



# Irigwe New Testament

## New Testament – A Wrap!

The Irigwe New Testament is in the last stage and poised for publication. The team continues checking all the particulars of the format, spelling and punctuation. They've organized a class that meets on Monday afternoons to read through the New Testament.

- **Pray for the team as they prepare the New Testament for typesetting and printing.**

## No Good, If You Can't Read It!

The Bible gives answers to the mysteries of life and offers people the opportunity to commune with the God of the universe. His Word shows us how to navigate the dangers of this world and find true joy — except if we don't know how to read it!

Providing someone with Scripture in their language is a great gift, but it's diminished if they can't read it for themselves. This is why the Irigwe team is serving the literacy needs of their community. They recently held an eight-week course in reading and writing with 25 participants. They've also written stories in the language to be used for literacy.

- **Thank the Lord that Irigwe speakers are interested in learning how to read in their language! Pray that they'll be filled with a desire to read God's Word.**

## Do We Really Need the Old Testament?

It's been said if you scratch away a New Testament verse, you'll find an Old Testament verse beneath it. But many Christians think the Old Testament is less important, believing it's been replaced by the New Covenant in Christ. Thus, they're tempted to conclude that these old books are obsolete and not worth the effort required to mine their deep truths.

But if we had access only to the New Testament, we'd never understand why the Jews were looking for a Messiah — or why we need one. We'd be left wondering how it is that Jesus' death on the cross accomplishes the removal of our sin and reconciliation with God. We'd be lacking in our knowledge of God's promises, which He fulfilled first in Christ and continues to fulfill for those who trust in Him.

The Irigwe translators understand the value of the Old Testament and are already off and running to get it translated. In the past months, they finished drafting<sup>1</sup> Psalms and went on to draft six Minor Prophets: Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.



- **Location: Nigeria**
- **Number of Speakers: 40,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2006**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2013**

- **Pray that the vernacular stories in Irigwe will be useful for reading practice.**

- **Praise God for giving the Irigwe team a passion to carry out Bible translation. Pray that the foundational Old Testament truths will draw many people to Jesus.**



## Irigwe New Testament

### Aiming for Excellence

Translating God's Word from one language into another is a weighty responsibility. A poor-quality translation undermines the benefits of having the mother-tongue Scriptures. Translators need skill and perseverance to master the disciplines of linguistics, translation and interpreting Scripture. The newest Irigwe translators are off to a good start as they recently attended an introductory course in translation principles.

The intricacies of God's Word and complexities of language require a team to exhibit utmost care to ensure the translation is faithful to the original meaning and intelligible to the reader. The initial draft<sup>1</sup> of a Bible book is followed by constant checking, revising, editing and reediting. A consultant's experience and fresh eyes provide insight as each book nears publication. The team recently met with their new consultant, Linda.



*The Irigwe team during a Scripture reviewing session*

### On a Personal Note

Translator Peter has four children who are pursuing various academic goals.

The studies of his oldest son Noel have been delayed because of strikes that affected his university. He's a year behind schedule but working hard to catch up.

Christabel is applying to study at Jos University, while Na'omi is pursuing an education in business. Peter's youngest son Benjamin is in his first year of high school.

#### 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.

IRIGWE NT PROJECT UPDATE—2

- **Praise God for the Irigwe translators' educational opportunities, which equip them to do quality work. Thank Him for healing typist Esther of malaria and typhoid.**
- **Pray that the newest member of the team, part-time translator Theophilus, will adjust well to the work — and to his new baby boy.**
- **Praise God for sending consultant Linda to check Old Testament books.**

- **Pray that Peter's children will follow God's direction in their academic pursuits and work hard.**
- **Pray for Peter who struggled with eye problems as he drafted Psalms.**

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104  
Arlington, Texas 76015

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

A Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate

