



# Ethiopia OT Cluster\*

## Drawing Hope from 1 and 2 Chronicles

The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles divide naturally into four large sections: (1) the genealogies of Israel (1 Chronicles 1-9), (2) King David's reign (1 Chronicles 10-29), (3) his son Solomon's rule (2 Chronicles 1-9) and (4) the history of the Davidic kingdom of Judah until its exile to Babylon (2 Chronicles 10-36).

The copious genealogies in the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles give hope to the returnees from Babylon that God hasn't forgotten them. Rather, they've been in the center of His purpose from the beginning and their 70-year captivity didn't change that.

The two books of Chronicles contain much unique material about David's dynasty not found in the parallel accounts of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. These unmatched portions highlight the positive features of the kingdom of Judah to encourage the post-exilic community that God still has a glorious future in store for them.

Readers of 1 and 2 Chronicles can be greatly comforted to know that the bleakest of circumstances that God allows in our lives, such as what His people endured for 70 years in Babylon, can be part of His overall purpose for good and turn out in the end to bring glory to Himself and everlasting joy to those who trust in Him.

- **Pray that the comforting message of 1 and 2 Chronicles will make inroads into the three Ethiopia Cluster language groups (Dawro, Gamo and Gofa) through the mother-tongue Scriptures and fill many people with the hope only God can give.**

## Dawro—"My Joy Is Great!"

During village testing of the Dawro translation one listener said, "My joy is great when I hear God's Word in my language. But how great would it be if I could read it in Dawro!" Others remarked that the Scripture portions are edifying them and equipping them to serve the Lord. Local church leaders continue to use Dawro Scripture in worship services and people are contributing valuable thoughts during testing.

The latest books to be reviewed by a consultant in the Dawro language are Joshua, 1 and 2 Kings, Nahum, Haggai, Malachi and half of Habakkuk. The team has also begun an overall consistency and spelling check of Old Testament books, starting with Numbers and Deuteronomy. This step normally takes place following the consultant-check.

The books of 1 Chronicles and Jeremiah have been tested with ordinary speakers of the Dawro language and more books are underway. The local reviewers' committee is reading through the first five books of the Old Testament. This task entails a serious look at each verse, key biblical terms, names for God and introductions to each book.



- **Location: Ethiopia, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers:**  
Gamo: 690,000  
Gofa: 233,000  
Dawro: 313,000
- **Year Project Began: 2009**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2013**

**Local church leaders continue to use Dawro Scripture in worship services and people are contributing valuable thoughts during testing.**



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### Gamo—Spiritual Value of Scripture

Pastors, evangelists and others are finding the translated Gamo Scriptures to be of much spiritual value during Sunday gatherings and personal devotions. Church leaders who were at the meeting about Bible translation a couple months ago have started to mobilize the use of the Gamo Scriptures in their respective churches. Out of those, 10 were selected to serve as Scripture reviewers for a week. Most of them made a significant contribution in providing possible solutions for how to render some key biblical terms.

A team-check of Book 2 of Psalms (42-72) and finishing up a back-translation of Numbers, Book 1 of Psalms (1-41), the Song of Solomon and Lamentations are among the more recent accomplishments in the Gamo project. Also, a consultant-check and post-consultant check of Genesis chapters 1-5, Leviticus, Judges and Amos were held. The reviewers' committee did a read-through of Genesis, Leviticus and Judges as well.

### Gofa—Receptive Audiences

Since the last Update, the Gofa translators have team-checked the first 100 Psalms, back-translated 1 Chronicles and had Leviticus and Judges consultant-checked.

Gofa Old Testament portions continue to find receptive audiences in church pews and during village testing. Young people have been promoting the use of Gofa Scripture as they preach, teach and read it both privately and publicly.

### The Lord Remained Ever Faithful

“The book of Judges is pervaded by the idea, expressed in the introduction in chapters 1 and 2, that the Lord left the Canaanites who'd not been exterminated by Joshua in the land to prove to Israel whether or not they would obey His commandments, and that He chastised and punished His people for their disobedience and idolatry when they rebelled.

“But as soon as Israel recognized God's chastening hand in the punishment and returned to Him with penitence and implored His help, He had compassion upon them again in His gracious love and helped them to victory over their foes. Notwithstanding the repeated acts of faithlessness on the part of His people, the Lord remained ever faithful in His deeds and steadfastly maintained His covenant.” (Commentators Keil and Delitzsch)

- **Pray that Dawro, Gamo and Gofa speakers will personally discover the truth from God's Word in their languages that the Lord is faithful.**
- **Keep praying that local people will become fluent readers of their languages. Pray that mother-tongue literacy programs will be started so this can be a reality.**

#### 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.

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