

Robert Briggs (00:24:20:06 – 00:27:03:18)

First of all, Michel, what a great word. What an opportunity to hear from a leader like Michel who can draw from his own life experiences, his deep theologic understanding, his deep respect for missiology. He is bringing such great value to our lives; so Michel, thank you for that great reflection on God's Word. What a way to get started!

My assignment today is to – bottom line it's a hard assignment – is to give you a briefing on the progress to date related to Every Tribe Every Nation. And so, we turn the clock back to 2010 and none of this framework existed and none of this gathering could have taken place. It was just an early meeting in Orlando with a handful of people and from that early beginning came the progress that we've made to date. So, I won't give you a reflection on every one of the 100 plus meetings of the Steering Committee that we had - usually in the DFW airport – the [Ambassador] or the Admiral's Club, I think it's called. It's a room that's kind of too small actually - we're crowded in there, but the faithfulness of those that have participated has been noteworthy and has again given birth to and undergirded this work.

So, my job is to give a high-level overview of the progress. Let's start with a picture of what Every Tribe Every Nation carries in our collective hearts, our full vision for the work of translation across the world. It is important to note that ETEN promotes and advocates for **all** Bible translation work that is needed. And that of course, we refer to that as “Every Verse Current”. This is a goal that is respectful of all of our collective goals between so many organizations; and we are focused on full Bibles, we're focused on appropriate revisions updated to meet the needs of the people on the ground and this is the big vision. We refer to this as "The Square". Now that's a metaphor that we've come to use that helps us communicate, but that's all of the Bible translation activity that all of us as implementing organizations are focused on, are responsible for. And of course, the work of that Bible translation is going to continue.

Geof Morin (00:58:55:20 – 01:12:23:18)

We move together as we have knowledge and see and expect the best of each other because we know each other. And so both through some informal conversations 1-on-1 and small groups have been connected just to check in with each other. Some other formal conversations and meetings; taking time to just say *Hey how are you doing?* Especially, my goodness what a last year [plus] we've had in the realm of COVID and all of those challenges. It's just been so important to be tracking with each other, to have some knowledge of what's happening within each one of our organizations and even within our own personal lives. The personal challenges that come with the responsibilities that some of these great leaders have taken on. And so I'm grateful for that – in that we've had some good conversations to look at, movement. What are the models that we choose – you would recognize that the ten agencies

involved - the current and starter agencies that are seated around this table - all work in some different ways. Of course, right?

We want uniqueness and we want to be complementary one to another. But many of these conversations; well then what about models you might use that are different from models that I use? Some are a bit more established, tradition, historical, anchoring the movement, continuing to carry us forward. Some are newer – and looking at other ways that we might look at translation; how do we make sure and understand the work that we are each doing. That's been part of this great work of peer accountability; not just so we can check on each other, but to encourage each other. And we all need that. To encourage us in the work that God has given us to do. The last in this piece is prayer movement. We were gifted by ... there's been a Prayer Working Team going for a while led wonderfully by Laura Gish from American Bible Society. They helped to create for us; we were able to launch a "Prayer Manual". You see a representation on this slide, just a great tour-de-force, this capture of how some organizations have been involved in the history and legacy of prayer. What are some of the best-in-class resources available? Again, as either created within the spectrum of ETEN or created by some organizations, what are some of the things to be praying for? Just a great, great resource for us to activate and to remind us of the priority of seeking God's kingdom – I mean, this is His work. We've always – we've said it from the beginning – and so we go to Him first and foremost to make sure that we're tracking. There will also be, on the 11th of November, a day that we are committing – inviting all who are listening and others – to join us for a day of prayer for Bible translation. For this, I'm grateful, by the way, for the generosity of our friends at Wycliffe Bible Translators who had established, kind of held this day as a day of prayer, are now opening it. Thank you for your generosity; opening it to a wider reach of Bible translation for us across the sectors. So you'll be receiving more information about that but I'd love for you to hold that on your calendars - for November 11th.

Let me move on to broadening involvement, the next phase. The work of this first ETEN table, we'd love to see that expand. We just see that as a tool that God might use to accelerate the work of Bible translation and we've identified as you're seeing here, three different ways in which different tables that may come into being. And these are conversations already begun. The first is around Oral Bible Translation – the oral preference language community – that is a world being served in a unique way, with focus. And there are organizations who have just done some excellent work in that area. We're meeting them together for conversation and connection and collaboration around that work. We see that as potentially the first of the tables; at least the one that's made some nice traction so far in conversation. That's work underway.

