

Jamaican Patois



Students Tuning In

"I'm a youth Sunday schoolteacher. I'm a very young teacher; in fact, I'm in the age group of my students. I face many challenges. First, the reading abilities of the students vary. Another problem is that many students have the King James Version of the Bible, which is almost impossible for them to understand. Another issue is that when the Scripture is being read, students 'tune out' and don't listen.

"One Sunday morning's lesson was about the judgment day ('jojment die'). For hours, I pondered how to teach it effectively. I acquired a portion of the Scriptures from the Jamaican Bible and used it for the class introduction. I was very surprised when some of the students were able to read the text fluently after only a few minutes. I was pleased to see the expression on each face as it was read in a conversational tone. Students who were always silent before spoke in the class! It was truly interactive. And when I inquired about their prior knowledge of 'jojment die', the facts they shared were shallow. But after an examination of the text from 1 Peter in Jamaican, all the students truly understood!

"God be praised for the work of translation!" ("Priez Gad, becam im gi wi fi I'm wod, iina fi wi langwij!") (Rani Sittol, youth teacher).

In the Pipeline for the Consultant

The team did further editing of James and 1, 2 and 3 John. They plan to check these books with the consultant in coming weeks. Other books in line to be consultant-checked are the five "T books" (1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus), Philemon, 1 and 2 Peter and Jude.

Check, Please!

The team has begun checking 1 Corinthians, Hebrews and Revelation, as planned. They're also individually looking over their drafts of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. Afterwards, they'll come together as a team to review and correct their work. Then they'll revise the material and move on to the next step.

Translation Step 2: Team Check

The translation team carefully reviews the Scripture drafts together verse-by-verse, checking for accuracy and clarity.



- Location: Jamaica
- Number of Speakers: 4,000,000
- Year Project Began: 2008
- Expected Completion Date: 2012

- Pray for good concentration and diligence for the Jamaican team as they go through the Scripture reviewing procedure with the consultant. It can be tedious; pray for patience and grace in the process.
- Continue to pray for the team members as they interact with the Scripture materials they've drafted individually. Ask God to give each one a teachable heart and to help them accept suggestions with grace and with careful consideration.
- Pray for continued enthusiasm of the new consultants.



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A Thought from 1 John

“Do not love this world or the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” (1 John 2:15-17)

While advertisements paint a bright, shiny picture filled with every contraption that money can buy, the Bible paints a different picture. Things and possessions should never be the focal point for our lives. Jesus gives abundant life, whether this includes material possessions or not. The things of this world should be fading into the background for God’s children, eclipsed by God’s promises and Christ’s imminent coming.

- **As you read God’s Word today, pray that cravings for material things and desires for leisure and entertainment will fade into the background. Pray this for Jamaican speakers as well, that they would develop a hunger to hear from God?**

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