



Dagara New Testament

The Difference It Makes

“My husband and I have four boys and a girl. I’m a Christian and church member. Although I didn’t have the opportunity to go to school, I always wanted to read and write so I could improve our living conditions and read the Word of God myself. It was always in my heart.

“When the Dagara translation project opened the literacy center in the village, I thought it was for children. But then I saw many women older than I who learned to read and write, and observed the progress in their lives. I decided to learn, too.

“Now I can read and write Dagara, and I see the difference it makes in my life. Even though we have a farm, my family has known famine and poverty. Today, we produce enough for ourselves and for sale. I also learned to make soap and dye, and bought myself a bicycle. Before, I went to the field and the markets on foot, but now I can ride my bike.

“Our four boys go to school. Our daughter, the oldest, didn’t go to school but now she can also read and write in Dagara and is learning about starting a small business. My family is healthier, and this is a great joy for us.

“We are much more committed to the things of God, and we can also give to the church. I say thank you to the Lord and to the Dagara project.”

- **Praise God for providing for this Dagara woman and her family and for their commitment to Him.**

Bible Translation, Literacy and – Fertilizer?

What do Bible translation, literacy and fertilizer have in common for the Dagara people of Burkina Faso? All involve preparing the soil for the seed — the Good Seed of the Gospel of Christ, as well as the millet, peanuts and corn planted by this agricultural society.

Literacy programs have prepared the spiritual soil by giving the Dagara the tools they need to read the Bible in their own language, come to Christ and grow in their faith. In turn, learning to read and write in Dagara has impacted agricultural methods.

Chemical fertilizer is expensive, and few family farmers can buy it and stay out of debt. But without fertilizer, harvests are poor and families suffer. Many farmers can’t grow enough even to feed their own families, let alone have anything left to sell.

Now, farmers who have learned to read Dagara can read agricultural documents and learn how to make a ton or more of



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

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organic fertilizer for almost no cost. And farmers' wives are reading information on caring for livestock, soap making and textile dying, activities that generate more income for their families.

Translation Tracks

A few months ago, the team printed out John's Gospel and sent a copy to each review committee in three regions for community testing.³ When testing is complete, the team plans to back translate⁴ John and send it on for the consultant check⁵.

The team checked² Romans and prepared it for community testing. Noah and Boaz finished the draft¹ of 2 Corinthians.

The book of James was recently drafted. Team members worked on preparing 1 and 2 Thessalonians for community testing and consultant checking. They'll start checking 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon as a team.



Participants at Dagara music workshop earlier this year.

- **Praise the Lord that Bible translation and literacy enable the Dagara to read the Bible in their language.**
- **Thank God that literacy also improves Dagara people's farming methods and helps them provide for their families.**
- **Give thanks with the team for a new motorcycle provided by a church in Ireland. This gives them reliable transportation for their community testing trips.**
- **Keep praying for peace in Burkina Faso. Pray against the actions of terrorists and kidnappers. Pray for the Lord's protection.**
- **Thank the Lord that the recent recording of Christian music in Dagara style is listened to by Christians and non-Christians, and is broadcast on local radio.**

Six Steps of Translation

1. **First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
2. **Team Check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
3. **Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
4. **Back Translation:** translators translate the draft "back" into a major language for a non-native consultant.
5. **Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
6. **Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

DAGARA NT PROJECT UPDATE—2

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