



## Erei Initial Goal\*

### All the Way with Jesus

The greatest commandment, according to Jesus, is to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength (Luke 10:27–28). But since Jesus Himself is God, this commandment means that we are to love Jesus too with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. Indeed, is that not what Jesus meant when He said, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — he cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26)?

This is a truth that the Erei people, as do many others, badly need to hear and follow. Temptations to trust in false spirits when sickness or misfortune strikes and the pull of fleshly desires and earthly pleasures are far too strong to be overcome by anything less than a wholehearted commitment to Jesus Christ and an undivided love to Him.

Project coordinator Friday has persevered on the Gospel of Luke in the Erei language to get it ready for publication. He checked the book using Paratext software to spot spelling and layout errors and to ensure consistent renderings of biblical terms such as sin and salvation. He’s eager to put clear and accurate copies of Luke into Erei people’s hands.

- **Praise God that the “Wonderful Plan of God” booklets 4 and 5 have been drafted.**

### Let the Training Begin

It’s tough to keep up the pace on a translation project when experienced translators have left. Friday has his hands full as he shoulders the workload and trains a new team. He’s thankful that three new translators have come on board — one fulltime and two part-time.

Friday desires his team to be fully committed to this valuable work, but he knows they must tend to the practical needs of their families. He’s praying that God will enable them to make ends meet and also to stay focused on their high calling as Bible translators.

- **Pray that the new translators will be strengthened by the Lord’s promise to them—“He is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).**
- **Pray for the translators as they carry on with drafting Psalms and Proverbs and testing John’s Gospel.**



- **Location: Nigeria, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 20,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2009**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

- **Pray that printing of Luke along with James, Haggai and the “Reading and Writing Erei” booklet will go smoothly so these materials can be placed in people’s hands.**

- **Pray that God will empower the new Erei translation team as they train. Pray also for training of at least 30 readers to record the “JESUS” film script.**



## Erei Initial Goal

### A Steadfast Servant

Friday has remained steadfast despite the departure of his former team members. This isn't good news for the Erei team alone, but it's also good news for other teams.

The Legbo team recently received Friday's assistance in overcoming obstacles, and the Urugbam and Ipene teams improved their translations at seminars that Friday facilitated. The Ehugbo team got training at an introductory course that Friday taught, and several consultants-in-training were helped by Friday's presence at a training retreat.

### “We've Sinned Too Much”

In the last Update, Friday began a story about two village chiefs who showed up at his translation office prepared to engage in a lively discussion about world events. Being ever concerned about the condition of the human heart, Friday directed the conversation to spiritual matters by saying, “How nice it would be if smart and intelligent people like you were to follow Jesus and His Word!” Now the story will conclude.

When the village chiefs heard Friday's statement, they pondered it for awhile. Then the first chief asked, “Do you mean we could come to church and still be chiefs?” The other chief promptly shook his head and said, “That's impossible. Only the younger and more innocent ones can do that.”

Friday quickly explained that their level of goodness isn't what qualifies them to go to church, but rather it's all about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the forgiveness He offers. At this point, the chiefs decided they'd heard enough and got up to leave muttering, “We've sinned too much.”

With tears in his eyes, Friday thought about the dark and ignorant years of his own youth, how he'd resisted God and yet been won over by the Lord's tender mercies. Now he longs for the men in his community to experience redemption from their sins and enjoy the freedom to attend church. Meanwhile, he's encouraged by the fact that the translation work is slowly drawing more husbands to join their wives as they go to church.

- **Let's echo the apostle Paul's prayer as we lift up Friday to the Lord: “I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being ... that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:16, 19b).**
- **Pray that the Lord will open the eyes of the village chiefs to understand and embrace the truth that it's only by grace they can be saved, and that faith, not works, justifies them in God's sight as a free gift (Ephesians 2:8, 9).**
- **Pray that God's Word in the Erei language will have the dynamic effect of bringing many people into total allegiance to the Lord Jesus.**

#### 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.

EREI INITIAL GOAL PROJECT UPDATE—2

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104  
Arlington, Texas 76015

Toll Free: (877) 593-7333  
www.theseedcompany.org

A Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate

