



Majang New Testament

“Good Before God”

In the Majang language, the word *mintan* has a wide range of meanings, from good to beautiful. Because of this large sweep, there are many adjectives in the Bible that the translation team finds a challenge to express, so they must create new phrases. For example, *righteousness* isn't just *mintan*. It's *mintan taameke Waakoyotongk*, which means “good before God”, as in many passages in the New Testament.

- **Pray that the Lord will give the Majang translators wisdom in expressing the truths of His Word with their full depth of meaning.**

Reward of Satisfaction

The Majang translators are feeling the reward of satisfaction for their work on short New Testament epistles. They've completed their draft of James and also drafted 1 and 2 Peter and the last chapter of Philippians. They did a team check of 1 Peter as well and they're now doing the same for Philemon, James, 2 Peter and the last chapter of Philippians.

The team recently translated the book of Titus from Majang back into literal English in preparation for an upcoming consultant's review. Meanwhile, checks of James, 1 and 2 Peter and the last chapter of Philippians by the consultant are scheduled to happen soon. The team had to back-translate these books beforehand too.

Visible Fruits

The translators are happy to report that they back-translated Genesis chapters 1-11 and then met with the consultant to review that foundational portion of God's Word. Now those chapters are formally approved, and the team plans to have them published shortly in booklet form and delivered to local church leaders.

The distribution of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) to church leaders has been a highlight of the past several months. In fact, the Gospels are the first visible fruits for the Majang project, which the people had waited for eagerly.

- **Pray that God will motivate the Majang people to assume increasing ownership of the translation project and to grow spiritually.**
- **Pray that the Lord will use the printed Gospels as an instrument for extending His kingdom among the Majang people.**



- **Location: Ethiopia**
- **Number of Speakers: 40,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2008**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2014**

- **Praise God for the team's good progress on short New Testament epistles.**
- **Pray that these detailed checks of the translation will yield a first-rate end product.**



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Hands-On Experience

The Majang translators attended the workshop on Paratext, as planned, and have started using that valuable software program, which is designed to help translators keyboard their translation in a standard format so that the layout will be consistent. It also facilitates editing and has tools to help check the consistency of spelling, punctuation and other features. It enables them to view two or three translations side by side so that they can be compared.

Continual training in other aspects of computer operation has occupied some of the translators' time as well. Team member Abiyot has been developing the expertise that he'll need to serve in his new role as project advisor, to begin later this year when he replaces James.

New Denomination in the Area

The local church that oversees the Majang translation project has been making efforts to communicate with the leaders of a new denomination in the district. They particularly want to address areas of disagreement regarding certain activities, such as the translation project. The team hopes to have a meeting with leaders from both denominations to encourage good cooperation between them and to gain acceptance for the translation project by the new denomination.

- **Pray for good cooperation between these two church denominations, at least in the areas of Bible translation and literacy.**

Tapping into Jesus

Jesus said, "*Apart from Me, you can do nothing*" (John 15:5). Only as believers tap into Him as branches are joined to the vine can they be fruitful in their lives and service for Him.

- **Pray that the Majang translators' commitment to the work and their love for the Savior will remain strong and grow.**

- **Pray that the team will take advantage of the features of Paratext that especially apply to the Bible translation task.**
- **Pray for a smooth transition between James and Abiyot, the future project advisor.**
- **Pray for health, safety and a deep walk with the Lord for the translators and their families.**