



PROJECT PROFILE

Alago

BACKGROUND

About thirty years ago, an expatriate couple started Bible translation work among the Alago, but at that time few Alago people seemed interested. They were more interested in the language of wider communication than in their own. The couple decided not to pursue the project since it appeared the language would not remain viable. However, today the situation has changed. The Alago are committed to the development of their language, including the compilation of a dictionary and the preparation of materials for literacy.

THE NEED

More than nine Christian denominations are present in the Alago community. About 35% of the population professes faith in Christ. Some of those would like to reach out to their friends and neighbors who are bound by legalistic religion or by perpetual fear of animistic spirits.

The dominant culture respects the written word of God. Believers need printed Scripture in the mother tongue in order to effectively carry out the Great Commission in their culture. In addition to the New Testament and part of the Old Testament, the team hopes to produce the *JESUS* film in Alago.

Two translators have already been drafting the New Testament on their own, but they desperately need equipment, training and technical help.

THE TEAM

Representatives from every evangelical church denomination in the region came together to ask the Nigeria Bible Translation Trust (NBTT) to help them produce the Alago Scriptures in order to spread the Gospel in their region. Three Alago speakers have already been translating into their own language. In fact, they had already drafted the New Testament before they had any training or help!

Church leaders are supportive of their work. Other speakers will give feedback as reviewers. Alago churches have committed to underwrite some project expenses, demonstrating their enthusiastic support and wholehearted endorsement.



- **Location:** Nigeria, Africa
- **Number of Speakers:** 70,000
- **Project Goal:** Full New Testament and Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2008
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2013



Alago

THE PLAN

The team plans to translate the New Testament and Old Testament portions. The translation goes through a number of steps. After the first draft has been made and reviewed together with the whole team of translators it is checked with a translation consultant. Then it is tested extensively with other speakers of the language to find out whether it is communicating accurately and clearly. In this way each book undergoes an extensive checking and revision process before it is published, both among the team members and with outside consultants and with other speakers. After they complete the Gospel of Luke, the team also anticipates producing the *JESUS* film.

Most Alago non-Christians can already read. Because those who can read are educated in another language, the team plans to offer a mother-tongue literacy program. In this way, the Alago will grow to appreciate their language in writing and hopefully be eager to read God's Word. They expect a positive impact on formal education as well: a reduction in the number of school drop-outs. During the early phases of the project, they will focus on informal literacy and community development classes. In following years, they expect to work with the formal education system to produce more Alago educational literature in collaboration with local school authorities. This will help them promote the Scripture and reach into the community with the Good News.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Alago translators cannot complete their goals alone. They not only have the responsibility for translating Scripture, but also that of providing for their families and their personal needs. They need your help with material provisions, computer equipment, supplies for their work, and funds for their training. Prayerfully consider how God might use your financial partnership to translate His precious Word.

The work of Bible translation is also in great need of your prayers. Sickness and political instability always threaten the work. The translators and their families are on the front lines of a fierce spiritual battle. Commit today to pray for the translation work in Nigeria and for the Alago speakers who are waiting to hear the truths of the Scriptures. Call The Seed Company toll-free at 877-593-7333.

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104
Arlington, Texas 76015
Toll Free: (877) 593-7333
www.theseedcompany.org
A Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate

