



East Congo Genesis Cluster

Experience under Their Belts

The *Genesis for the Masses* teams are glad to have the experience of two workshops under their belts. They're now looking forward to the third one coming up next month. In the meantime, two weeklong Genesis reviewing sessions were held, with consultants and other technical personnel on hand to help the teams get their translations of Genesis up to publishable standard. Consultants-in-training were in attendance as well.

The Budu-Nita, Lika and Omi teams were involved in the first of these two checking sessions and the Fuliiru, Komo and Tembo teams participated in the other. At these sessions consultants evaluated Genesis 1-5 and 10-15, which the teams had earlier drafted. Only the Komo team, who's behind the others because of having just one translator, didn't get those chapters checked. They did, however, have chapters 28-35 reviewed at the session. The other teams had already gotten those chapters checked at the second workshop.

- **Thank the Lord that the teams made good progress on reviewing their drafts of Genesis 1-5 and 10-15 at the Scripture checking sessions.**
- **Praise God that each participant and staff member was enthusiastic to do their assigned tasks. Pray that they'll make adequate preparations for the upcoming third workshop.**
- **Pray for the good health and safety of the teams and their families in the DRC.**

Forging Ahead on Genesis

Currently the teams are drafting Genesis chapters 16-23 in preparation to have that passage checked by a consultant at the upcoming third workshop. This will mean that the five teams will have chapters 1-35 drafted and reviewed by a consultant. The Komo team is laboring to catch up as well. They're confident that they can do this since, in answer to prayer, a new translator has joined the Komo team—Pastor Buimba.

- **Pray that the Lord will empower Buimba to do quality work on Genesis so that the Komo team can keep in step with the other teams.**



- **Location: DRC, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 1,679,500**
 - Budu-Nita: 180,000
 - Fuliiru: 300,000
 - Komo: 400,000
 - Lika: 60,000
 - Mangbetu: 700,000
 - Omi: 39,500
 - Tembo: 150,000
- **Year Project Began: 2006**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2008**

- **Thank the Lord for providing a second translator for the Komo team.**
- **Praise God that Pastor Buimba is quick to learn and passionate about Bible translation, evident in his rising at 5:00 some mornings to start his work.**



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Honing Their Skills

At the Genesis checking sessions, the translators gained more knowledge of translation principles as they worked through the Scripture reviewing process with consultants. Newcomer Pastor Buimba also had a chance to hone his computer skills. The coordinator of the sessions reported that all the teams continued to show improvement in their teamwork abilities and are producing clearer and more natural translations.

An Ideal Venue

The Genesis checking sessions provided an ideal venue for the consultants-in-training (CITs) to practice as they watched the consultants review Genesis and then assisted them. An international translation consultant came from Burkina Faso to help supervise and train the CITs during the sessions. Three of the trainees got the opportunity to supervise the final checking process. New consultants are desperately needed, not only in other African Bible translation projects but around the world.

Cultural Tidbits

In Genesis 15:4 God told Abram: *“This man [Eliezer] will not be your heir, but one who will come forth from your own body will be your heir.”* The Lika team translated *“one who will come forth from your own body”* using an ideophone, which expresses the idea that the child would be from Abram’s bloodline. Such an ideophone was necessary, since in Lika culture all children are viewed as belonging to the village as a whole, whereas the verse referred specifically to Abram alone as the one from whom the heir would come.

Omi people make an alliance in this way: Two people or groups decide to become brothers by making a pact. They do this by sacrificing an animal—in the case of former enemies, a dog, and between people who weren’t enemies, a lamb. All parties are sprinkled with the blood and the two groups or individuals prepare a feast together. On that day they eat, drink and dance.

- **Thank God that the translators are learning how to express the meaning of Scripture more idiomatically.**

- **Pray that these consultants-in-training will be tenacious and teachable as they prepare to serve in the translation consultancy role.**

- **Pray that the Lord will continue to guide the teams to make right word choices as they aim for cultural relevance in the Bible translation.**