



Mbeya NT Cluster*

Making Scripture Accessible to All

For many people in Tanzania, the language they grew up speaking may not even exist in a written form. And even if it does, they may never have seen it and are even less likely to have heard it as some kind of audio recording.

One aspect of the Mbeya Cluster teams' work—making Scripture accessible to all in the language that they understand best—is to make it available in audio format. In a culture where oral storytelling is valued over and above the written text, this is a vital ministry.

Not long ago, the whole Gospel of Mark was recorded in the Wanji language and has since been available for sale in both tape and CD format. The literacy/Scripture-use coordinator for the area recently sent in the following report:

“People are using the tapes and CDs in their homes, but also I’ve passed by some places in the market and heard it playing! Many listen to it just for the sake of listening and enjoy hearing how their language has been used and see that it is good Wanji! A few people will sit and listen and then spend time thinking about the meaning of what they heard.

“Now I’m educating people who buy the tapes as to how they can listen to the tapes together with others. People are very happy with the tapes, and when they listen for the first time they’re amazed.”

Three Dedications Coming Up!

The dedication celebrations for Mark’s Gospel in the Kinga, Malila and Ndali languages are drawing nearer. It’s a bit daunting to think about all the work that needs to be done and the people and logistics that need to come together for a dedication to happen.

The translation advisor was talking to the Wanji team about their dedication last year and asked them about the particulars. What they emphasized was that in the days before their dedication absolutely everything went wrong, but on the day of the dedication itself everything went right, and they saw very clearly that God was intervening for them.

The Translation Side of Things

Here’s the latest on what the nine Mbeya Cluster teams have accomplished on the translation side of things. The consultant’s check of 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon was completed in **Kinga**, as planned. In addition, the translation advisor has checked the book of James, and the team tested it with other members of the community. They’re now adapting Luke’s Gospel, basing it on



- Location: Tanzania, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 3,032,000
- Year Project Began: 2006
- Expected Completion Date: 2015

- Thank the Lord for these Wanji speakers’ great response to His Word in audio. Pray that people will put into practical everyday use the Scriptures they hear.
- Pray that God will once again come through and grant successful dedication events to the Kinga, Malila and Ndali teams as they celebrate the coming of Mark’s Gospel.





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a related-language translation. The **Ndali** team has checked and tested 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon. They've adapted half of Matthew's Gospel so far. The **Nyiha** team printed Mark, in answer to prayer. They're poised to work on Acts once two new translators begin working in August.

The **Malila** translators recently drafted 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude. The advisor has now checked three-fourths of Acts. The team-check, testing and back-translation of Acts are halfway done and an adaptation of Luke has started. The advisor has also checked half of Luke in **Wanji** and that team is up to chapter 18 in their adaptation of the book. A consultant's check of chapters 7-12 is expected soon. The **Nyakyusa** team's first order of business once their two new translators come on board next month will be to carry on with Mark. The first half of the book still waits for testing and the last half is in need of a consultant's check. That team will also move 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon through the translation steps. Adaptation of chapters 1-6 of Luke is in progress.

The **Bena** team has back-translated the last half of Mark. They also have a new translator starting next month. The advisor's check of Mark and an adaptation of Luke are currently underway. The last half of Mark in **Sangu** has been consultant-checked, and the adaptation of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus along with the advisor's check has also been completed. Those books together with Philemon have been tested and back-translated. Chapters 1-6 of Luke have been adapted too and chapters 7-12 are in process. The advisor's check of chapters 1-6 has begun. The **Safwa** team still needs to take their draft of Mark through the checking and testing steps, but first the shortage of workers must be resolved. When that need is addressed, they'll also begin working on Acts.

- **Pray for the protection of all team members and their families in the spiritual battle of pressing towards the goal of completed mother-tongue Scripture.**
- **With five new translators starting in August (one for Bena, two for Nyakyusa-Ngonde and two for Nyiha), please pray for wisdom and the means to provide the right training to get them up and running.**
- **Praise God that administrators are making good progress with improving methods for remote consultant-checking. But with new teams coming aboard, on-site checking becomes a necessity. Continue to pray that all consulting needs will be met.**
- **Pray for peace and order during the general election in the country in the autumn.**
- **Continue to pray for the recruitment of Safwa translators. There are still issues here. Please pray for a workable solution.**