



# Nyarafolo New Testament

## Crossing Cultural Boundaries

Just last month, part of Luke’s first chapter made it through the drafting process. Although it was not completely finished, Abdoulaye couldn’t wait to share this biblical truth with an outreach group in his community.

The crowd grew still as Abdoulaye read about the Jewish priest named Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. The couple desperately wanted a child, but Elizabeth was barren, and now they were both very old. It was considered a reproach and even a curse for a couple to not have children; yet, they were both righteous before God and in right standing with Him. Why had their pleadings to God for a child gone unanswered for so many years?

But one day while Zechariah was administering his priestly duties in the temple, it was his turn to burn incense in the Holy Place. As he approached the holy altar, Luke 1:12-13 says Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John” (NLT).

A son! The crowd listening to the story was just as astounded as Zechariah. Three words had grabbed their attention — barren, righteous and son. Culturally for the Nyarafolo speakers, a barren woman is a cursed woman; they believe that at some point she has done something very bad. So for God to consider Elizabeth — a barren woman — righteous, it touched a deep nerve. But as God’s gracious character unfolded in the verses, seeds of hope were sown into the hearts of the Nyarafolo listeners.

Abdoulaye shared that God hears prayers and faithfully answers them in His timing. He watered those seeds of hope by expounding upon God’s loving nature. The people listened intently. The drafted Nyarafolo Scriptures had crossed cultural boundaries and gave entrance to God’s love for His people.

## Short-Term Mission, Long-Term Effect

This past fall, a short-term mission team came and painted the Nyarafolo alphabet on the front of the wall that surrounds the translation office to promote literacy. As a result of that project, Sylvain started visiting with the translation team. He attended a Catholic high school after moving from a remote village to live with his uncle in the city.

At school, Sylvain was exposed to a French Bible translation. Yet when he started hearing his heart language of Nyarafolo spoken regularly, he became intrigued with the translation process. He

>>>



- Location: Côte d'Ivoire, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 60,000
- Year Project Began: 2010
- Expected Completion Date: 2017

- **Praise the Lord for His Word that speaks to those things unique to each culture and person. Thank you, Lord, for Your infinite wisdom and ability to meet us where we are each day!**

- **Please pray for the translation team as they continue their work. They are asking the Lord for unity, grace and strong team dynamic.**





## Nyarafolo New Testament

has been attending the Tiepogovogo village church for the past three months.

It is clear to the team that heart language Scripture is having a deep impact on Sylvain. Linnea eloquently wrote, “The Lord knows whether he is a seeker, or a true believer who has not been disciplined. We are just grateful to see him pursuing the truth.”

A short-term mission team’s impact will definitely have a long-term effect!

- **The Tenth Annual Nyarafolo Bible Conference will be held in mid-March. Pray for their planning and for true discipline and evangelistic impact on the wider community.**

### Amazing Grace

The translation team’s newest member, back translator Djakarija, said, “It’s an amazing grace from God — I get to spend all day in the Word!”

This quarter, the Gospel of Mark will be printed and distributed! The back translation<sup>4</sup> team is wrapping up Luke. A first draft<sup>1</sup> of Exodus is nearly complete while Acts and Numbers are just beginning. The “Life of Moses” and Matthew are completing their round of consultant checking.<sup>5</sup>

- **Pray for an ongoing movement to Christ among Nyarafolos. During the past month, a diviner has turned to Christ and publicly burned her occult paraphernalia; 16 believers were also baptized at Tiepogovogo on Christmas Day.**

- **Father, we ask that the equipment, vehicles, communication, networking and teamwork be seamless and easy, and that the team would walk in Your abundant grace this year!**

#### 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.

NYARAFOLO NT UPDATE—2

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104  
Arlington, Texas 76015

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

A Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate

