



Bena

Mirroring Jesus' Death

“Endurance and suffering are the themes woven together in the epistle of 2 Timothy. The Apostle Paul’s willingness to suffer for the gospel mirrors Christ’s own experience of death. And in the climactic conclusion of 2 Timothy (4:16-18), Paul engages Psalm 22, which foreshadows Christ’s passion, in such a way that his impending death conforms to and in some ways more fully completes the Old Testament model of the suffering of the Messiah” (Commentator Philip Towner).

- **Pray that many Bena speakers will learn what it means to “take up the cross and follow” Jesus (Mark 8:34), just as Paul did even to the point of dying for his Lord.**

Steps Forward

The Bena team has drafted¹ the last half of Luke’s Gospel and also back translated⁴ the whole book to get it ready for a consultant’s check.⁵ Now that portion of God’s Word is drawing closer to completion to join the previously finished books of Mark, Ruth and Jonah in the Bena language. The books of 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon are pushing ahead as well.

- **Pray for the team as they prepare for the consultant’s check of Luke and complete further steps on 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon.**

The Marvelous Breath of God

All 27 books of the New Testament were given as “men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (2 Peter 1:21), which means Bena people are receiving the very words of God in their language and can discover for themselves that “the Word became flesh and dwelled among us” (John 1:14).

As Bena children memorize verses such as Mark 10:45 — “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” — faith in Jesus develops early on.

- **Pray that God will prepare many Bena hearts to receive and embrace the life-giving message found in the pages of the New Testament.**



- **Location: Tanzania, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 670,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2006**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2015**

- **Praise God for what He’s doing through the faithful labors of the Bena translators.**

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.

MBEYA NT CLUSTER_BENA PROJECT UPDATE—1

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