



Avatime New Testament

“Our Language Is Rich”

People in the town of New Dзокpe celebrated literacy day. A chief attending the event expressed great joy at seeing and hearing the heart language of the Avatime people read for the first time in their history. He commented, “*Today I know our language is rich.*”

- **Praise God for the Avatime people's increased interest in literacy. Pray that this enthusiasm will prepare their hearts for the gospel message in their mother tongue.**

Gospel of Mark Poised To Launch

Greater riches are yet to come for the Avatime people. Mark's Gospel was printed and is now ready for distribution to the public. Imagine their joy as they read the words of Christ in their own language! A pastor's conference is planned for the week after the launch. The team held a meeting with the pastors to discuss Scripture-use opportunities.

- **Thank the Lord that Mark will soon be ready to present to the Avatime people.**
- **Pray that the pastors at this conference will accept God's Word in their heart language and passionately promote it in their congregations.**

Next Up—Matthew and Luke

As the team celebrates the completion of Mark, they're hard at work on other New Testament books. They've completed the exegetical check of Matthew's Gospel. Now that it's finished, they plan to print out the book to give to the local Scripture reviewers. In the meantime, they continue checking Luke's Gospel for accuracy and clarity.

Great Strides in Literacy

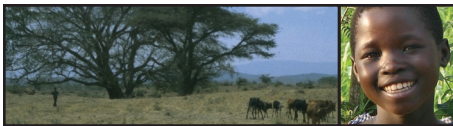
Great strides continue to be made in literacy. A total of 17 students graduated from the trial literacy classes and were awarded certificates. Registration for the next round of classes has taken place. To accommodate these classes, the second basic primer will soon be printed. The team had printed 300 copies of the first primer. They also drafted three folktale books, a numbers book and a book on how to start a rice farm. Next, they'll edit and print these educational and community-development materials for classroom use.



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

- **Pray for the team as they work to complete their goals for Matthew and Luke. Ask God to give them guidance and strength.**

- **Praise God for those who graduated from the trial literacy classes. Pray that this will be the first step toward reading and understanding God's Word in Avatime.**



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Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians

The team is delighted to be moving ahead in their translation of the New Testament epistles. They recently drafted the theological-rich epistles of Galatians and Ephesians and have begun drafting Philippians, the epistle of joy. They look forward to getting the Apostle Paul's doctrinal defense of God's master plan of salvation in Galatians and his description of the universal scope of the gospel in Ephesians into the hands of the people.

Hyping the Language and Culture

Literacy supervisor Walter, along with project manager Divine and team member Alexander and his wife Lena, attended a linguistics seminar in Tamale for two weeks in March. At the seminar, they presented papers on the Avatime language and culture.

Obstacles To Surmount

The team sometimes experiences difficulty with their technical equipment. Their laptop computer frequently breaks down and the printer has stopped working. As a result, the team needs to travel to the regional capital for computer services.

Housing issues have also posed a challenge to the Avatime team. They're late for work sometimes because they don't have a place to stay in the village where the project office is located. It's difficult to even find single rooms. Divine has encouraged them to put in extra time in the evenings to complete their scheduled tasks.

- **Pray that the team will remain deeply devoted to the translation effort and committed to the work it entails.**

"I Walk Chest Out Because of Christ"

Walter writes: *"I'm very happy to be part of the Avatime translation and literacy project. The training and exposure I've received from the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation has raised my stature in my village and in the Avatime area as a whole. I walk chest out because Christ in me has made the difference."*

- **Pray for the translators as they labor on these strategic portions of God's Word.**

- **Pray that the team's cultural and linguistic discoveries will enhance the translation.**

- **Pray that the translators will find solutions to their technical problems.**

- **Pray that villagers will be so touched by the translated Scriptures that they'll open their hearts and homes to the team members and provide needed accommodations.**

- **Pray that the Avatime project will result in spiritual transformation in many people's lives as they read the vernacular Scriptures.**