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Dear Friends,

You and I are standing on the threshold of a moment that generations of faithful Christian men and women gave their lives to reach — when every person on Earth can have God's Word in their own language.

This year, Pioneer Bible Translators turns 50. In five decades, churches like Pine Lake Christian Church have helped put more than 500,000 verses of Scripture into the hands of people who never had them.

But I'm not writing to mark an anniversary. **I'm writing because we are closer than any generation before us to seeing every person on Earth have God's Word in their own language.**

What Bible translation makes possible goes beyond a finished Bible. It's a person reading God's Word in their own language for the first time — believing it, obeying it, sharing it with others — until churches are planted, the Gospel spreads, and whole communities come to know Jesus.

I'm looking for 30 churches to help finish the remaining translations — and put God's Word into the hands and hearts of those waiting. Will your church be one of the 30?

Here's what's at stake. We are approaching a milestone centuries in the making. Soon, for the first time in history, the Word of God will be accessible to everyone. Every nation. Every language. Every person on Earth.

You can help make that happen in two different ways.

First, your church can make a special gift to help finish translations that are still in progress — so everyone on Earth has God's Word in

their own language.

Or, you can take up a special offering to support translations that need financial assistance to cross the finish line.

I think the following experience my friend and colleague recently shared will help you see what's at stake:

My friend had traveled hours upriver by canoe with a group of interns to reach a remote village in Papua New Guinea. When they arrived, the whole village was celebrating — ukuleles playing, people singing, so glad someone had finally come.

As they finished their visit and prepared to leave, the village chief walked up to my friend and asked:

"Which of you here is the one we've prayed for, who's going to give us God's Word in our own language?"

My friend couldn't promise them anything. All he could do was promise to pray — and as their canoe pulled away, he looked back to see the chief and several big, burly men standing on the riverbank, weeping.

All over the world there are people just like those men on the riverbank — still waiting for God's Word in their own language.

A special gift from Pine Lake Christian Church will help complete Bible translations — putting God's Word into the hands and hearts of people who have waited a lifetime to read it in their own language.

You will also make evangelism possible. You will make church planting possible. You will make discipleship possible. Where God's Word takes root, the Church takes hold.

And you will make all this possible even in areas where following Jesus is dangerous — where faith costs something, and where God's Word is needed most.

Your church has answered the Great Commission call in meaningful ways. **But it will take all of us, working together, to see God's Word go from a translated page to a changed life — read, believed, obeyed, and shared with others.**

You and the good people at Pine Lake Christian Church know firsthand what it means to have God's Word in your language — to open it, understand it, and be shaped by it. For fifty years, churches like yours have been helping make that possible for communities around the world. That is the gift every community on Earth is still waiting for.

As you consider where your church can make the greatest difference this year, I have a specific request:

Will you and your church commit to making a special gift before December 31 to help finish Bible translation?

I need 30 churches to say “yes” to finishing this work — from translated Bibles to transformed lives — by the end of this year.

Will you let me know if your church will be one of the 30?

Right now, there are translations that are in reach — and a gift from your church could start one — or finish one. Every one of those finished translations is one more community that will hear the Gospel — and one more life God's Word will change.

YOUR CHURCH could be the answer for someone praying right now for God's Word in their language — someone like the chief and the men weeping on that riverbank, waiting to hear the Gospel and follow Jesus, in a community where the Church has not yet been born.

It takes an average of \$35 to put one verse of Scripture into a language that has never had it. \$3,500 translates 100 verses. \$35,000 translates a thousand verses. Any amount your church gives will be put to work right away.

Will you be one of the 30 churches to say “YES” to finishing this historic work?

Please let me know by September 30 if your church will be one of the 30 “Great Commission” churches to help complete the remaining

translations and change lives through God's Word by the end of this year.

Every verse translated brings someone closer to God's Word — and every finished translation is a door opened to the Gospel, to the Church, and to lives transformed by Jesus.

I pray you'll say yes! Your faithfulness matters more than you know. It would mean the world to people who have been praying for God's Word in their own language.

That All May Know Jesus,

GREG

Greg Pruett
President

P.S. Fifty years of faithful church partnership has brought Bible translation closer to the finish line than at any point in history. I'm asking you to be one of 30 churches that will say "yes" to a special gift — above and beyond what your church is already doing — to help put God's Word into languages that have never had a single verse of Scripture, and see lives transformed through God's Word. **You can make a direct gift, a special offering, or both — either way, whatever your church can do will be an answer to prayer. Please let me know by September 30.**

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