

Grant Name	In Every Tongue - Translators for MOST Ministries Teams
Mission/Project Summary	<p>MOST Ministries, an RSO of the LCMS, provides short term mission opportunities for individuals to support Christian ministries throughout the world through witness and service. MOST mission teams address spiritual and physical needs through eyeglass clinics, medical clinics, water filtration projects, and other outreach and human care projects as requested by our national church partners. Each team is trained to give a clear presentation of the Gospel while meeting physical needs.</p> <p>As teams serve in diverse countries around the world, the dependence of mostly English-speaking teams upon skilled local translators is absolutely essential. While MOST Ministries team members offer their hearts and hands, they rely on these native speakers to be their voices! The goals of this proposal is to fund translation services for multiple mission trips.</p>
Project Description and Details	<p>MOST Ministries sends multiple mission teams every year (19 teams in 2025) and the vast majority of these trips serve people who do not speak English. MOST works with the local pastor/missionary host to arrange for multiple translators to help with the the local project. For instance, if that project is an eyeglass clinic which is set up with a minimum of six stations - each station typically requires a translator. MOST typically pays a minimum of \$600 for translation services to cover the needs for each mission team. A grant of \$6,000 would help MOST pay for translation services for up to 10 mission teams.</p>
The recipient must be affiliated with one of the following. Please select the one that applies to this request:	<p><b>Registered Service Organization (RSO)</b></p>
Amount requested:	\$6,000
Project Goals and Objectives	<p>The goals of this project is to help MOST Ministries pay for translation services for up to 10 mission teams over the course of the next biennium.</p>
Budget Outline and Financial Plan	<p>MOST Ministries budgets a minimum of \$600 for translation services for its mission teams in the non-English speaking countries where the vast majority of its mission teams serve. A grant of \$6,000 would help MOST pay for translation services for up to 10 mission teams - about half of the mission teams MOST would expect to send in a given year.</p>
Additional Comments or Information	<p>Thank you,</p> <p>Marty Moro mmoro@mostministries.org</p>



## **Information Brief for Mission Grant Proposal** ***“In Every Tongue” - Funding Translators for MOST Ministries Teams***

**Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries** is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS whose mission is to *“provide short term mission opportunities for individuals to support Christian ministries throughout the world through witness and service.”* Since 1989, MOST Ministries has served in over fifty countries at the request of Lutheran missionaries and national church leaders, addressing spiritual and physical needs through eyeglass clinics, medical and dental clinics, water filtration and health and hygiene education, women’s and children’s ministries, and other outreach and human care projects requested by our national church partners.

Each team is trained to give a clear presentation of the Gospel while meeting physical needs. However, the Word tells us, *“How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”* (Romans 10:14) This presupposes that the preaching is in the language they understand. As teams serve in countries as diverse as Belize, Guatemala, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, the dependence of mostly English-speaking teams upon skilled local translators is absolutely essential. While MOST Ministries team members offer their hearts and hands, they rely on these native speakers to be their voices!

Our most-requested mission project, the eyeglass clinic, requires a translator at each station: registration, nursing (general eye health), vision testing, dispensing of eyeglasses, fitting, and evangelism. When serving tribal minorities or making evangelism visits to villages in countries such as Tanzania, teams may require one translator to convey a message from English to the national language (e.g. Swahili) and another to interpret that message from Swahili into a tribal dialect. Translation services typically cost MOST Ministries about \$600 per mission team. If we are able to send 20 to 25 mission teams in a year, the total cost for a year will be between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

Grant monies will facilitate partnerships with translators who may not yet be Christian, or who may need their faith strengthened. This provides an opportunity for them to receive up-close exposure to Lutheran team members and to our host church workers as they hear the Word in local languages. They are also forming bonds of respect, appreciation, and Christian love with brothers and sisters from different parts of the world.

Sandy Hardies, who has led or served on 47 teams with MOST Ministries over a 20-year period, comments,

*“The translators are so important to us in communication with our host and the people we are ministering to. They are so faithful in getting the Word into their hearts. Even some of our translators who were not already followers of Jesus have absorbed the message of salvation and become members of the churches we have been serving.”*

Bethel Larsen, an LWML member who has served on numerous teams since 2007, adds,

*“I have seen firsthand how vitally important competent translators are in helping MOST Ministries teams fulfill their missions. They become friends who not only help us communicate effectively in fitting eyeglasses or explaining how to clean a Sawyer water filter, but also in other necessary interactions with local people. I’ve known them to engage a group of rowdy children in a singing game, keep us out of trouble when our cultural understanding is deficient, and in general serve as indispensable members of our MOST teams. On a MOST medical team to Guatemala, the crucial need for an accurate, compassionate relay of the doctor’s instructions was filled by a man recovering from his own surgery, and the young mother who served as translator for the dietitian absorbed the information so well that she could step in and substitute when the dietitian needed to rest her voice. Good translators are absolutely vital. We really could not function without them!”*

A Guatemalan translator explains:

*“In my role as a translator I can be in touch with the people and that is an opportunity to share the Gospel about Jesus Christ.”*

By funding a portion of the cost of translation services over the biennium (totaling between \$24,000 and \$30,000), the requested Mission Grant of \$6,000 will enable more people living in poverty to receive eyeglasses, clean water, health and hygiene education, sewing classes; and most importantly, to enable more people in more countries to hear the life-giving Good News of Jesus “In Every Tongue”: their own heart language!

The need is on-going and ready for implementation. MOST Ministries plans to send 20 to 25 teams per year to countries all over the world. The grant monies received will be used exclusively to pay for translation services for MOST Ministries teams over the next two years. MOST Ministries’ business manager will document and provide an account of the disbursement of the grant monies. This grant request will partially fund the cost of translation services.