



East Congo Matthew Cluster

Enthusiastic Translators

The translators from the Budu-Nita, Fuliiru, Lika and Tembo language groups are working enthusiastically on translation. They finished a first draft of the narrative portions of Matthew using Adapt-It software. (The Fuliiru team is drafting Exodus and Judges because the New Testament is already complete.) The adaptation is from a completed translation by a neighboring group, so much of the spadework for drafting is done. The teams also received input from intermediate consultant checks and revised their texts accordingly. Several chapters received a final consultant check and are approved for publication.

In the next three months, the teams plan to finish adapting and revising the rest of Matthew (Exodus and Judges for Fuliiru), and prepare the drafts for intermediate checking by the consultants-in-training.

- Praise God that the translators are encouraged by their progress.
- Pray for good health, travel safety and high productivity for the four translation teams.

Consultant Training

An important part of this project is consultant training. There's a huge need for translation consultants in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with 120 language groups still needing Scripture.

Consultant-in-training Olivia is nearly finished with her consultant development plan. This is a great personal milestone for her, and she'll be qualified to review translations for accuracy and naturalness.

Three consultants-in-training learned to give intermediate feedback on narrative passages. They're making good progress and gaining confidence as consultants. Olivia, the most experienced, did final checking of three chapters before approving them for publication.

Next on the consultant trainees' docket is to check remaining portions of Matthew, Exodus and Judges and return their work to the translators for revisions. The trainees, supervised by senior consultants, hope to give final checks on half of Matthew, Exodus and Judges soon, so a senior consultant can give final approval.

- Thank the Lord for consultant Olivia's growing skill as a consultant.
- Pray that all the consultant trainees will succeed and help meet the great need for translation consultants in Africa.



- Location: DRC, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 660,000
 - Budu-Nita: 150,000
 - Fuliiru: 300,000
 - Lika: 60,000
 - Tembo: 150,000
- Year Project Began: 2009
- Expected Completion Date: 2010



Consultant-in-training working with Fuliiru translators





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Discovering Naturalness

A real eye-opener for the translators has been learning discourse analysis. The Bantu way of forming sentences is different from French. As the translators analyze the differences in sentence patterns, they've seen how the translation can flow smoothly in a Bantu pattern rather than in a stilted, French structure. In the past, their drafts were based on French versions, and this affected the grammar of their translated materials. Now, when they read passages during the checking process, their eyes light up with pleasure at the natural flow of the language.

Another aspect that contributes to increased naturalness is the use of *ideophones* (a vivid representation of an idea in sound) and interjections. These are used more commonly in Bantu languages than in English or French. So when the translators incorporate them at appropriate points, the text really comes to life and speaks directly to the reader.

- **Pray that each of these language communities will hear God speaking clearly to them through the translations.**

Not Without Obstacles

Because of a leadership transition, a key consultant on the project moved into an administrative role. As a result, most of the planned final checking was delayed. The two-week consulting sessions with the Budu and Lika, as well as a checking session with one of the other teams, were postponed.

- **Pray that the postponed final-check sessions can be made up in the next three to six months.**

Partners Take Ownership

Groups of revisers in each language meet periodically to read and comment on the Scripture portions the translators draft or revise.

A group of church leaders from various faiths held a general meeting in December to set up a partnership that will take responsibility for bringing Bible translation to the languages in the area around Isiro, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is an essential help in arranging transportation for the workshop activities.



An Aha! moment

- **Praise the Lord that the translators are learning to make the translation sound natural.**
- **Ask the Lord to help the leadership group to quickly adjust to the new circumstances.**
- **Thank God that many are interested in helping the East Congo Matthew Cluster project succeed.**

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