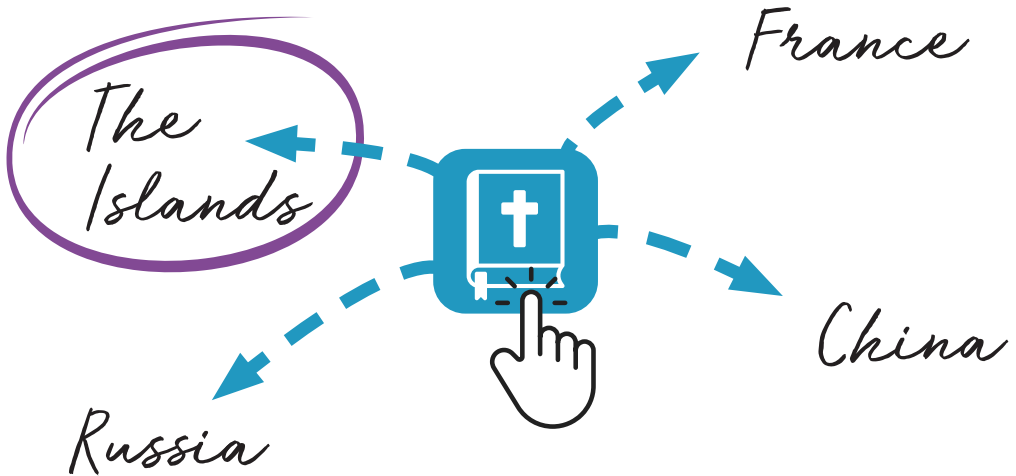


# THERE'S AN **APP** FOR THAT

Amelia\* has seen a lot of change during her time working on the Islands, especially the impact technology has had on how they do ministry.



## A NEW PROJECT BRINGS NEW HOPE

Have you ever wondered what it would be like not to have God's Word in your own language? Now imagine what it would be like to disciple someone without God's Word in their language - I can assure you it is no easy thing!

This made the advent of the translation project in the Islands the start of an exciting new period in Islands ministry. It was an incredible thing to go from trying to do ministry with practically nothing available to knowing that with each passing day more and more of God's Word was being translated and tested and recorded.

And while Bible translation is a notoriously slow business, gone are the days of having to wait for an entire Bible, a New Testament, or even a book to be finished, and then printed and then shipped. These days things work a little differently – and a little more speedily!

## GOING GLOBAL

We only had a few chapters of the Bible completed but that didn't mean we didn't have big plans for them. One of our very first Scripture releases was a phone app called 'The story of the prophet Adam', this was just three chapters of the Bible. It featured text paired with audio, along with locally inspired art and design. The audio was key. Many people couldn't read their own language well, but actually learned better orally.

Not only could we share this app with those we came into contact with, but we could even send it by WhatsApp to local friends who had travelled abroad. But learning from other workers around the world we realised we could also put it on Google Play and advertise it on Facebook. So we did, and it went far and wide. In the first month there were over 1000 downloads, and not just in the Islands – but everywhere that Islanders ended up: Russia, China, France. God's Word was being downloaded by Islanders all over the world!

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

### STRANGERS IN A TAXI

On two different occasions Farid, one of the local translators, saw them in use in real life. On one occasion a man missed his stop while riding in their shared taxi, because he was so engrossed in what he was listening to on one of our apps. Another time, a girl sitting next to Farid had an app open on her phone and before she got out, he was able to share another app with her. These are just two examples of people in God's Word who would probably never have encountered it if not for these incredible new tech tools.



## OPENING UP OPPORTUNITIES

But we don't just share these apps at a distance; it also opens up new ways to disciple and share our faith as we are no longer limited to our language ability! New workers can share a short testimony with a friend and then offer to play them a Bible story connected with it. Locals who can only haltingly read their own language are able to listen each day to a bit more of Scripture – and following along with the audio helps them to become much more fluent in their reading ability, giving them not only important literacy skills, but also broadening the ways they can access Scripture.



## A PHONE GIVES PRIVACY

But speed, reach and accessibility are not the only advantages. In a country where nobody reads books but everybody is constantly on their phones, looking at your phone draws much less attention than reading a book. Anywhere, any place, any time you have God's Word with you – and you can engage with it without worrying about whose attention you might be drawing. There is still a place for the printed Word, but apps have undeniably come alongside as a vital partner in seeing God's kingdom spread and his Church grow strong.



Give thanks for the advancement of technology which has allowed the Bible to be opened up to those in nations that are closed to the gospel.