On a second round, Deaf Ministry, the assignment of Bible translation related for the Deaf communities in our world. A second table, which of course, with the uniqueness of organizations that are working in that space. With the expertise and specialty necessary to serve this community so well. In seeing the gathering of those entities and how they might collaborate and how they might learn together ... (*unintelligible*) ... and then regional expressions, you're going to hear a little bit later about the work

continuing around illumina**Nations** and encouraging things that are occurring and spreading regionally; seeing in themselves a natural affinity to gather and connect and to bring together the work of Bible translation. We are looking at that as well for this space. So that would be specific tables that we would expect we would see - that we hope to foster together.

Outside of that, and maybe as we continue to grow our table we begin to expand our networks, ... (*unintelligible*) ... inviting in others who are in this space who love what God is doing in this and are actively engaged. So, we began having conversations with some of the organizations you see listed there – and some others – approaching them with a simple question "*We love what you're doing, we're so grateful for what you're doing, how can we serve you? How might we collaborate - the work - what God is doing in this space with what you're doing in your space? What's the connection? Are you aware? How can we work together?*" So, we've been really encouraged in particular by the response of some of these; some people are aware of what's happening here - and they say "*You know what? You're encouraging us!*". And we respond "*You're encouraging us as well!*" Not all have to join in to one locked-in set movement - but how might the tools of one serve the other? And so we are really grateful for some of these organizations and others ... (*unintelligible*) ... we need some training over here, we need understanding, we need to share knowledge - we need to understand what the needs of other organizations. In God's kingdom, this is important, resources are too important ... (*unintelligible*) ... they might go to waste.

One of the organizations mentioned on here that's been with us for a number of years ... (*unintelligible*) ... is the Finishing the Task network. Most of you would be aware of that work begun and now transitioned and being championed by Rick Warren and the missions of Saddleback Church; we're grateful for his leaning into this. And a piece of this work will be of course, the release of God's Word; beginning here, of course, in the translation of God's Word. And so we are very grateful for that partnership of conversation. I would just say in this piece, because of course it doesn't stop at the completion of Bible translation; of course, we know that. We can't *start* without the completion of Bible translation. We can't *start* so much of the work of the Church and Gospel mission around the world. But for us, to know where and how, the needs of the world and the needs of great Gospel organizations and the local church – coming alive and where they're crying out for God's Word – to make the connection between the work of Bible translation and the priorities of first access and reach of God's Word around the world, to build that bridge is an important piece. We're grateful for the collaboration that is being built out with Finishing the Task. That's what I mean by expanding networks, and finding other ways and other organizations to do this work. It's too big for any one Bible translation organization.

Let me just wrap this up before we head on to our next section with; we are at integrating innovation. As I said, we will be brought deeper into this work through the launch of a group that's happened since we were last together that's called the Innovation Lab. They will be bringing us into these next two pieces looking at quality assurance - how do we begin to move forward in these areas of quality assurance. It's not easy. Not simple to do, but so important for us. Because I think it still remains the

chief bottleneck in so much of the projects and the work being done. And "New Innovation". What is available? What's working? We want to make sure that we can share with you and celebrate what's working already to move forward the work of Bible translation. But what's not proven or maybe not even discovered yet? Some of this is that John F. Kennedy/'man on the moon within a decade'-kind of thinking, that there's *got* to be a way. If God has designed this, the eradication of Bible poverty, then there needs to be some tools maybe that have not even been discovered yet. So I'll wait and invite that - you'll see the progress just beginning, just beginning within that work in just a few minutes. For us, also focusing on the tools necessary for sign language. We're recognizing that because of the unique and significance nature of this work, that there must be tools design-built, customized for this work. So there are conversations underway, continuing to be underway to shape this work. I love what Robert said earlier: imagine if we tried to just build our own tools for each of those different domains. Let's *not* do that. Let's bring tools together that are built for all. And so the conversations are underway, such that we can find those tools and make them readily available for usage by *all* parties. Maybe some entities might join into this group because they see what's happening in this space, that's in this realm of innovation; to say more about that, you'll hear in just a moment.

In my last minutes here, "Aligning Our Energies". We've got to have good, clear knowledge of what the needs are. What are the vital language needs? Any rendition of things like multilingualism; what is the format for these translations? Oral first? What is the team working - how might teams work together? This overarching mapping is now being accomplished by a group we call the Field Strategy Working Group, which is served now with experts, leadership - linguistic leadership and translation leadership from almost all of our agencies; all 10 agencies and some other experts that are involved helping to identify where to begin within that process ... (*unintelligible*) ... projects can take longer - like as we begin with gateway languages. Why? Because we know they will take longer; they're longer projects. There's more work to be done just because of the canonical end in the projects. And so we're so grateful for this team - those who have leaned in. These people are working hard for us, to give us the view we've got to have of the terrain in front of us - what's the map? How do we get there?

You know, I started describing this to you - I guess six months ago - using the metaphor from Lewis and Clark, a U.S.-based metaphor of the expedition of finding their way from east to west coast, across a land continent that was vastly unknown. With ideas of how they would get there via canoe that failed ultimately, because they reached the mountains of the west and recognized that the waterways weren't going to get them there. They needed other tools; not just a good map, but other tools to find their way, which, they did. And the result of which are the expansion of this nation westward and its understanding of that terrain. This is a similar project. It's an invitation to go with what God has placed in front of us as a vision to see not just a geographical movement but a full eradication movement. Where God's Word would be readily and fully available, for the work of the Church and the work of God's Kingdom to advance. It is a huge privilege to be a part of this. And this work - this smaller work of "What Must Change" is just one part of it. I just want to thank so many of you who are listening and who've been a part of it so far. We lean forward to see what it is that God will accomplish next as we

give him our very best; as we think in new ways and try new things. We get creative but we also are relentless to say we will not stop God, because You aren't stopping. You desire, you long for every person on planet Earth to encounter the love that is in Jesus Christ. So thank you again, for all of you that are a part of this; thank you for leaning in, for what we're learning together. Let me stop there and now invite you to take a next step in this journey together as we look at the work of the Innovation Lab. It is led ably by my good friend and colleague, Stephen Cave. He is the chief servant; he's done just a wondrous job, not just launching this lab, but inviting others in. I'm going to turn it over to Stephen to share more of that with you.

Stephen Cave (01:13:34:14 – 01:18:10:17)

We trust that our work will help us move forward toward the 2033 goals. You will be able to see the practical outworking of the goals within the structure we have developed for the Lab. And our hope is that the work we do together will lead to innovation that not only speeds up translation but maintains the desire for quality that everyone involved in this values so highly. We started off as a very small team, invited into this by the ETEN leadership and our first task was to agree on a basic visioning on which we could unite and would drive the bus forward. Given the characters involved, we could have talked and wrestled with that stuff forever, but remarkably, we agreed relatively quickly and maybe our urgency means it's not perfect, but it has certainly given us our focus. And yet even from the earliest drafts of our vision, we realized that this developing vision could only be fulfilled if three major issues could be addressed. And those three issues are on the screen for you - that translation resources are available to all, advanced technology is accelerating translation and that the Church around the world is empowered for quality translation.

And those three issues, in turn, have informed how we have decided to set up the structure of the Lab. We chose this image of a tree, a trunk that was the core grip of the Lab, but a trunk with branches, going different directions, branches that also overlap. Because once we have three branches, they do not and they cannot operate independently of each other. And furthermore, as the Lab develops, we envisage other branches starting to appear, and grow. We've got a slide sort of taking that tree picture that gives you some kind of insight to the individuals currently involved in the trunk and in each branch. Now the challenge we were given from Steering Committee and the What Must Change Committee was not just to have internal participants from the translation community but that we would bring onboard those from outside who would share their wisdom. And bring perspectives that maybe would be new to us from outside the translation world. And it's been encouraging to see people starting to join us and with some new ones already joining even this week. We've also got conversations developing with others who will not be permanent members of the branches but they will join from time to time and add wisdom or consultancy on specific topics ... (*unintelligible*) ... We really appreciate those guys.

In a moment, I'm going to ask Bryce Allison and then Ken Schmitt to share progress on the branches that they lead, but first I'd like to give you just an insight into the Open Access branch; that's the part of the

Lab that I take responsibility for. Our initial work has been together ... (*unintelligible*) ... starting to address what we think are the foundational needs for translation, where open access to certain resources would be of extraordinary significance. Some important conversations are ongoing and we want to handle those carefully. But the main areas for now are around Greek New Testament, semantic lexicons and language data, both to do with geographical boundaries of a language and also language relatedness. And I have to say, as we've been having these conversations both within the Lab and with those outside, we've been really encouraged by the spirit in which others have entered these conversations. There is a real willingness to wrestle with the issues. There's a real willingness to find solutions. And I think that whatever the outcome of each of the specific conversations, the spirit in which this full-grown partnership of ETEN and beyond have engaged, that that Spirit will stand us in good stead, for the future.