believe that this was a **wise investment for spreading God's Word.**"

**"THROUGH THIS PROJECT WITH THE 4.2.20 FOUNDATION, WYCLIFFE USA AND MULTIPLE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE COLLABORATING IN A FASTER, CHEAPER, AND BETTER MEANS OF TRANSLATION CONSULTANT DEVELOPMENT."**

**—KEN SCHMITT**

“THE PROGRAM HERE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT ALLOWS YOU TO TRANSLATE FROM THE SOURCE LANGUAGE TO THE TARGET LANGUAGE OF TRANSLATION WITHOUT HAVING TO PASS BY ANOTHER LANGUAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF I HAVE TO TRANSLATE THE OT IN BENIN, A LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN NORTHERN BENIN, I CAN TRANSLATE STRAIGHT TO THAT LANGUAGE FROM HEBREW. THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IN DOING SO WE DON'T ADAPT THE TRANSLATION BUT JUST TRANSLATE.”

—OTNIEL

“A LOT OF TRANSLATION USED TO BE DONE FROM ENGLISH BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE HEBREW. SO, THE MORE THEY CAN UNDERSTAND THE HEBREW, THE LESS IT HAS TO BE CHECKED. THERE IS SOMETHING CALLED 'BACK-TRANSLATION' AND SO IF THEY TRANSLATE IT TO THEIR LANGUAGE AND THEN THEY HAVE TO TRANSLATE IT BACK TO ENGLISH, IT CAUSES DELAYS FOR MOST CONSULTANTS. IF WE CAN BACK CHECK TO THE HEBREW IT HELPS SPEED IT UP.”

—YOEL

“IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA THERE ARE MORE THAN 800 LANGUAGES. AND THERE ARE QUITE A FEW NEW TESTAMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN FINISHED, BUT CURRENTLY TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE ARE LESS THAN 10 FINISHED WHOLE BIBLES. WE [ELISHEVA AND YOEL] TRAIN MOTHER TONGUE TRANSLATORS, AND THERE IS AN INCREASED DESIRE FOR MANY OF THE GROUPS THAT HAVE A NT TO DO AN OT. LEARNING FROM THE SOURCE LANGUAGE ELIMINATES A BIG STEP RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE, WHICH MEANS YOU'RE NOT GOING FROM THE MOTHER TONGUE TO ENGLISH TO HEBREW TO ENGLISH. IT MAKES IT MUCH CLOSER. A LOT OF TIMES WE'VE HEARD STUDENTS WHO HAVE STARTED LEARNING HEBREW SAY, 'OH, THIS IS ACTUALLY EASIER. THERE ARE THINGS IN OUR LANGUAGE THAT ARE MUCH CLOSER TO THE HEBREW THAN THEY ARE TO ENGLISH.' SO, IT WILL SPEED TRANSLATION WITHOUT SACRIFICING ANY ACCURACY TO THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE.”

—ELISHEVA



# GROWTH

TRANSLATORS FROM THE FIRST THREE COHORTS OF THE SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL HEBREW WILL BE WORKING ON TRANSLATIONS IN

60 LANGUAGES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO IMPACT

12 MILLION PEOPLE IN THIS GENERATION ALONE.

THESE FIGURES SHOW THE NATIONS AND LANGUAGES WHERE OLD TESTAMENT TRANSLATION PROJECTS ARE BEING PLANTED.

NATION	LANGUAGE	SPEAKER POPULATION
TOGO	SOLA	15K – 20K
PHILIPPINES	GIANGAN	50K – 60K
	TANDUBAS	25K – 30K
	BUTBUT KALINGA	10K – 20K
	SAMA, SOUTHERN	250K – 275K
	SAMA, PANGUTARIAN	30K – 40K
	SIMUNUL	10K – 15K
	TAU 'T BATO	1K – 2K
	PARANAN	10K – 20K
	IBALOI	100K – 125K
	SUBANEN, SOUTHERN	20K – 30K
	KINARAY-A	360K – 380K
BENIN	NATENI	100K – 120K
	DENDI	250K – 300K
	WAAMA	100K – 125K
BURKINA FASO	SININKERE	5K – 10K
CAR	NGANDO	5K – 10K
DRC	NGANDO	200K – 225K
PNG	93 LANGUAGES	–
CHAD	BAGIRMI	40K – 50K

\*These figures do NOT include those trained in our extension programs

NATION	LANGUAGE	SPEAKER POPULATION
ETHIOPIA	MAREKO	80K – 100K
	QEBENA	50K – 70K
	KONTA	100K – 120K
	OYDA	50K – 70K
	MESQUAN	150K – 170K
	MELO	140K – 160K
GHANA	NKONYA	15K – 25K
	AHANTA	170K – 190K
	SEKPELE	20K – 30K
	DAGBANI	1M – 1.3M
	MAMPRULI	300K – 325K
	KAAKYI	50K – 60K
	ADELE	30K – 50K
	NAWURI	10K – 20K
	KASEM	200K – 250K
	KOMA	30K – 40
INDIA	TULU	1.5M – 1.7M
	PATTAPU	200K – 225K
	NETHAKANI	70K – 90K
	BUGUN	10K – 20K
	TUTSA	20K – 30K
	TAGIN	40K – 50K
	SAKACHEP	25K – 40K
	KHARAM	1K – 3K
	MEITEI	2M – 2.2M
	PARDHI	50K – 70K
	BARELI, RATHWI	350K – 370K
LUXEMBOURG	LUXEMBOURGISH	370K – 400K
MALI	FULFULDE	1M – 1.2M
MYANMAR	17 MINORITY LANGUAGES	500K – 550K
ROMANIA	ROMANI	1M – 1.2M
CHINA	LOLO YI	250K – 350K

