



Guera Storying Cluster*

Eight New Believers!

In the Saju community, eight people believed in Jesus after listening to Bible stories in their language. This happened during community testing³ of the stories.

- **Praise God for these eight believers beginning their journey with Jesus! Thank Him for using the oral Bible stories to reach them for Christ.**

The Better Way

A man who helped develop the Bible stories in Saju is the son of an important teacher of the majority religion. Although he believes that Christianity is the better way, family and cultural pressure makes it difficult for him to become a Christian. And yet he had the courage to tell one of the stories about Jesus to an important religious leader when he was visiting the regional town.

- **Praise God for this man who sees Christianity as the better way. Pray for boldness to follow Jesus.**

Behind the Scenes

In a Dantu community, a missionary told the stories to a follower of the majority religion, who was impressed by his knowledge of the Bible. There's a reason for that. Behind the scenes, a lot of work goes into preparing these Bible stories.

By the end of 2011, recording was completely finished in the Dawla, Migu and Songu languages. Four other language groups recorded a total of 45 stories. Consultants made good progress checking,⁵ and some groups revised their stories.

"We'd hoped to finish all recording by the end of December," project coordinator Liz explained. "But with only two consultants working in their spare time, some stories weren't ready to record. We hope we can finish the whole process — checking, revising and recording — by the end of March."

Coming Up

The team is investigating different media to make the Bible stories widely and easily available to everyone in the Guera region. One possibility is to broadcast them over the local radio station. They're also planning a workshop to train people to use the stories. Looking ahead a year or two, they hope to develop a set of model stories from the book of Acts to help new believers understand what it means to be part of the Church.



- **Location: Chad**
- **Number of Speakers: 244,000 in 11 language groups**
- **Year Project Began: 2010**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

- **Give thanks that recording is finished in three languages. Pray for the consultants to have time to finish checking all the stories. Ask God to give motivation and opportunity to the teams that need to finish testing and revising their stories. Pray for the final recording to go well.**

- **Pray for creative ideas and opportunities to spread the gospel through the stories.**





Guera Storying Cluster

The Truth

During community testing in the Burdu community, one man said that the Burdu usually despise Christians. But after hearing the stories he realizes that only Christians have God's Word, the Truth.

Several people showed interest in the stories, including the regional Burdu chief. Another man, Abdul, became a Christian as a youth when he lived at the church boarding house but had since left his faith. He returned to Christ after hearing the stories in Burdu.

Good Medicine

Go to the dispensary in the Songu community, and you'll get medical help along with a good dose of Bible stories. The nurse plays the audio recordings for all visitors to hear. The pastor plays the recordings at the church and in his neighborhood, too.

The Songu people now have the complete set of stories available in audio recording. Hissein, the new storying coordinator, visited the Songu church and committee to present the set and discuss its use.

Several people in the main Songu village used to profess to be Christians but stopped going to church due to pressure to conform to the majority religion. "We're praying that God will use the stories to bring them back to faith in Christ," wrote Liz, "and also to strengthen the faith and the understanding of those who have kept going to church over the years."

When?

"When will we have these stories in Barna?" A Barna community leader heard about the Bible stories and asked a visiting pastor this question. "We haven't yet developed a set of stories for the Barna, but God seems to be moving in this group. Their openness is encouraging," Liz wrote. "Three religious leaders have recently become Christians following dreams about Jesus."

- **Praise God for the Barna community's openness to the gospel and for the three religious leaders who became Christians.**
- **Pray for God's guidance and wisdom for the team as they consider developing a set of Bible stories in Barna.**

- **Praise the Lord for new Burdu believers. Pray for them to grow in Christ and to stand firm against pressure to return to the majority religion.**

- **Praise the Lord that people are hearing and responding to the Bible stories. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw them into a relationship with Jesus through the stories.**



Songu team discussing Bible stories

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.

GUERA STORYING CLUSTER PROJECT UPDATE—2

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104
Arlington, Texas 76015

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

A Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate

