
Checklist for Scripture Engagement

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Introduction

What kinds of resources and activities would be good for promoting Scripture Engagement in language communities around the world? This checklist was put together at a seminar in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2011. I hope it will be useful as you work on planning and strategy issues in Scripture Engagement. Most communities would not expect to have all the items listed here but it is likely that they should be working on some in each category, with the aim of seeing people engage with God's Word in their local language and culture.

A. For all language communities

i. Print

1. **Scripture in Print** – is there some audience-friendly Scripture available? (Scripture portions, Bible stories, picture books...)
2. **Supplementary Biblical material** – is there some type of Bible background material in the language? (Bible reading guides, Bible studies, discipleship material, etc.)
3. Is there a **dictionary** and a **transition guide** in the language?

ii. Non-print

4. **Audio Scriptures** – Is at least part of the Bible available in audio form? Is there a strategy to set up listening groups?
5. Are Scriptures or related material being **broadcast on local radio stations**?
6. Is anyone teaching and using **Bible storying**?
7. Are there any **films** or DVDs available in the language – e.g. Jesus film, Genesis?
8. Are any **cultural art forms** in use – **Scripture songs** using local music forms, local **drama**, art forms and so on?
9. What **new technology** is coming into the area, and how is this being used to encourage Scripture Engagement? E.g. telephones, smart phones, websites.

iii. A good environment for Scripture Engagement

10. Is there **active and constructive networking** going on between all the missions and Christian NGOs in the area? If not, are steps being taken to set this up?

6. Is there **community ownership** of the translation and of Scripture Engagement activities? If this is weak, what is being done to increase local ownership?
7. Is there at least one set of Scripture based materials that **addresses a local felt need** – e.g. trauma healing, AIDS material, community development, conflict resolution?
8. Is there a strategy in place for the **sale and distribution** of all the available Scripture related materials? Are **dedications** and other festivals being used for public relations and selling materials?
9. Is there a strategy in place to promote Scripture Engagement for at least one **special audience**? (followers of a local religion, children, young people, handicapped...)

iv. Training

11. Is there **training** in place for **Scripture Engagement workers** at all levels?
12. Has a system of **mentoring** been set up?
13. Are pairs of **workshops** set up to train church leaders with obligatory reporting of activities between the workshops?

v. Research

14. Is there any **research or evaluation** on-going on the use/engagement with Scripture?

B. Where there is an active church or churches

1. Are all the **different denominations involved** in the translation and use of Scriptures? If not, what steps are being taken to attempt to bring this about? (This often involves help at country level.)
2. Are the **Bible colleges and seminaries** in the area including courses on the use of mother tongue Scriptures?
3. Are **literacy classes in churches** including Biblical material in the local language as soon as is feasible?
4. Is there a **hymn book** in use in the local language?
5. **Gospel and culture:** Is there on-going discussion and application of principles of **contextualizing** the Gospel in the local situation?

This document was first published in *Scripture in Use Today*, Volume 21 (September 2011), pages 11-14. It is now available for download at: <http://www.scripture-engagement.org>

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