



## Avatime

### An Occasion for Rejoicing

Project manager Divine and three other members of the Avatime team lived out the scriptural command to “*be happy with those who are happy*” (Romans 12:15) as they attended the dedication of the New Testaments of the Volta Cluster. That project was a joint effort across multiple organizations to bring God’s Word to four language groups in the Volta River region of Ghana.

The dedication offered an opportunity for representatives of The Seed Company to visit the Avatime project to engage in fruitful discussions that left the team highly encouraged.

Divine writes: “*We’re grateful to The Seed Company for taking time to visit us while in Ghana for the dedication of the Volta New Testaments. It was a real privilege to have you in our village to share our concerns and thoughts about the work you’ve entrusted to us. We’re committed to faithfully using the resources you provide to glorify God. May the Lord bless each of you richly. We serve together with you in developing the Avatime people for God’s kingdom.*”

- **Pray for sustained encouragement for the Avatime team as they strive diligently toward the day when they too will dedicate the Scriptures in the heart language of their people.**

### “I Am Putting a Stone on It”

Sometimes the translation process can illuminate the Scriptures in a whole new way. English speakers and readers are familiar with the phrase, “*I tell you the truth.*” It’s an expression Jesus often used in the Gospels. It appears 12 times in Mark’s Gospel, the first book the Avatime team translated. This familiar phrase, when translated literally into the Avatime language, is, “*I am putting a stone on it.*”

What a vivid picture of the permanence of God’s promises! No matter how difficult the circumstances, the promises stand—just as a stone remains where it’s placed when storms pass through.

### Building on the Foundation

The Avatime team has been concentrating on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and two short epistles (1 and 2 Thessalonians). After Edwards finished drafting Matthew he moved on to drafting 2 Thessalonians. Meanwhile, translator Manfred is pleased to report that he completed the draft of Luke and went on to translate 1 Thessalonians. The next step is to keyboard these Scriptures into the computer. The team still needs to begin work on John’s Gospel and Acts.



- **Location: Ghana, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 24,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2005**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2015**

- **Praise God for His protection, sustenance and good health for the Avatime team and their families. Pray that they’ll continue to enjoy the Lord’s hand of blessing and peace upon them.**

- **Pray for wisdom and guidance as the translators continue their work on Matthew, Mark and Luke and then tackle John and Acts.**



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### Equipped to Review the Translation

A total of 14 people, selected from the eight villages in the traditional area, have been trained to review the Avatime Scriptures. The team used chapters 4-7 of Mark for hands-on practice during the training. Overall, they deemed it to be a successful course. Additional translation reviewers are expected to be trained in the coming months.

### Expanding the Literacy Effort

Literacy supervisor Walter visited the two Avatime villages where he established trial literacy classes, with 15 students in one village and 16 in the other. In both villages, the classes meet twice weekly for two hours. Class members are expected to complete homework assignments on the days they don't attend class. During the visits, Walter was able to offer suggestions to help the teachers make improvements in their instruction.

The team's anticipation as they look towards expanding the literacy initiative continues unabated. They aim to do this over the next year by making more reading materials available to the students, starting classes in all the villages of the language area and holding literacy promotion days. Also, they'll train more literacy teachers and supervisors.

- **Continue to pray for the selection process in recruiting local Scripture reviewers.**
- **Pray for the continued success of these trial literacy classes in two villages.**
- **Pray that as students learn to read their own language, this will be a stepping-stone to using the Scriptures later on.**
- **Pray for safe travel for the entire Avatime team, especially for Walter as he often goes out to supervise these trial literacy classes.**