



PROJECT PROFILE

Abakaliki Bible Cluster*

PROJECT SUMMARY:

More than a half-million people — living within one of the most linguistically diverse nations on earth — are about to receive the entire Bible for the first time! In 1980, the Izii, Ezaa and Ikwo people received their New Testaments. Then they promptly set to work on the Old Testament. Local churches were not about to settle for less. But twenty years of hard work, delays and setbacks will soon fade into history, as translators make final corrections and send three complete Bibles to the printers.



THE PEOPLE

People who speak three closely related languages Izii, Ezaa and Ikwo live in fertile southeastern Nigeria. The area is rich in mineral resources, and the ancestors of today's inhabitants developed bronze-casting techniques more than a thousand years ago. The creativity and technical skill demonstrated by those early African metal crafters is recognized as among the finest in the history of the world.

THE BACKGROUND

In 1964, Paul and Inge Meier, a young couple from Switzerland, arrived in Nigeria to minister among the Izii people. They learned the language and then began to translate the New Testament for them. A few Izii Christians took interest, and together they became a team.

Later, the neighboring people groups Ezaa and Ikwo wanted mother-tongue Bibles as well. And they too joined the ranks. In 1980 this team celebrated completion of three New Testaments for the more than half-million Izii, Ikwo and Ezaa people.

But the work didn't stop there. Local churches immediately wanted the complete picture—the panorama of God's redemptive plan for humankind as found in both the Old and New Testaments. So in the late 1980s, Nigerian mother-tongue speakers of Izii, Ezaa and Ikwo began translating the Old Testament.

- **Location:** Nigeria
- **Number of Speakers:** 530,000 in 3 languages
- **Project Goal:** Complete Bibles in 3 languages
- **Year Project Began:** 2006
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2012



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THE PLAN

Today, Nigerian translators are revising trial editions of all three mother-tongue Bibles. They want to ensure that the final product, God's holy Word, speaks accurately and clearly in the people's heart languages. The team is on track to complete these Bibles by March 2012, after some initial setbacks.

To make the Scriptures even more accessible to their people, the team is also translating the script for the "JESUS" film in both Ikwo and Ezaa languages. Today the film, already completed in Izii, is making a strong impact. People embrace its message, calling it "Jesus Speaks Izii."

And there's an even broader plan, as God leads some of these Nigerian translators to develop their skills and serve as facilitators and consultants for translations in other languages. Others in the nation also want to translate God's Word. And since Nigeria has an astonishing 500+ languages — spoken by about 12 million people — there are many who still need Scripture translation! God is on the move here.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Abakaliki translators cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer. Your investment makes translation possible, providing training, adequate computer equipment, translation supplies and living expenses for the translators' family.

Your prayer helps translators and their families face problems like sickness, conflict and spiritual opposition that can threaten their work.

Call The Seed Company toll-free at 1-877-593-7333 or visit www.theseedcompany.org/projects to commit to invest and pray for the Abakaliki team.