

Aché New Testament

Born Naturalists

Aché students and teachers enjoy writing cultural stories in their own language. Many of the stories are jungle legends about birds or animals. Sometimes project advisor Victor has trouble identifying these creatures. So he gets together with translator Vicente or Pastor Eliseo to translate the cultural stories into Spanish. They also go to the internet to find the specific beast. Victor is learning about new specimens in the process.

Victor has yet to identify the small bird the people call *kiupiru*. Vicente and Eliseo have noted that *“it hides—perhaps under the ground or in the tall trees—and it appears the next spring or summer.”* After reading more about birds, Victor realized this one must be migratory, disappearing into the northern hemisphere for six or eight months of the year. He noted, *“The Aché people know a lot about nature without any science book!”*

Three “P Books” in Process

The Aché team has drafted the New Testament books of Philemon and 1 and 2 Peter in the mother tongue. Now they’re checking the translation as a group. Later, they’ll test the books in the local community to gauge if the message is communicating well.

Translation Step 2: Team-Check

The translation team carefully reviews the Scripture drafts together verse-by-verse, checking for accuracy and clarity.

- Please pray that the team can find the best renderings for theological words and concepts in the important letters of Philemon and 1 and 2 Peter.

Songs on CDs

From the Aché song festivals, local artists recorded 48 Aché songs and produced a master CD. Now the team is making copies to distribute to all six Aché communities. Each CD has a full color cover. They’ve already distributed more than 200 copies in Puerto Barra and they plan to take them to other communities soon.

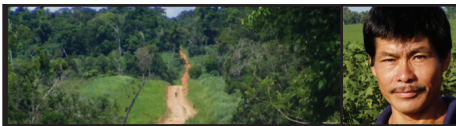
- Praise God for this music that reinforces the translated Scriptures and also encourages Aché speakers to use their own language.



- Location: Paraguay
- Number of Speakers: 1,500
- Project Goal: New Testament plus Old Testament portions, JESUS film
- Year Project Began: 2005
- Expected Completion Date: 2015



- Pray that these songs will draw many to a deeper walk with Christ.



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New Materials for a New Generation

Perhaps the idea of language extinction is a strange concept for most Americans. But the 1,500 Aché speakers are realizing they need to be intentional about preserving their language and culture. Since children usually learn Spanish rather than Aché in school, what



will keep their language from disappearing in coming generations? They need to know that God loves them

as Aché people, and that they don't need to learn another language and adopt another people's culture to be accepted by Him.

The Aché Bible translators have created an activity book so that Aché teachers can formally teach their own language to children and youth. The team will hold a literacy meeting soon to show the teachers what's available and help them learn to use the activity book effectively in their classrooms. This book will help preserve the language, encourage children to learn and use it and pave the way for the Word of God in their language to touch their hearts and bring them to Jesus.

Now We Know Better!

"So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then" (1 Peter 1:14).

When Aché believers read these words in their language for the first time, they'll realize how important they are to God and that they're His children, precious and unique to Him! The verse also admonishes them—and us—not to slip back into godless habits and selfishness. There are no excuses for misbehaving as God's children with His power available to us and His love motivating our obedience. Now we know better!

- **Pray that as Aché people understand more of God's Word, they'll learn to depend on His power to obey.**
- **Pray that as believers who've long understood what God has done for us, we too will choose to depend on His power to obey.**

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