



# Avatime

## God No Longer Far Off

In cultures where people’s concept of God is someone who is far off, inaccessible and impersonal, to have Him come close and speak to them in their own language through the mother-tongue Scriptures does wonders in drawing them to want to know Him, since by speaking to them in their heart language this God has taken a personal interest in them.

- **Praise God that His life-giving Word will soon be easily within reach of the Avatime.**

## “Their Witnesses Have Different Tongues”

As work on the four Gospels progresses in the Avatime language, the team has encountered familiar passages, including the trial of Christ before the high priest on the night He was betrayed. During that trial, false witnesses were brought in to testify against Jesus but, as Mark 14:59 tells us, “*even then they didn’t get their stories straight!*”

In the Avatime language, this verse in Mark brings out striking imagery to describe the lies of these witnesses. Literally translated, the verse reads, “*Their witnesses have different tongues*” meaning “*Their allegations are not the same.*”

- **Pray that the Lord will prepare the hearts of Avatime people as the day draws near for them to have the translated Scriptures in their own language for the first time.**

## Softer Seats, Please!

There’s a lot of sitting involved in Bible translation. The Avatime translators first produce a rough draft. Then they go through the draft to make corrections for spelling, naturalness and clarity. Afterwards, project manager Divine and the team conduct an exegetical check for accuracy.

The team worked hard to prepare chapters 4-16 of Mark’s Gospel for the consultant’s review, which took place last month. They’ve also drafted the Gospel of John, Romans, 1 and 2 Timothy and portions of Acts to join the previously drafted Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and 1 and 2 Thessalonians. What an accomplishment! All these drafts (except Matthew and Mark) have yet to be keyboarded into the computer. Also on the agenda are the exegetical and team checks of Matthew and Luke.

With all this work going on—and all the required sitting—the team writes, “*We wish for softer chairs!*”



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

- **Praise God for the good health He has given the Avatime team throughout this year.**
- **Pray for the translators as they travel to workshops to do Scripture checking.**





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### Trial Literacy Classes Going Strong

The trial literacy classes in the two Avatime villages have continued strong, in answer to prayer. Many of the students previously had formal education through junior high school, so they preferred to move straight to using the second primer. As a result, the team has developed a transitional primer for those students who've already learned to read in another language and want to read Avatime.

The team discovered that traditional classroom teaching wasn't effective with the adult learners, so they've decided to test these students after two days of class time and then have them gather again at a later date to finish the required course of study.

Using input from the students, the team has made revisions to the primers. They plan to print 300 copies of both the first primer and the transitional primer.

### Continuing Education

Congratulations to Divine! He was admitted for two weeks to the African Linguistics School, where he took advanced courses that will benefit him in translating the Avatime Scriptures.

Divine and translator Manfred also attended a grammar workshop at the Department of Linguistics at the University of Ghana to hone their translating skills.

### A Solemn Challenge

Being faithful in the administration of funds entrusted to a translation team is a solemn challenge faced by project managers everywhere, and Divine is no exception. God has unwaveringly provided for the needs of the Avatime team, but sometimes team members struggle when they have a special need, such as children in college with school expenses.

- **Pray that God will guide Divine as he oversees the finances of the Avatime project.**

- **Pray for the Avatime speakers who are being trained to read. Pray that they'll develop a love for reading that will pave the way for using the translated Scriptures. Pray that they'll teach others to read as well.**

- **Pray that all the resources entrusted to this project will be used to the glory of God.**
- **Pray that the Lord will meet the special needs of the team members.**