



Mbula New Testament

On the Translation Front

The team continues to stay busy and right on track with their goals. In the past few months, not only did they finish team checking³ Mark’s gospel, but they also met with a consultant to check⁵ James and part of John.

The consultant checking workshop came and went without a hitch. The team members that attended studied the book of James in depth and checked all aspects of their translations of James in depth with a consultant – exegesis (James has some challenging exegetical issues), communication effectiveness, and the naturalness of the discourse.

It is particularly encouraging to see how the translation of the team has improved as they have attended workshops and worked in depth with their consultant. They are now checking their translations as a team before they bring them to the consultant. The consultant is thrilled that they are catching many points themselves, which before were left to the consultant to see. Members of the team could well develop to become consultants themselves in the future.

Future Plans

The team is currently preparing the rest of the book of John for the consultant check. Some of this checking will be done as a “distance check” — the team and the consultant interacting via email and perhaps Skype. This is possible now that the team has developed their skills to a high level and is producing high-quality translation.

Team members are also meeting weekly to team check the book of Acts.

The typist has a lot of work ahead of him. Before the team can check² 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians and 1 and 2 Timothy, the typist must first keyboard the drafts of these books into the computer. Now that the new computer operator has joined the team, this step is going much faster.

The team is grateful that even though work can be tedious and time consuming, they’ve still managed to keep morale high and maintain good relationships.



- Location: Nigeria, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 100,000
- Year Project Began: 2008
- Expected Completion Date: 2013

- Thank God for the commitment of this translation team and their diligence in carefully checking and polishing their translation together, working well as a team.
- Pray that they will remain committed to complete an excellent translation in Mbula. Also that some of the team may catch a vision to help other language teams also, in God’s good time.
- Pray for the team as they check the book of Acts. Ask that the typist will stay focused and diligent as he tackles his large workload. Thank the Lord for team members’ strong relationships.

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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3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104
Arlington, Texas 76015

Toll Free: (877) 593-7333
www.theseedcompany.org

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