## FIRST 3 COHORTS

73\*

STUDENTS

27

STUDENT NATIONALITIES & NATIONS OF SERVICE

23

PARTNER AGENCIES INVOLVED / SERVED

60

OLD TESTAMENT TRANSLATION PROJECTS

153

LANGUAGE PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY GRADUATES THROUGH TRANSLATION, CONSULTING & TRAINING

12M+

TOTAL POPULATION OF LANGUAGE GROUPS SERVED

## TRAINEE CATEGORIES

45\*\*

TRANSLATORS

7

CONSULTANTS

30

CIT'S (CONSULTANTS IN TRAINING)

28

MULTIPLIERS / TRAINERS

125

STUDENTS TRAINED IN IBLT EXTENSION PROGRAMS

\*\* Some students are in more than one category

# SEEDS FOR MULTIPLICATION

Good farmers save seeds from their crop for multiplication. With the encouragement of our partner organizations, 4.2.20-IBLT is taking steps to establish an extension program creating resources and tools to bring Old Testament source language training to other locations. We are already running Hebrew language intensives in multiple countries. We are also training teachers to teach Hebrew as a source language for translators around the world. A more extensive and long-term program is being planned for Indonesia first and then India, as these nations have a high density of languages without the Old Testament. As you can imagine, this is a huge undertaking and will take much time, effort and resources to “prepare the good soil.”

“ANY SACRIFICE OF TIME, MONEY AND OF YOUR PLANS IS WORTH EVERY PENNY. WHAT YOU LEARN FROM HERE YOU WILL NOT LEARN IN ANY UNIVERSITY.”

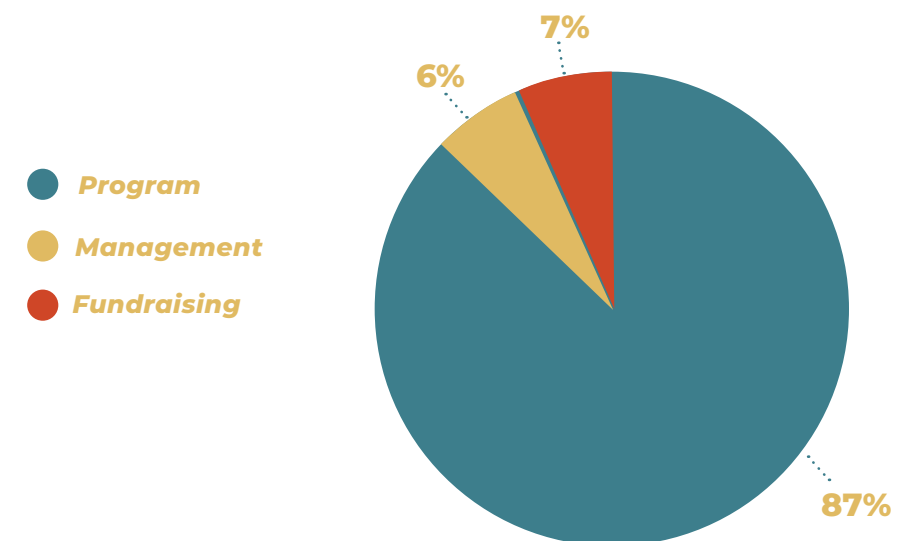
—MILKA



## FINANCIAL REPORT

	2017		2018		2019	
Revenue						
Unrestricted Contributions	787,646	58%	1,138,949	63%	492,480	21%
Temporarily Restricted Contributions	360,027	27%	520,029	29%	1,352,779	57%
Services	207,552	15%	150,286	8%	536,787	23%
Total Revenue	1,355,225		1,809,264		2,382,046	
Expenses						
Program	943,884	77%	1,544,416	84%	2,043,500	87%
Management	138,134	11%	166,268	9%	147,484	6%
Fundraising	136,694	11%	135,166	7%	156,368	7%
Total Expenses	1,218,712		1,845,850		2,347,352	
Net Income	136,513		(36,586)		34,694	

## 2019 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



# LIVING WATER

God in heaven, we pray for a breakthrough—  
for full Bibles in all language groups, among  
oral and Deaf peoples.

We acknowledge hardships and large stones in  
our path, yet with perseverance, we press on.

Thank You, Yeshua, for good soil and new  
growth. We cry out for more.

We ask You to guard, guide and protect, and  
we trust You for the increase.  
We further ask for Your grace upon our ability  
as we work and for living water to be poured  
upon the new seed and dry places.

Lord, send Your laborers to prepare the fields  
and let the harvest seeds of Your Word fall on  
good soil and bring a yield of a hundredfold.

In the mighty and powerful name of Yeshua,  
Amen.

*(Matthew 13:1-9; Isaiah 55:11; Psalm 119:130;  
Psalm 63:1-3; 1 Corinthians 14:9; Matthew 9:37-38)*



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# 4.2.20

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