



The Nugunu People

“I Still Have a Lot to Learn”

In an effort to get the widest possible exposure for the translated Scriptures and to assure the best quality of translation, the Nugunu revision committee rotates their meeting place, visiting the various villages where committee members live. Local people join the committee to observe, listen and make comments.

In Assala village, 68-year-old Celesin never misses a gathering. After reading the first three chapters of 1 John, project coordinator Crepin asked Celesin, *“Papa, tell me, did anything in particular strike you during our meeting this morning?”*

“My son,” he answered, “I got something from verses 9-10 of chapter 2. If I pretend to love God, but don’t care about the life of my brother in the neighborhood, I’m not living by God’s Word. I still have a lot to learn from the Word of God. It’s as though I’m reading this passage for the first time. If you give me this copy, I’ll read it to my wife when she comes home.”

- **Praise God for the revision committee’s initiative to involve many community members in the Scripture checking process. Pray that many other lives will be touched and changed by God’s Word.**

Catching Up on Matthew

During consultant Simon’s rescheduled visit to the Nugunu in March (he was sick in January), he was able to work through the first 11 chapters of Matthew’s Gospel with the team. This month, he’ll visit them again before his scheduled furlough and check more of Matthew. The team finished back-translating the entire book from Nugunu into literal French, so Simon can check as much as time allows. This consultant input is essential to assure a high-quality translation.

On the Drafting Table

The team has begun drafting Revelation. In coming months, they’ll continue this task. They also plan to start drafting Ephesians and Hebrews. These three books represent different genres of literature. While Revelation includes much that’s symbolic and prophetic, Hebrews describes a great deal about Jewish culture and customs that may be unfamiliar to the translators. In contrast, Ephesians offers doctrinal discussion that includes challenging theological vocabulary.

Translation Step 1: First Draft

Translating the Scriptures in first draft begins with exegesis, which is the explanation or critical interpretation of a Scripture text essential to creating this draft.



- Location: Cameroon, West Africa
- Number of speakers: 40,000
- Project Goal: New Testament
- Year Project Began: 2008
- Expected Completion Date: 2014

- **Thank God for the diligence of the Nugunu team and the consistent follow-up of the consultant. Pray that their May meetings will be equally productive.**

- **Please pray for the team as they tackle the difficult concepts in these books and make decisions on the translation of foreign ideas and theological terms.**



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Partnering with the Community

In recent weeks, team members made visits to church leaders in the various Nugunu-speaking communities. They offered reports on the project's activities and submitted prayer requests about the translation. They also gave the churches options about how they could support the project. One church promised to provide food for the revision sessions when they come to their city, Ombessa. The city's mayor is allowing the team to use the municipal building for their work and for workshops.

Comfort from Matthew 11

Simon recently finished checking Matthew chapter 11 in Nugunu. The team is implementing his corrections. In light of the current worries about a drought and potential starvation, the Nugunu people can now receive comfort from Jesus' words in verses 28 and 29:

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."

As you read these verses today, thank God for the assurance of rest that Christ offers. What burdens can you bring to Him today?

- **Praise God for this positive response from the community and the local churches.**
- **Please pray for the Nugunu community. A drought is withering their crops, so they're facing the possibility of famine and greater hardship. Ask God to avert this impending crisis.**

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104, Arlington, Texas 76015
Toll Free: 866-One-Verse (866-663-8377) OneVerse.org
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