



# Dagara

## Luke's Gospel Makes Three

The team is pleased to report that they finished translating the Gospel of Luke from Dagara back into literal English in anticipation of an upcoming consultant's evaluation. They also progressed further in checking the book verse-by-verse together as a team to make sure that the grammar and word choices line up with the correct meaning. They look forward to the day when Luke will soon join its companion volume Acts and also Mark's Gospel as the third book to be printed in the Dagara language.

- **Praise God for the Dagara team's good headway on the Gospel of Luke in the people's mother tongue.**
- **Pray that Luke, Mark and Acts will communicate the words and deeds of Christ and His apostles compellingly to people in their heart language.**

## A Couple Difficult Books

Revelation, a very challenging book for translators, was reviewed by project advisor Ida in the role of consultant, in answer to prayer. The team is excited that this book is fast approaching the printing stage.

The translators did a thorough exegetical check of 1 Corinthians, as planned, and incorporated changes to enhance the translation's quality. Still ahead are comprehension testing of the book with other mother-tongue speakers. The team will make additional revisions based on the people's feedback and also based on more checking.

## God's Word within Easy Reach

Imagine what it would be like not to have the stories of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark or the inspiring account of Acts in your own mother tongue. What if you had to read or hear them in a language that you had little familiarity with or one that didn't resonate in your heart as the words came into contact with your eyes or ears? For generations that's exactly what it's been like for the Dagara people. Now with the coming of the mother-tongue Scriptures, God's Word is easily within reach.



- **Location: Burkina Faso, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 80,000**
- **Year Project Began: 1997**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

- **Pray that the Lord will guide the team as they make hard translation decisions.**

- **Thank the Lord for remembering the Dagara people and for bringing the eternal Scriptures to them in the language that speaks best to their hearts.**





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### Polishing the Writing System

Project coordinator Stanislas has moved significantly forward in finalizing the guide for the Dagara writing system under the supervision of an experienced linguist.

### Setting Up the Workplace and Committees

Establishment of the Dagara translation and literacy committees is nearly complete. The church in Ireland (mentioned in the last update) has begun construction work on the project office in Diebouyou in response to their promise to do this. It should soon be ready to set up for the team.

- **Praise God for this church's willingness to help build the Dagara project office.**

### A Willing Volunteer

The Dagara team was privileged to have a local volunteer assist with the translation work for several months. He was a big help. He'd engaged to do it for those few months and now that period is over.

He wrote: *"My name is Laurent. I've been a volunteer to help in the Dagara translation project for these few months, but now I have to go to Ghana to continue with my studies. I'm a pastor who has been serving in that role in the Dagara area for about ten years. I also worked as a literacy teacher.*

*"At the beginning of my ministry as a pastor, I noticed that many people couldn't read or write in Dagara. During our pastors' meetings, the translation team urged us to motivate our church members who never got the opportunity to go to school to enroll in the literacy program. Now I observe that many are able to read and write in their own Dagara language and are eagerly waiting for the Scriptures that are being translated.*

*"During church services when the Gospel of Mark is read aloud in Dagara, the readers do it effortlessly and it comes across clearly to the people. I'm thrilled to see their faces shining during the reading. They understand it better than when it had been read in French and needed to be translated orally for them. These past few months that I served alongside the team were really uplifting for me, especially as I got to see firsthand the progress of the translation. It also provided me with the occasion to encourage the team in their work."*

- **Pray that the team will pursue a natural translation as they faithfully follow the rules of the language.**
- **Pray for the Lord's continued protection of the team members. Pray for good health for them and their families.**
- **Pray that more people will become comfortable with reading their own language.**



**Dagara woman cleaning pots in the kitchen**