Oral Translation Process:

1. Begin by learning C2C well in a known common language (i.e. English, Chinese or a trade language) so that you can tell it as a story (not as a memorized presentation).
2. Teach a bi-lingual believer(s) to tell the story well in the common language.
3. Break C2C down into the 8 parts. Begin working on translating part 1.
4. Translate any key terms from the part (i.e. Most High God, spirits, demons, etc)
5. If there are key terms that are not easily translated, use the following process:
   a. Re-express the meaning…
      Possible solutions:
      1) Use a descriptive phrase (ex: pen = thing used to write; watch = thing for measuring movement of the sun)
      2) Substitute something similar which is known in the receptor language (ex: 1 Peter 5: lion -> leopard - both are fierce animals that eat lesser animals)
         a. doesn't change the meaning
         b. must fit the bible culture and time
         c. good solution for illustration or figure of speech but not good for historical event
         d. be careful with biblical themes like "vine and vineyard" which are found in both NT & OT
      3) Use foreign word from another language
   b. Guidelines…
      Avoid foreign words (trade language) if possible
      1) Where it is necessary to use a foreign word (trade language), introduce it with a general word or descriptive phrase to give some idea of meaning
      2) Think about what is important in the meaning in context. Is the main point clear?
      3) Avoid long descriptions which distract the reader from the main point of the passage.
      4) Historical facts must not be changed.
      5) Ideas that would be out of place in the biblical culture must not be introduced.
      6) Other passages where the same idea is mentioned should be taken into account, especially if there is a biblical theme involved.
      7) Use supplementary aids such as pictures to provide additional background information.
6. After settling how you will translate key terms, have the mother tongue translator (MTT) attempt to tell the part of C2C you are working on in the heart language.
7. Have the MTT tell in multiple times out loud until it is said naturally (like a story).
   a. Have the MTT imagine he is telling it to a non-believer. Will they understand?
   b. Have the MTT imagine he is telling it to his grandmother in the village. Will she understand?
8. Once you and the MTT are confident this part of the story is being told well in a way a non-believing believer could understand, record the story (using a digital recorder).
9. Get another person (preferable a non-believer and someone who doesn't know the MTT so there will be no 'losing face' issues) to back translate the part of the story into the known common language (i.e. Chinese). Does it match the original meaning?
10. Ask the back translator to explain the meaning of the part in their own words in the common language (i.e. Chinese)? Does it agree with the meaning?
11. Revise the translation based on the input of the back translator.

12. Have the MTT re-tell the story based on the input.
13. Re-record the story.
14. Test again with additional back translators until the meaning and understanding matches the original.
15. Repeat steps 4-14 for each part of C2C.
16. Record the story as a whole (not in parts) with the MTT telling it.
17. Repeat steps 9-12 again with the whole story.
18. Revise as needed.
19. Record.
20. Finally, transcribe the recorded story onto paper as master standard for future generations to compare to.
21. Avoid giving the written translation out. Everyone should learn to tell C2C as a story. That's the power of it (not handed out as a tract).