

Misaje IG Cluster*

First Verses Translated

At the closing of the Introduction to Translation Principles course, participants from the six Misaje Cluster teams got up and read verses from the Christmas story they had just translated. The mayor's representative then spoke, and said, "Today I have heard something I have never before heard in my life. I have heard the Scripture read in my own language." He was visibly impressed, and commended the translators for their work.



Reading the first Scripture in Misaje Cluster languages

- **Praise the Lord that the first words of Scripture in Misaje Cluster languages have been translated. Thank Him that people are already responding joyfully.**

Impossible? Not for God!

Identifying candidates for the translation teams in each of the Misaje Cluster languages is a vital first step in the life of the project. Even in large language groups, finding qualified and committed translators can be difficult. How much harder everyone expected it to be for the six small groups in the Misaje Cluster: Nchane, Saari, Naami, Kemezong, Mungong and Chung.



Attendees at the Translation Principles Course

Once again, God showed that He is in the business of doing the impossible! Over several months, church committees in each language area identified translator candidates—more than 45 in all. Of that number, 22 were chosen for the work, two to four people from each language group. There is now a core group of translators in each of the six language groups!

- **Praise God for bringing together qualified translators for all six small Misaje Cluster language teams.**



- Location: Cameroon, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 34,500 in six language groups
- Year Project Began: 2010
- Expected Completion Date: 2012

“Today I have heard something I have never before heard in my life. I have heard the Scripture read in my own language.”



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Let the Training Begin!

In a few weeks, the six-month probationary training period for Misaje project translators is scheduled to begin. The program will be rigorous. It will include further training in translation principles as well as courses on biblical exegesis, linguistics, literacy, typing and computer skills, how to build good relations with project partners and many other topics. Christian character development and good work habits will also be part of the program.

- **Pray that the Misaje Cluster training team will be fully prepared to carry out their plans for the six month probationary training course.**

Reading Primers for All Six

Alphabet books were the first books the Misaje Cluster teams produced. Now the teams have gone on to produce a draft of a primer (first reading book) for each language, at a workshop. This is a significant building block in the Misaje project, since the primers will be the basis of literacy work in each language. Workshop participants have been excited to spread the word that there is a new book in each of their languages!

Soon there will be another sign of progress. Elijah, a literacy coordinator formerly with the Noni translation project, is scheduled to join the Misaje Cluster. He plans to move his family to the Misaje area as soon as he can find suitable housing.

First Step: Make Bricks



Pouring the corner posts, one bucket of cement at a time

In the part of Africa where the Misaje project is located, the first step in a building project is to make bricks, and the time of year to make them is dry season. Work began slowly on the Misaje Translation Center. The rains quit on schedule, but two precious dry season months passed without enough bricks being made. Then a full-time building contractor arrived and work on the center began in earnest. The walls are now up, and materials are on hand to build the roof, pour the cement floors and plaster the inside and outside walls with cement. If all goes well, the new building will be usable for the mother-tongue translator training program that begins in a few weeks.

For the six language groups of the Misaje Cluster project, the new translation center is much more than a building. It's a tangible testimony that something very real and important is happening in their communities.

- **Pray that the 22 potential mother-tongue translators will all be able to continue their training and will hold fast to the vision of Bible translation in their heart language.**

- **Praise the Lord that all six languages in the Misaje Cluster now have reading primers in draft form.**

- **Pray that Elijah will quickly find his place in the Misaje project and will be a blessing to the literacy work in the six Misaje languages.**



Misaje Translation Center takes shape

- **Thank the Lord that the translation center is nearly ready.**
- **Pray that the building will be usable in time for the translator training program starting soon.**

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.

MISAJE INTIAL GOAL UPDATE—2

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