



PROJECT PROFILE

Ehugbo

PROJECT SUMMARY

“How great is God if He can’t speak our language?” This was the comment of several elderly Ehugbo women. Their conclusion that God doesn’t speak Ehugbo was genuine. After all, God’s Scriptures aren’t yet available in their language.

Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and smaller Christian groups have been active in the Ehugbo area for many years. But because they don’t have access to God’s Word in their language, many church-goers still also practice traditional African religion, including appeasing ancestral spirits.

The New Testament and supporting Old Testament portions will bring the Scriptures to life for the Ehugbo people. They will recognize the character of God, the power of prayer and the authority of the Word. Mother-tongue Scripture will offer the needed foundation for personal spiritual growth, meaningful corporate worship and effective evangelistic outreach.

THE PEOPLE

The Ehugbo community is one of many ethnicities within the larger Igbo population. Most Igbo people are farmers. Their biggest crop is yams. They also harvest palm fruit and process it into palm oil to export to western nations.

Leadership in these communities generally falls to those who have proven themselves economically successful. Through western influence, Ehugbo people have acquired a taste for material things. They also highly value educational qualifications. Despite these values, poverty-stricken older people struggle for survival. Poor schools and sporadic efforts by official institutions have left the community with low literacy rates.

THE NEED

Church leaders are concerned about secularism and materialism creeping into the Ehugbo church. Without God’s Word, Christians easily fall prey to the lures of the wider outside culture. Many consider Sunday church services little more than fund-raising activities.

The New Testament and supporting Old Testament portions will bring the Scriptures to life for the Ehugbo people. They will recognize the greatness of God as He communicates with them through His Word in their language. Mother-tongue Scripture will offer the needed foundation for personal spiritual growth, meaningful corporate worship and effective evangelistic outreach.



- **Location:** Nigeria
- **Number of Speakers:** 40,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament and Old and New Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2009
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2013



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THE TEAM

The Ehugbo team consists of three full-time and three part-time translators and an office secretary. Nigerian consultants will provide training and technical assistance, helping the mother-tongue speakers do the most effective job possible.

THE PLAN

Other translations within the Igbo language family have been completed or are in progress. These materials will help the Ehugbo team make faster progress in their work as they may be able to use computer adaptation methods to help create first drafts. Because so few read Ehugbo, the team also plans to use audio-visual media (the *JESUS* film and recorded Scripture) to promote and distribute God's Word in Ehugbo. They will cooperate with other entities to encourage literacy programs as well.

Area churches have endorsed the translation project and are encouraging the translators. Clergy are eager to have the Scriptures in their mother tongue to use in services and to urge people to use individually. As the project began, the book of Mark was already in first draft, so the translators are making significant headway.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Ehugbo 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 to commit to invest and pray for the Ehugbo team.

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