



Bekwarra Old Testament

Assessing the Situation

The Bekwarra translation committee was assembled, and after preliminary greetings the participants were introduced and kola nuts were broken—breaking kola nuts together is a traditional way of welcoming friends and affirming friendship. This is how the visit began of project coordinator Katy and Rev. Friday Inya, a translation consultant-in-training. They spent all morning with the committee to learn the present situation of the Bekwarra Old Testament project, what the challenges were and how they might be able to help. At the end of the time Katy summarized the three main issues, which were:

- 1) Personnel: To make steady progress, they need more fulltime translators who have good ability and are dedicated to the work. They also need local reviewers who will be trained to check the translation and give feedback on a regular basis.
- 2) Computer: Someone is needed who is trained in the use of Paratext to keyboard the handwritten Scripture drafts. They also need a reliable source of electricity to operate the laptop—this may mean getting a generator.
- 3) Local finances: Larger church denominations in the area need to be made aware of the translation work and to be invited to contribute.

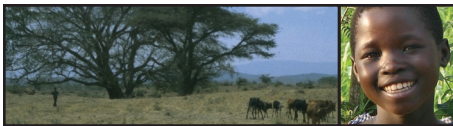
Seeking Solutions

During brainstorming sessions at the committee meeting, several ideas were put forth to recruit more translators. Translator Michael plans to continue in his role as fulltime translator, as he's now retired. David, who's been serving as project chairman, remains available as a translator too. Both men have already completed the introductory course in translation principles offered by the Nigeria Bible Translation Trust. Part-time translator Rev. Moses, who also completed the course, is on board as translator as well.

Katy suggested that churches in the area might be asked to release a pastor for two or three years, or that there might be other possibilities for someone to be released from a government position, to serve on the translation team—this has happened in some other language areas. Katy thought it would be helpful to publish a first Old Testament book soon, perhaps Malachi, which was checked by a consultant at the workshop last July. If Malachi is completed for publication and launched to the public, it would raise more awareness and interest in the churches.



- Location: Nigeria, Africa
 - Number of Speakers: 151,000
 - Year Project Began: 2009
 - Expected Completion Date: 2015
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- Praise God that these pressing issues are being addressed by the Bekwarra translation committee.
 - Pray that the Lord will provide all the personnel needed for the Bekwarra project.
 - Pray for plans to promote the translation work in local churches; pray that congregations will come alongside to lend financial and prayer support.



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Offer of a Workplace

The translation team has been suffering from the lack of an office. The members live scattered throughout the language area and it's an ongoing challenge to meet together regularly. During the committee meeting, the paramount ruler announced that an office will soon be available for the team on the premises of the local council offices. The council has already promised this—now they need to set up the office and establish a steady work routine.

Stuck—in more Ways than One

Last year consultant Aaron was stuck not far from the Bekwarra area when his car broke down. David invited him to come and stay—he stayed for a few days while waiting for parts needed to repair his car. He used the time to help the team revise the book of Joel. Unfortunately, this book is also stuck—in the computer—since they don't have a printer to make additional copies to give to the reviewers. Meanwhile, the book of Amos has been drafted, in answer to prayer. Beginning work on Genesis or Exodus may be next.

Present and Future Generations of Readers

The team is encouraged that present and future generations will be able to read the Bekwarra Bible. The language is now being taught in the primary schools, and there are also some adult literacy classes underway.

Not Resting on their Oars

The committee was grateful for Katy's interest and visit, which provided added incentive and motivation for them to continue in the work. Even though they'd expressed their limitations, they said they now feel more *"challenged not to rest on their oars."* With their paramount rulers and chiefs on their side, they believe they'll be able to make good progress in the work.

"We shall do our best to keep the flames burning. We want you to know that even as you go, you've left your message in good hands." That was the committee's final statement, which was made by the project secretary as he gave his vote of thanks to Katy and Rev. Friday Inya on behalf of the work.

- **Praise God that a facility has been offered to the team to use as a workplace.**
- **Pray that the team can find a way to make more printouts of Joel and get it reviewed. Pray for progress on Amos; it's now being checked verse-by-verse.**
- **Pray that many people will become fluent readers of Bekwarra so that using the Scriptures in the language of their heart will be easy for them.**
- **Pray that the Bekwarra translation project will shed the light of the gospel of Christ throughout the community.**