



# GLOBAL IMPACT REPORT

*Partnering to Bring God's Word to the World*

2022





## THE GLOBAL IMPACT FUND

*Accelerating Scripture Translation for Those Who Wait*

**THE GLOBAL IMPACT FUND** is changing the landscape of Bible translation by providing the ability and flexibility to move resources to the field when and where they are most urgently needed. Your generous, strategic support of this fund maximizes the effectiveness of your investment, ensuring that:

- local field partners and translation teams receive training as soon as communities are ready to begin work.
- team members who show promise as future Bible translation consultants are developed and trained.
- field partners who are eager to learn more about building organizational capacity are mentored.
- innovative methodologies, new technologies, and productivity initiatives are readily available.

Thank you for extending your reach through the Global Impact Fund. You are on the front lines of accelerating Scripture translation for those still waiting.

# GROWING ROOTS TOGETHER

*Partnering to Bring God's Word to the World*



Theologian and philosopher Saint Augustine once famously said of the Scriptures, “Even if I were attempting to study them and nothing else from early boyhood to decrepit old age, with the utmost leisure, the most unwearied zeal, and talents greater than I have, I would still daily be making progress in discovering their treasures.”

Oh, that we would always remember the continual depth of *treasure* we have in God’s Word. When we do, we are rich in every way, and we are inspired to share that wealth with those who don’t yet have it. As you turn the pages of this Global Impact Report, I pray you are refreshed by the treasure finding its way into waiting communities in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Because you support the Global Impact Fund, local translators have what they need to give their people access to heart language Scripture.

Your faithful giving to global translation on a broader scale also supports our internship program. Local leaders are matched with kingdom-minded mentors who understand that no task is too small when it comes to multiplying and accelerating eternal work.

Enjoy with me the treasure found in these stories, stories inspired by the greatest treasure of all.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry B. Jones".

**Larry B. Jones, PhD**

President and Chief Executive Officer



# CELEBRATING DECADES OF GLOBAL IMPACT

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**1,903 LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES**

*engaged since 1993.*

*In 2021 alone, we celebrated*

**900 LANGUAGE ENGAGEMENTS**

*in partnership with*

**166 FIELD PARTNERS**

*in* **81 COUNTRIES.**





# PRESSING FORWARD WITH ETERNAL URGENCY

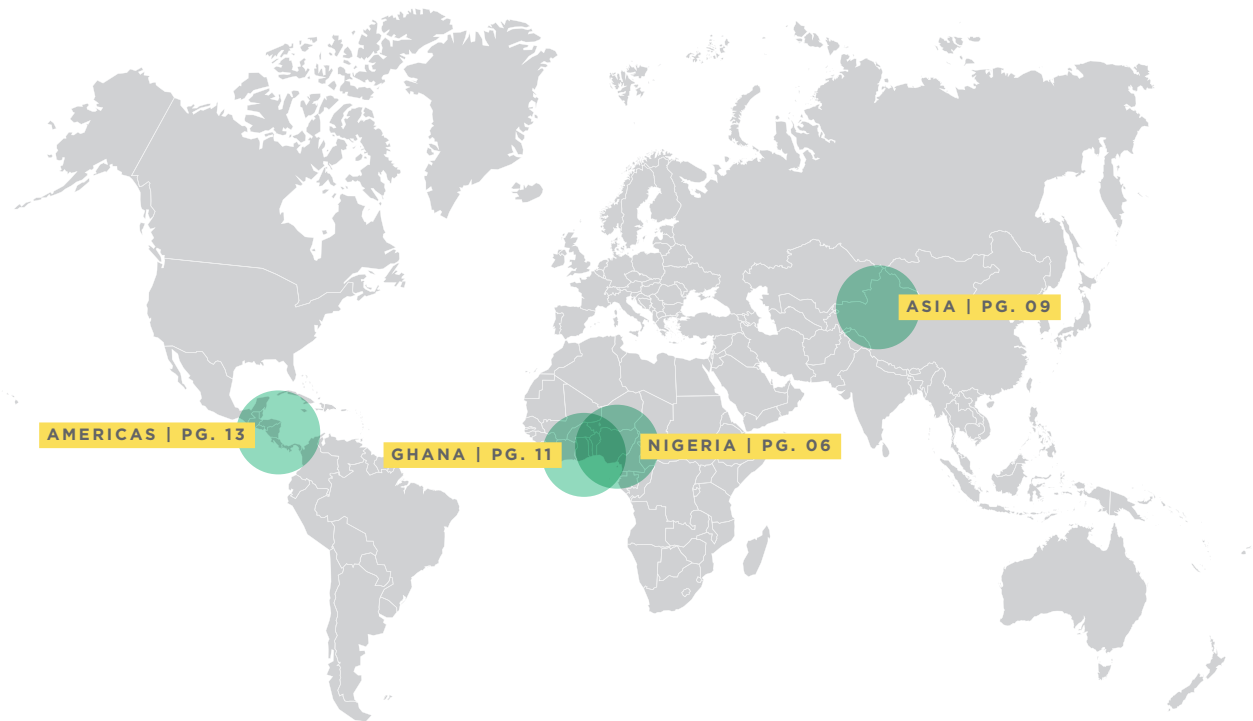
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1,849\* LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES ARE  
STILL WAITING FOR GOD'S WORD.

*But through our internship program, Oral Bible Storytelling,  
partnerships with local churches, and technological innovations ...*

*We're reaching them faster than ever before!*

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## In the first half of fiscal year 2022, Seed Company:

- pursued Bible translations for 866 language communities representing 129 countries around the globe.
- brought on seven new quality assurance interns and 16 capacity building interns to facilitate the work.
- started orality-based translations in more than 10 language communities.

Data as of 03/31/22.

\* This cumulative data fluctuates based on the discovery of new languages in need of Bible translation.

“

*Our goal is not to just get a book translated. A book is not the end result. It's transformed lives.*

”

**BERNIE MAY**  
SEED COMPANY FOUNDER



## BUILDING BIBLE TRANSLATION CAPACITY THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

*In Nigeria, Local Organizations Grow from the Ground Up*



In the next few years, as we count down the number of languages without a single verse of Scripture, one of our top priorities is multiplying global Bible translation capacity—which can only be accomplished by coming alongside local field partners. The Global Impact Fund helps to make this exponential growth possible as we target some of the largest remaining needs on earth.

*Seed Company's Internship Program was developed so that promising individuals with translation expertise and leadership potential could receive further training and professional development.*

Nigeria alone has almost 200 languages without God's Word. Meeting a need this size will require a significant increase in background support. Seed Company's Internship Program was developed so that promising individuals with translation expertise and leadership potential could receive further training and professional development.

We need consultants and exegetical facilitators (mid-level quality assurance checkers) who can review the translated texts, but we also need those who can build capacity in their translation organizations. A successfully run translation project requires more than just identifying and training those who will work closely with biblical texts. It also takes a great deal of leadership for projects to run smoothly in people management, efficient operations, and field programming.

## MULTIPLYING EFFECTIVENESS BEGINS WITH THE BASICS

Hilary is not a translator, but her job is just as important to completing Bible translation projects. She serves with Seed Company as a financial analyst alongside eight different local Nigerian field partners, training interns as they build fundamental financial and computer skills. “Seed Company helped start mom-and-pop translation organizations working out of people’s homes across Nigeria,” she explains. “They might have people who know how to do bookkeeping, or they might not.”

Her role at Seed Company requires a higher level of flexibility than most financial analyst job descriptions. She remembers moments in Nigeria when the power went out during training, or the room they were working in was around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. “One time,” she recalls, “I was there to train someone how to code and use Excel, and we had to start with how to turn on the computer.” She’s received packets of paper receipts in the mail that she scanned, one by one,

into the computer, and she’s even received budgets on napkins before. But today, many of those same field partners are working confidently in Excel and sending her their budgets electronically.

By investing in local partners, Seed Company can help them grow in capacity to engage additional languages. But this isn’t a one-size-fits-all training. Language barriers and internet connectivity issues can present problems. In addition, some team members live and work in dangerous areas. “Team members have had laptops stolen,” Hilary says. “Sometimes I’ll get a WhatsApp message with something like, ‘Sorry the report will be a day late, but our car got hijacked on the way to the office this morning.’ We have people whose homes have been burned down, and one translator was shot, so we have people dealing with all of that while doing Bible translation.”

Despite all these obstacles, Nigerian believers are pressing on to see God’s Word reach all people in their country.





## PARTNERING FINANCIALLY, TECHNOLOGICALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY

“In Nigeria, we’re having to get creative to reach people faster,” Hilary says. For example, new projects are incorporating Oral Bible Storytelling and women’s trauma healing. “It’s very grassroots, so I feel like we’re building a structure of translation organizations. It’s been cool to see them work with each other and get to know each other—to see the unity being brought across the country.”

Even as Hilary helps interns set budgets, she is helping these organizations look at the bigger picture. She encourages interns to ask questions like: What’s attainable? How much will it cost? Are the translators getting paid on time? Step by step, she walks with them as they grow in financial stewardship and management capacity.

*“We’re all working together, and we all want to help each other be better. We’re all in it for the same goal—and the goal isn’t about us.”*

— HILARY, FINANCIAL ANALYST

“We’re all working together, and we all want to help each other be better. We’re all in it for the same goal—and the goal isn’t about us. It’s about getting things done efficiently and cost-effectively.”

Some days, Hilary gets up at 5 a.m. to join Nigerian finance interns on Zoom calls at a time that works best for them. During the first 20 or 30 minutes, an intern will pick a Scripture, read it in their own language, and share how God is speaking to them through it.

“The way these interns understand Scripture is amazing,” she reflects. “Last month, one picked a Scripture and said, ‘We finally got it translated, so I can read it to you in our language!’ It had just gotten translated, so it’s pretty cool to see it happening in real time.”

Hilary is very much part of these interns’ lives. She not only mentors them in finance and budgeting but also prays with and for them. “I talk to most of them every week,” she says. “They send me pictures of their kids, pictures of their families.”

When one thinks of meeting the goal of engaging all language groups with at least some Scripture, building up local financial and technological capacity might not be the first thing that comes to mind. But it’s a vital part of what it will take to see the number of Bibleless people groups reach zero.

“It’s hard to find a better cause than giving God’s Word to people,” Hilary believes. “I’m seeing it change lives, families, and marriages.”

May God’s Word continue to change even more lives throughout Nigeria as local partner organizations are built up and equipped to reach all remaining languages in their country!



*Watch Hilary’s story of helping to build local Nigerian organizations from the ground up!*

Click or hover over the QR code above.

## OPENING NEW DOORS WITH ORAL STORYTELLING

*Softening Skepticism among the Unreached*



Most people in the three language communities of the Choral Opals Cluster worship and present sacrifices to numerous false gods. They distrust outsiders and typically reject any teaching that's brought in by strangers.

But when local storytellers share oral Bible stories with them, they are willing and happy to listen.

Take the Osavayar people, for example. They live in fear of the spirit world, often seeking out practitioners of black magic for relief from sicknesses and demonic possession. Only about 3 percent of them follow Christ. But because

of oral storytelling, they now have a chance to hear about the God who sacrifices for *them*. A God whose character is constant. A God who keeps his promises.

When a storyteller named Steve shared the story of Abraham and Isaac with several Osavayar listeners, they paid rapt attention. At first, the listeners wondered why God would ask Abraham to sacrifice the son he'd longed for for so long, saying it was "a very sad thing and time of great testing" for Abraham.



But then Steve asked, “Is there anything interesting you noticed in the story?” A listener named Chad replied, “At the end, God provided the animal for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son.”

Chad thanked Steve for sharing this story. He explained that he hadn’t been interested in hearing any teaching from Christians until he heard about Abraham and Isaac. Now he wants to hear all the other oral Bible stories and learn more about this new faith. Steve continues to visit Chad, faithfully sowing the seeds of God’s Word into his heart.

Another time, Steve shared the story of Abraham and Isaac with an Osavako speaker named Daksh. Daksh listened closely as Steve explained that God was testing Abraham and that Abraham’s willingness to surrender even what he loved most proved his faithful commitment to God. When the story ended, Daksh confessed that he’d felt quite worried when Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son. He was happy when God saved Isaac’s life by providing an animal to take his place.

*“From childhood onward, I have joined my parents in worshiping many gods and goddesses but have remained ignorant of this God.”*

— DAKSH, OSAVAKO SPEAKER

Daksh told Steve, “From childhood onward, I have joined my parents in worshiping many gods and goddesses but have remained ignorant of this God.” He said he’d be glad to hear additional stories so he can learn more about the God in this story.

Like the people of Athens in Acts 17, the people groups of the Choral Opals Cluster worship many different gods. But that’s because most of them still haven’t heard about the one true God who “gives life and breath to everything” and “satisfies every need,” including providing the atoning sacrifice for all humanity (Acts 17:25b). God’s Word, shared orally, is lighting up their darkness—one listener at a time.

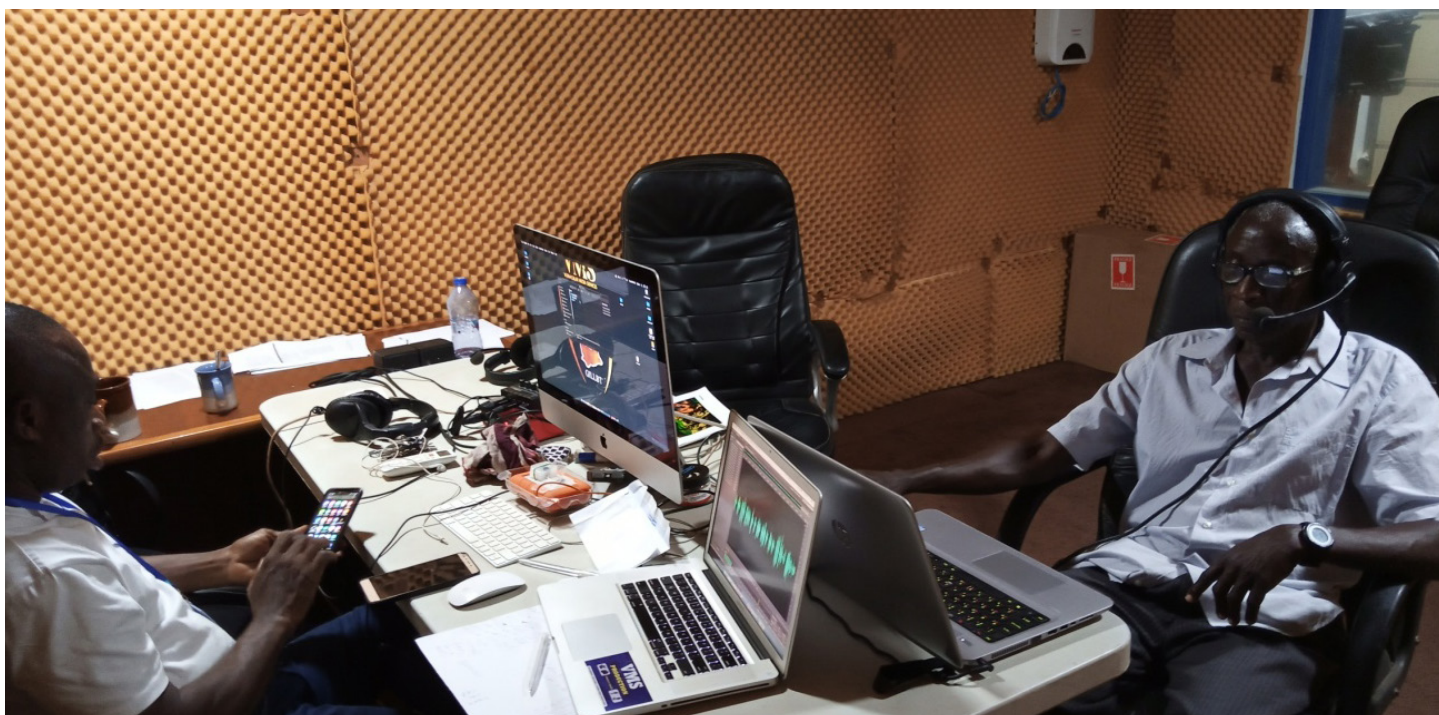


*Discover more about oral  
Bible translation strategies!*

Click or hover over the QR code above.

## PARTNERING WITH LOCAL CHURCHES TO TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

*Breaking Superstitions, Establishing Kingdom Values*



Cultural traditions often provide an important sense of belonging to members of a community. Yet traditions can also *paralyze* communities—especially when they’re connected to evil spirits and superstitions. Thankfully, translated Scriptures can help God’s people uncover the truth, shattering their dependence on misguided traditions and transforming their lives like never before.

Such has been the case for the Nkonya people of south-eastern Ghana. Though most Nkonya identify as Christian, their allegiance to local superstitions often remains stronger than their faith. Deeply attached to their land, their language,

their chieftain leadership structure, and their cultural festivals, many also idolize their ancestors, who are given increased importance in the community *after* they die.

“In our custom, when someone dies, family members usually get undertakers to carry the dead body and perform traditional rituals,” explains translator Emmanuel. The undertakers “always try to attribute deaths to either community or family members.” Those who violate local customs may be accused of angering ancestors who, in turn, cause sickness and death.



But thanks to the translation of the New Testament, plus Genesis, Exodus, and the Psalms, these superstitions are losing their grip on the community. “Most people now believe that God is the creator and taker of life,” says Emmanuel. “God decides when to call every human being to himself.” Christian funerals now outnumber traditional funerals, meaning that an increasing number of Nkonya speakers can avoid the blame and shame long associated with their loved ones’ deaths.

Today, Nkonya Scriptures are read in churches, preached from the pulpit, and used in discussions and Bible studies. As a result, traditions based on superstitions are gradually being replaced by new, more wholesome practices. Quarreling, prostitution, and alcohol abuse are falling away as believers learn more about the clean living promoted in God’s Word.

### LITERACY BENEFITS EXTEND FAR BEYOND SIMPLY LEARNING TO READ

In many areas around the world, Christianity is associated with education and literacy efforts, and it’s no different in Nkonya communities. Thanks to Christian organizations, Nkonya villages have their own elementary and junior secondary schools, and all villages are served by a centrally located

senior secondary school. The schools have produced several students who have risen to high levels in the fields of government, education, religion, engineering, medicine, and law.

The Nkonya Bible translation team comes alongside these existing literacy efforts through church-based programs designed to help adults learn to read and write while interacting with scriptural truths. Among those who have benefited from the literacy classes is Manu, who admits that, as a young man, he had lost interest in his faith with no plans on ever returning to church.

But after the dedication of the Nkonya New Testament, Manu started hearing God’s Word in his language, and this stirred an interest in learning to read. He joined a Nkonya literacy class and soon acquired reading skills. And interactions with Scripture drew him back to church! Manu describes, “It was then that I realized God was speaking to me. I enjoyed reading the Bible in my mother tongue and developed a desire to teach his Word to others.”

Manu has since become a Sunday school teacher, pastor, and a reviewer of Nkonya Scriptures. “When I read the Nkonya New Testament, I can understand it fully ... I am overjoyed and thankful for the opportunity God has given me to preach.”



*Watch the story of Berki, an oral Bible storyteller in Ethiopia, who also left traditional cultural practices for the culture of God’s kingdom.*

Click or hover over the QR code above.

## REACHING THE UNREACHED THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

*All People Are Worth the Cost*



In the lush, tropical area where the five indigenous groups of the Pueblos Cluster live, “it’s a great challenge to achieve much, with all the logistical challenges,” writes Seed Company field project manager Tim.

Their country’s economy has been devastated. Translators often have difficulty obtaining food and medicine for their families. Electricity and internet access are unreliable. Banks are barely operating, and the national currency is in jeopardy. Lack of cash, gasoline, and public transportation makes translation activities like workshops and comprehension testing quite challenging.

In addition, translation teams risk government surveillance. “Any organization that receives funding from foreign organizations is considered a ‘traitor to the homeland,’ which warrants being very prudent—especially when translators carry their computers while traveling. It is seen as suspicious that the indigenous people have such equipment,” Tim explains.

But no matter how remote or small the people group, no matter how difficult they are to reach, they’re worth every sacrifice in God’s sight. Time and time again, the Lord chases down and rescues the marginalized, the least of these, and the overlooked. Bible translation helps indigenous people groups see themselves and their languages in a whole new light, with worth and dignity in the sight of God.



