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where transformation happens

If you had \$100,000 to invest ...

What if you had to make a decision to put \$100K to work for you in order to ensure maximum *return on investment* (ROI)? Where might you consider allocating those resources? Stocks? Mutual funds? Gold and silver? Real estate? CBSI translations?

Wait! Really? *CBSI translations*?

Making sound investments in these volatile economic times can be problematic—until you shift your perspective of ROI from pure \$\$\$ profits to eternal returns. We who follow Jesus know this from the depths of our being because God's Word has taught us,

Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.... Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need (Matthew 6:19-21, 33, NLT).

CBSI South Asia Regional Director Dr. J. N. Manokaran, and his wife, Rosia, recently shared an example of ROI that really matters.

*"Kundrathur is a suburban area of Chennai city where there are factories and many workers who are employed by these plants. Many of the girls working there are from the state of Odisha, which is over 620 miles away. Ruby is a sister who invited these girls to the church. **They attended but did not understand a word—as the whole worship service was not conducted in their language.***

"After the service, the girls joined the young people and sat in the Community Bible Study Youth class led by Grace. She explained about the CBS study and invited the girls to join. Grace then contacted us and we were able to get Odia language Bibles from the Bible Society of India, Bangalore. It was the first time they saw the Bible, as they were all Hindus. The girls were thrilled to see it was in their own language.

"Seven of them started regularly attending the CBS Bible study, also translated into Odia, which transformed their lives. Two of the seven girls were baptized in February."

Now THAT'S return on investment! The dollars invested into providing heart-language translations are bringing a return of eternal souls! It will be interesting to see how God uses those two new believers to influence the other five ... their families ... their friends ... and their coworkers at the factory.

By the way, in India, baptism is a HUGE decision—especially when those baptized are from Hindu backgrounds. Taking the step of baptism can lead to familial, vocational, and societal



Migrant workers from Odisha with Rosia (standing on the left).

excommunication. Physical persecution, and in some contexts, even death can result from such a decision.

This year, Community Bible Study will invest about \$100,000 on translation work. That's a very significant sum of money. However, when the ROI is measured in terms of transformed lives and communities, it is money well spent, don't you think?

While this major amount of resources is dedicated to the task, it really is a small sum relative to the total need. Staying focused on India, as an example, there are 22 official languages. An "official" language is one used within the government in a particular country, state, or other jurisdiction.

However, according to the 2001 Census of India, there are 122 major languages and 1,599 other languages spoken in India. India is only **one** country among the **nearly 100 countries** where CBS has a presence. So, we will need to invest a whole lot more than what we have been privileged to already.



The two girls recently baptized.



Mishra is now speaking truth.

Still, I know whatever we allocate is worth it when I hear the testimonies of people like Mishra, who shares this:

"I used to tell a lot of small lies. When we studied in CBSI the book of James, I decided not to speak lies and speak only truth. I prayed. God forgave me and gave me strength to speak truth. Speaking truth has set me free. I also used to have a guilty conscience and condemn myself. The Bible study from the Epistle of John helped me to accept forgiveness in my life."

Mishra's life is eternally changed because of Jesus—and because of investors who understood the truth about real ROI. David spoke from this kingdom perspective in Psalm 119: *"Truly, I love your commands more than gold, even the finest gold.... Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money!... Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found"* (verses 127, 36, 35, NLT).

Thank you for giving, friends! I trust that you are pleased with the returns being realized around the world because of your generosity.



Grateful for you,

Keith Sparzak
International Director

