



Kru Cluster

He Destroyed the Fetish House

The Godie team played an audiocassette of Mark's Gospel for a village elder. They wanted to see if the message was understood in the dialect chosen for the translation. Some months later they were told that this elder, the leader of the traditional religion, had given his life to Jesus and destroyed the fetish house of which he was the priest. This house was a sort of small hut with objects representing the village gods.

Called to a public hearing by traditionalists who wanted to know why he hadn't appointed a successor to his role as priest when he converted to Christianity, this elder replied, "I learned in God's Word, which I heard on this cassette (and he showed the cassette to the people), that you don't give bad things to those you love. Since I know the traditional religion is bad, I couldn't name a replacement." Since that day the traditional religion doesn't exist in this village. Some formerly devout traditionalists have also become Christians there.

- **Praise God for this strong evidence of the power of His Word in the mother tongue.**

Godie—A Pair of Gospels Under Construction

Project coordinator Gnaly did an accuracy check of Luke's Gospel in Godie, as planned. Resulting changes were then incorporated into the text. The translation of Luke is currently in the consultant's hands to be formally reviewed in the next month or two.

The Godie team has drafted the Gospel of Matthew and is now proof-reading it. Critical checking of the book by the exegete is on the agenda. The seminar on Matthew hasn't been held yet because of a change in the timetable of activities for the Kru project.

"I Understand, But..."

In Luke 8:21, Jesus gave a reply to those who'd informed him that His mother and brothers had come to see Him ("My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice"). During testing, some Kru speakers regarded this as a disrespectful way to respond to the arrival of one's parents because of its abruptness. It was suggested, therefore, that the translators have Jesus say, "I understand, but..."

Bete Guiberoua—Mark and Luke in the Limelight

The Bete Guiberoua translators finished testing and back-translating Luke. This testing was conducted in two different locations. The book was then submitted to a consultant in preparation for an exegetical check planned for this month. The team has also begun a revision of the book of Mark, reaching the end of chapter 5. They'll make necessary changes in the text to be set to song and choose the singing groups. Currently an accuracy review with the consultant is underway for Mark as well.



- **Location: Côte d'Ivoire, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 599,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2009**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2010**

- **Pray that the Godie team's work on Matthew and Luke will proceed on schedule.**

- **Pray that God will give the Godie team discernment in their translation decisions.**

- **Pray that the team's drafts of Mark and Luke will be dynamic and idiomatic.**



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“The Cola Bush Doesn’t Produce Hot Peppers”

In the teaching of Jesus about a tree and its fruit (Luke 6:44), the team chose to translate it as “*Men do not pick hot peppers from a cola bush*” to express the idea that each species of tree bears its own fruit. They’re aware that the trees in the Bible aren’t the same as the ones they used, but for the sake of comprehension they made this adjustment.

We Southern—Working with Joy

The We Southern team has been working with joy, aside from the frequent electricity cuts in town. Their checking of Mark’s Gospel with the consultant is finished, in answer to prayer. They report that they’ve made the corrections suggested by the consultant. The back-translation and preliminary testing of Luke are done as well, and this month the team is meeting with the consultant to review the book. They’re also working on the drafting, testing and back-translation of Matthew to get it ready for the consultant.

Happy To Hear God’s Word

Local people have been giving the We Southern translators words of encouragement, expressing how pleased they are to have a Bible translation in their language. The team continues to make people aware of this work so as to maximize its impact. But clearly many people are already happy to hear the Word of God in their heart tongue.

Bete Gagnoa—Three Gospels in the Works

The Bete Gagnoa team is glad to announce that they’ve translated Luke entirely in first draft. Also, the back-translation of Luke has been done and team-checking is currently underway. The team is now laying the groundwork for drafting Matthew.

The team looked through feedback based on a recent consultant-check of Mark. To date, they’ve incorporated half of the corrections into the text. These changes are ongoing and take place simultaneously to the work on Luke, since both books contain many of the same passages. A spell check has also commenced for Mark. Next up is village testing.

- **Pray for the safety of the translators’ families. Pray for good progress in their work.**

- **Thank the Lord that Luke in Bete Gagnoa has been relatively straightforward, largely due to a translation manual that the team has found to be very helpful.**