## REDEEMED FROM A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

One Kumoko Patuma translator received devastating news: her children had murdered a drug trafficker and were receiving threats from powerful groups wanting to avenge his death. But in such dark times, God's Word brings hope.

*With a sense of eternal urgency, she traveled to the mountains to share the gospel with her children, leaving a Proclaimer audio device with them so they could continue listening to the message.*

With a sense of eternal urgency, she traveled to the mountains to share the gospel with her children, leaving a Proclaimer audio device with them so they could continue listening to the message.

"Days later," reports a team member, "we received news that Andrew, the most rebellious of them toward the gospel, had been touched through the stories and the Gospel of Luke in his language." Andrew says, "Now I understand the Word of God clearly. This device is my pastor, because [it] teaches me every day. No one comes up here to teach us, but now we have our own pastor who teaches us in our language."

In a remote area with no local church, Andrew and his entire household now listen to the Proclaimer every day. Even his children have memorized the Bible stories by heart!



*Technology helps to reach the most remote people groups with God's Word. In addition to Proclaimer audio devices, translators are also using the "JESUS" film to reach Kumoko Patuma communities.*

## AMAZED THAT GOD SPEAKS AMOSHANAMUKON

When the Amoshanamukon team distributed the Gospel of Luke throughout the community, the people were “shocked,” reports translator Piejko. It was the first time they’d ever seen the Word of God written in their own language.

Team members stayed with the people a while, listening to their stories and testimonies. Piejko recalls that many received Luke’s Gospel with tears of joy, saying, “God speaks our language too!”

Before transitioning to written translation, Piejko originally started working in Bible translation as an oral Bible storyteller in the first Pueblos Cluster project. He remembers, “As I got to know and translate the Word of God, it changed my life and the lives of my relatives. Three of my family members have come to accept Christ, and every day, the others continue to draw closer to God’s way.”

“For this reason, I want to continue in the translation, continue knowing God more, and continue to impact native speakers from other indigenous communities,” Piejko added.

Carmen, a member of the Amoshanamukon community who’s helped with comprehension testing and showing the “JESUS” film, recalls, “I didn’t understand the Word of God in Spanish very well. It made it difficult for me to share the good news.” But today, she thanks God that his Word is available in her language.

“I felt that I could not read the Word ... but last year, the group of brothers that accompanied the translation team was blessed with a device I had never seen. They tell me it is called a Proclaimer. Now, I can hear the Word of God. I have had the opportunity to hold it in my hands, and I have been able to share the message in my own language with my brothers, sisters, relatives, and neighbors when we meet in homes for coffee.”



*Learn more about how technology  
like the Proclaimer is accelerating  
Bible translation all over the world!*

Click or hover over the QR code above.

### KEY TERMS

- Produced by Faith Comes By Hearing, a **Proclaimer** is a solar- or hand-powered device loaded with audio Scripture for use in primarily oral cultures.
- In **comprehension testing**, community members listen as translators read drafted material and then answer questions that help the team determine if the translation communicates clearly and naturally.
- Roughly 75% to 85% of the world’s population (including many who are literate) prefer to interact with spiritual truth through oral communication. **Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS)** enables them to easily share stories from God’s Word in their own language. When these stories are told in a tone and style that speaks to the audience, people remember what they’ve seen and heard.



“

*For I am about to do something new.  
See, I have already begun! Do you  
not see it? I will make a pathway  
through the wilderness. I will create  
rivers in the dry wasteland.*

”

— ISAIAH 43:19



## HE CREATES RIVERS IN THE DRY WASTELAND

Through the stories in these reports, we've discovered some of the creative paths God's Word travels to reach the hearts of his children. The written word. Audio devices. Oral Bible storytelling. Church-based literacy programs. All are avenues that bring light in darkness, hope in suffering, and peace in pain. We acknowledge anew that God is always making a way for his children to respond to him in love, no matter the cost.

As you reflect on how he has revealed himself in your own life, we invite you to join us in remembering those who are still waiting for Scripture they understand—Scripture that assures them of a new, better way.



*Join us in praying for God's Word in  
every language, in this generation.*

Click or hover over the QR code above.



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