

SUGGESTIONS FOR PUBLISHERS LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE

1. Jehovah, by means of his holy spirit, is inciting his people to search out precious ones in all languages to share with them the good news in the Bible. (Hag. 2:7; Rev. 14:6) You are seeing firsthand why Jesus urged his disciples to “beg the Master” for more Kingdom workers. (Matt. 9:36-38) So that you thrive spiritually as you serve in a different language field, please consider the following.

2. **Learn the Language and the Culture:** Learning a new language cannot be left to chance. To make progress, you must shoulder your personal responsibility. Follow a definite plan so that you can reach your full potential. Make it a habit to read aloud five to ten minutes each day. Reading the daily text will be helpful. Studying the language for 15 to 30 minutes each day often provides more benefits than longer study periods once or twice a week. Recall the Bible principle: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Cor. 9:6) One missionary stated: “There is little one can do to help the people without learning the language. This provides real incentive to study diligently.” By adding one or two words to your vocabulary each day and then using those words, you will soon learn and know how to use hundreds of words. If the language you are learning is included in the *JW Language* app, this will further enhance your efforts.—*w08* 8/15 pp. 22-25; *g* 3/07 pp. 10-12; *w06* 3/15 pp. 17-20.

3. Get involved in the theocratic activities of the congregation. Strive to preach weekly in the new language. Make yourself available to present student assignments on the Life and Ministry Meeting so that you can learn how to express yourself well in the ministry. Participate freely in the meetings, even if in the beginning your comment is only a simple one. If you are intimidated by the language or are shy, remember that others have successfully overcome such challenges and you can too. (*yb00* p. 56; *w00* 6/1 pp. 20-25) If you become frustrated because you are not able to express yourself as well as you would like, remember the progress you have already made in your ability to share the good news in the new language. You will make even more progress as you ask Jehovah to bless your sincere, earnest efforts to glorify his name.

4. Love the brothers, and build close friendships in the congregation. This will help you adapt to your new environment. (1 Cor. 13:1) Take into account the brothers’ ideas, eating habits, and customs. If you try to understand their point of view and circumstances, you will readily gain friends and seldom offend others. Do not promote culture. Rather, promote Christian unity by focusing on the Kingdom and following theocratic direction.—*ju* p. 220 par. 1.

5. **Keep Your Motives Pure:** What motivates you to persevere in learning another language? No doubt it is your love for Jehovah and for people. (Matt. 22:37-39) Such a pure motive will help you to accept that making mistakes is part of the learning process. There is no need to feel ashamed when it happens. Do not take yourself too seriously. Display a sense of humor; be willing to laugh at your own mistakes. Be patient with yourself, and be kind to others as you deal with the unexpected and uncomfortable situations that may arise. Keep in mind that the most important thing is preaching the good news of the Kingdom. By showing sincere personal interest in others and becoming an effective preacher and teacher in the new language, you will have a full share in whatever increase Jehovah gives.—*be* pp. 186-189.

6. **Be Conscious of Your Spiritual Need:** Giving of yourself in a different language field will bring you much happiness. (Acts 20:35) Although basic Bible truths will be sounded down into your heart and mind again as you learn the new language, you should continue to read and study the Bible in your mother tongue. Your ongoing program of spiritual training in your first language will help you stay spiritually strong.

7. **Be Realistic:** What can you do if you are not grasping the language as quickly as you would like and you are thinking about returning to a congregation that uses your mother tongue? Before doing so, speak with an elder or a mature friend. (Prov. 15:22) Such confidential talk can help you get a fresh view of what may be troubling you so that you can press ahead with a positive attitude. Ask yourself the following questions: ‘Am I beginning to comprehend the congregation meetings? Do I participate at the meetings, making brief comments? Do I give understandable presentations in the ministry? Am I staying spiritually strong, cultivating the fruitage of the spirit, and working for the peace of the congregation?’

8. If after careful self-examination, you decide that it would be better to return to a congregation that uses your mother tongue, do not view your decision as a step backward in your spiritual progress. (Mic. 6:8) You will always cherish the experiences and the friendships you have gained by helping those who speak a different language come to know Jehovah.