



# Aché New Testament

## Traces of the Old Life

In the Aché community of Puerto Barra, six teenage girls showed signs of being demon possessed. Aché church leaders called many Paraguayan and Brazilian pastors to come pray and offer help. This incident revealed some traces of the old life still evident among the Aché believers, such as superstition, fear and animistic beliefs.

This gave project director Victor an opportunity to share in a very exciting time of preaching and Bible study with the Puerto Barra residents. After two weeks of receiving input from pastors of different denominations, Victor taught the people on the subject of prayer and spiritual warfare. Thus began a special time of Bible study with the whole community, based on the text of Joshua 24:15: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Victor said, "I think the Lord is lifting up Puerto Barra to be a light for the other five Aché communities. Praise the Lord!"

## Aché Scriptures Strike a Chord

The Aché team is happy to report that they've back translated their draft of Acts in preparation for a consultant's check, which is taking place this month in an effort to make the translation clearer and more idiomatic. The passage about the young girl with a spirit of divination in Acts chapter 16 is particularly relevant during this time of spiritual oppression in Aché communities. According to that passage, evil spirits sometimes speak the truth (verse 17), which was a new insight for some.

In addition, the translators have drafted 2 Timothy to join the previously drafted 1 Timothy and made corrections to both books during a team check. A back translation of those books along with Ephesians is underway as well.

The team used 1 Timothy 4:1 to show that the danger of believers being influenced by demonic teaching, even among those who hold leadership positions in the church, is a very real one.

## Vital Books of the Bible

The team has drafted the book of Romans and made corrections through chapter 12. They've also drafted Philipians and Titus and made changes. The consultant's check of the Gospel of John took place too, as planned. A verse that struck the translators was John 8:44, in which Jesus taught that Satan always uses lies to get the attention of people.

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- Location: Paraguay
- Number of Speakers: 1,500
- Year Project Began: 2005
- Expected Completion Date: 2015

- Please pray for these six girls who continue to give some evidence of being demon possessed.
- Pray that God will use Bible studies and conversations about the spiritual realm to lead people to sound biblical knowledge and insight into these matters.
- Pray that Aché people will grow in their understanding of what the Bible has to say about witchcraft and sorcery and will deal with these topics in a scriptural manner.
- Pray that the vital message of these Scripture books will touch many Aché people.



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### Other Praise and Prayer Items

- **Praise God that Víctor was asked to write an article about the impact of Bible translation on indigenous peoples.**
- **Pray that Aché literacy materials to be used in schools will get printed. A literacy workshop for teachers is on the agenda once these materials are available.**
- **Pray that missionaries working among the Aché will look out for the good of the people and not try to instill a western denominational mindset but rather allow them to follow an Aché style of worship.**

### Fighting a Formidable Foe!

From the beginning of time, there's been an adversary bent on destroying a relationship between God and His people. In the Garden of Eden, the devil caused Adam and Eve to doubt the Lord's goodness. This led to their disobedience and brought sin into the world. They were then banished from the garden and cut off from an intimate relationship with their Father. But God had a plan of redemption in place and communicated His loving plan through the Scriptures.

However, our Enemy is a determined and devious foe. In Luke 8:12 we're told that as the seed of God's Word is sown in the hearts of people, "the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts so they may not believe and be saved." Since it's through the Scriptures that reconciliation and a restored relationship with God come, nothing is more harmful than when this life-giving truth is prevented from taking root in people's hearts.

Or is there something even worse than that? What if the Bible isn't available in the first place and the seeds of God's Word are never sown? This would certainly hinder any hope of relationship with God, as the truth of His love and plan of salvation would remain hidden. It's no wonder Bible translation projects so frequently face attacks. Satan works hard to stop the communication of God from getting through.

- **Pray that Satan's efforts will be thwarted so God's love can be effectively communicated to the Aché people and their hearts be drawn closer to Him.**

#### Six Steps of Translation

- 1. First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
- 2. Team Check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
- 3. Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
- 4. Back Translation:** translators translate the draft "back" into a major language for a non-native consultant.
- 5. Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
- 6. Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

ACHE NT UPDATE—2

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