



## PROJECT PROFILE

# Djimini Old Testament

### PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Djimini New Testament was published in 1995. The Old Testament was initially scheduled to be finished in 2010, but the eruption of a—as yet unresolved—civil war in 2002 severely impeded the team's progress. The team eventually adapted to the new, difficult environment, and in the past three years alone has completed 30% of the Old Testament! They are now on pace to finish the whole Bible by 2014.

### THE CONTEXT

Most Djimini (JIM-in-nee) people participate in traditional religious practices, such as the worship of spirits and the placation of their ancestors. Of those who are Christians, half are members of one major church. Several Protestant denominations also have congregations in the area.

Almost all local churches in the Djimini area collaborated in translating the New Testament, and they have agreed to work together again, to bring the Old Testament to completion.

### THE NEED

Another major religion has gained many Djimini adherents. This is in response to their preaching, based on distorted versions of stories about biblical patriarchs, found in their holy book. And believing the lies, a substantial number of Djimini people have converted to that religion in the past few years. The small but fervent Protestant church is battling against these untruths.

Djimini churches are already using their mother-tongue New Testament extensively. Now they also need the Old Testament, to underscore the truth of the Gospel and to correct misunderstandings of foundational Old Testament material.

### THE PLAN

Project Leader Ouattara Nambalapan Matthieu has trained new translators for the work. And because of his recent internship as a consultant, he can now check many levels of the translation accuracy, in an entire range of Scriptural genres, including Old Testament prophets and poetry.

During this project, the team will complete the entire Old Testament and publish several small literacy books. This Bible will may also provide a valuable source text for a possible computer adaptation, to translate for a neighboring Bibleless people group.



- **Location:** Côte d'Ivoire, Africa
- **Number of Speakers:** 85,000
- **Project Goal:** Old Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 1999
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2014



# Djimini Old Testament

## THE PEOPLE

The 85,000 Djimini people reside in the north central region of Côte d'Ivoire in villages. They rely almost entirely on agriculture to provide for their families. Even in good years, they are poorly paid for their cash crops: peanuts, cassava and yams. And recent periods of drought have made life especially difficult. Most parents can't afford their children's school fees, books and uniforms.

But these people have a high regard for their language. They speak it at home, in the marketplace and in churches. Although better educated young people speak French—with varying degrees of proficiency—they continue to be proud of their heart language. A number of people also speak the trade language Jula, but the Djimini language is not in danger of disappearing or of being absorbed.

## THE TEAM

Mother-tongue translators Justin, Touré, Moïse and Matthieu are eager to finish.

Matthieu began working with a Wycliffe team in 1979, serving as the primary translator until the Djimini New Testament was completed. He has learned to use a computer and is now completing an internship as translation consultant with The Seed Company. And in addition to academic and organizational skills necessary to be the project leader, he speaks four languages: Djimini, French, English and Jula.

## JOINING THE TEAM

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

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](http://www.theseedcompany.org/projects) to commit to invest and pray for the Djimini team.

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