



Dagara

Barriers of Grammar, Fear and Mistrust

Much of the Bible translation process consists of methodical, academic work. Discussions between team members mainly concern the meaning of the Greek and Hebrew texts, the wording options and the differences between their culture and the biblical culture that affect the translation.

But there are also times when, in startling ways, the message itself penetrates through the nouns and verbs and discourse structure. At these times the team will have a timeout from the methodical, academic work and instead have a lively discussion about the relevance of the passage to their daily lives.

Though Dagara villages have been exposed to Christianity for a long time, still the people have to allow Jesus into the deep zones of their existence. The powerful Word of God alone can break through the barrier not only of grammar but also of fear and mistrust.

- **Thank the Lord for how the Scriptures are touching the translators themselves.**
- **Pray that God's Word, which "is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword," will "pierce as far as the division of soul and spirit" in many Dagara people's lives (Hebrews 4:12).**

Striving for a High Standard Translation

The Dagara team revised the book of 1 Corinthians based on village testing that took place earlier. Project coordinator Stanislas also produced an interlinear version of the book, displaying the meaning of each word and its grammatical place in the sentence to determine accuracy. He did this in preparation for an upcoming consultant's check.

The team keyboarded their revised version of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, along with their drafts of 1 and 2 Timothy, into the computer. Translator Boaz did this for the first two books and translator Noé for the second two. The team had just recently translated 2 Timothy. All these books had originally been drafted in handwritten form.

The team has begun typing their draft of Galatians, which they'd worked on at a workshop they attended last month. The team made revisions to the Gospel of John based on their exegetical check. Comprehension testing of the book continues.

The team discussed how to render key biblical terms, such as soul and spirit, in the Dagara language.



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

- **Pray for the team as they strive for high standards in their translation work.**





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Excelling in Literacy

The Dagara literacy workers have really stood out among all the literacy personnel in the province. They reported many successful learners by the end of this year's literacy campaign. As in last year's campaign, the team organized a closing ceremony, which many local authorities and the population attended. The learners received certificates.

Stanislas and Boaz have completed their work on the guide for the Dagara writing system, which is designed to be a helpful tool for people learning to read their mother tongue. Stanislas also re-read and corrected a literacy primer he'd been preparing with Bible content. This was printed and used for the literacy campaign. Stanislas and literacy coordinator Marcel worked on a 2010 Dagara calendar with Scripture verses.

Toward a Local Ownership

The Dagara translation and literacy committees continue their program of creating awareness and interest among the local churches and communities regarding their proper role and responsibility in assisting the translation and literacy effort.

A group of seven people from Wycliffe Bible Translators in the U.K. visited the team. They stayed a week to study the different stages of the translation work and tour the Dagara area, encouraging people to be actively involved in what the Lord is doing.

Faith, Mighty Faith

A solid scriptural faith is needed for the Bible translation task, since what translation teams expect God to do through them is enormous. The songwriter's words ring true:

Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees
And looks to God alone,
Laughs at impossibilities
And shouts, "It shall be done!"

The Dagara translation team rejoices in the critical role that you, their partners, play in this humanly impossible ministry by your love, prayers and support.

- Pray for the startup of more Dagara literacy classes, especially in villages that haven't benefited from the literacy program and that are in great need.

- Pray that Dagara people will increasingly develop a sense of ownership of this work.

- Pray that the Lord will do for the Dagara team "abundantly beyond all that they ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).