PROJECT UPDATE

DECEMBER 2011

Nyungwe New Testament

Small Words, Big Impact

The translation team is working hard to bring God's Word to the Nyungwe people. Several neighboring areas already have copies of the Bible and the Nyungwe people desire the same — to hear God's Word in the language that speaks to their heart.

Even with the help of computer programs, Nyungwe translation is often confusing. It is so important to convey the intended meaning from the Greek text to the Nyungwe people living in Tete today. For example, the translation team struggles with the word "prophesy." The Portuguese translation is "guess" or "divine." Since Nyungwe culture is rooted in witchcraft, those words could easily be misunderstood when read out of context. Prophesy translates clearly in Mark 14:65 but has a new meaning in Acts chapter 2. The Chewa Bible used by some Nyungwe says, "to proclaim the things of God." Translators are matching this meaning in the Nyungwe translation to eliminate any connection with evil customs and clearly portray God's meaning of prophesy.

- **Ask God for the translators to have clarity of mind as they find the best communication of God's Word to the Nyungwe people in the language that speaks to their heart.**

Acts of Progression

The team drafted[1] the book of Acts and teamed checked[2] as far as chapter 8, verse 25. They are now checking the remaining chapters. The team also revised the first 25 chapters of Exodus. They plan to revise the entire book very soon. Also underway are preparations for printing the book of Genesis.

- **Thank the Lord for the progress the team has made. Pray for them to remain focused and productive in their goals.**

"Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God — which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13, NLT).

Early Impact in the Community

One exciting, warm, September day, the team headed to the nearby town of Cachigamba for a much-anticipated meeting with locals and church leaders to test[3] portions of translated Scripture. Unsure of what to expect, the team brought 50 copies of chapters from Exodus, copies of the Gospel of Mark and several other Nyungwe booklets.

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- Location: Mozambique, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 420,000
- Year Project Began: 2009
- Expected Completion Date: 2016

The response was amazing! Not only did the Nyungwe people understand God's Word in their heart language, it moved them.

The SeedCompany™ ACCELERATED BIBLE TRANSLATION

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After waiting an hour for everyone to arrive, the testing session began. First, the team read aloud several sections of Scripture. Then they read more verses together as a group. They would then stop and ask questions, sometimes to check if they understood the text, sometimes to check key terms. And they would ask for their comments on the text.

The response was amazing! Not only did the Nyungwe people understand God's Word in their heart language, it moved them. One woman asked for advice from Scripture for her marriage. She realized that what the Bible says is true and that God's Word is the only answer to life's daily troubles.

The community's warm welcome and open heart encourages the team to keep the pace. What a blessing to see God working in the hearts and lives of the people when they understand the Bible in their heart language.

- **Praise the Lord for the successful community testing session. Pray for understanding and receptiveness among the people. May they "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NLT).**
- **Thank God for the local churches who partner with the team. Pray for God's blessing on all those who support the translation project financially and through prayer, both near and far.**

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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