



Legbo New Testament

Satisfying Spiritual Hunger

Just as most people prefer food that's native to their own culture, so it is with spiritual food. That's why the Legbo translation team is determined to provide God's Word for their people in their own language.

As they pursue this weighty task they must exercise special care lest local readers make wrong assumptions, which could undermine the true meaning of God's Word. It's easy for implications from their more familiar culture to creep in or for biblical ideas to be connected to traditional rituals that conflict with scriptural standards.

- **Pray that Legbo people will feed on God's Word as they learn that "man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).**

Hit the Ground Running

The Legbo Bible translation project has finally hit the ground running. Work on five New Testament books is underway. The various steps include drafting, checking, testing, revising and editing. Luke has been drafted through chapter 19 and team checking of the book is ongoing. These tasks should be wrapped up for Luke by year's end. Meanwhile, drafting of Matthew, Mark and John continues. James is the fifth book to join the list.

Drafts of the Bible books are done by hand and then are entered into a computer. The team must wait for the drafts to be keyboarded before they can perform a team check. The project has only one laptop so this process takes time. The team is looking for computer-savvy individuals who can help with keyboarding.

Your Language Is Valuable

By God's grand design it's through language that values, traditions, mindsets and beliefs are imparted. One's mother tongue contributes at the deepest level to how he views and processes his world. Therefore, the heart and mind are most deeply penetrated by one's first language. That's why it's so crucial for people to have access to God's Word in their mother tongue.

Initially, the local people where a Bible translation project is taking place may not recognize the high value of having Scripture in their mother tongue. But often they're so touched by the value that the translation team places on their language that they become open to the message of the gospel.

During team checking of Luke, rough copies are printed out. A visitor at the translator's house saw a copy and exclaimed, "You



- **Location: Nigeria, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 80,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2008**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2013**

- **Praise the Lord that five Bible books are being drafted by the Legbo team!**
- **Pray that the translators will become adept at applying the translation principles they were taught at the four-week introductory course they attended in August.**
- **Ask God to provide individuals to help with keyboarding drafts into the computer.**
- **Rejoice that we serve a God who gives meaning to every language (1 Corinthians 14:10)! Pray that many Legbo people will embrace the written Word of God.**





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mean it's actually possible to write down our language, and even read the Bible in it?" Everyone who saw the printed portions of Luke was eager to see more. This was a source of great encouragement to the translators and they decided to print more copies of chapter 2 to use in Christmas services.



- **Continue praying for decisions being made regarding the Legbo writing system.**

Left: Legbo translators

Rising To the Challenge

The team is attempting to overcome a few practical challenges. They live quite far from the project office, requiring a lengthy commute. This has slowed efficient progress.

Also, electrical power is irregular and unreliable, making the use of technological tools difficult. The team was given a BGAN satellite unit—a solar-powered piece of equipment that gives them access to the internet—but it stopped working, impeding vital communication with support personnel.

Smooth Sailing and Choppy Seas

Sometimes the work is smooth sailing as the Scripture narratives communicate dynamically and need little further attention beyond the initial checking and testing stage. But then the more difficult portions make for choppy seas as the translators strive for a clear and easily understood rendering. An example of a hard-to-render passage is Jesus' teaching about the unrighteous steward in Luke 16:8-9. This passage has been under the scrutiny of a team check by the Legbo translators.

- **Praise God for the Legbo team's persistence despite obstacles. Pray for solutions that will enable them to efficiently accomplish their task.**
- **Ask the Lord to grant discernment to the Legbo translators as they endeavor to produce a translation that's theologically accurate and culturally relevant.**

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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