



PROJECT PROFILE

Erei

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Erei people live in a remote area of Nigeria. Development of their community has lagged behind other regions that have better access to roads and communication systems. Traditional values which used to maintain social stability are fast eroding as youth embrace new ideas, rejecting the authority of traditional leaders. Social injustice prevails; widows in particular are subject to exploitation.

This project will provide Old Testament portions, including parts of Genesis, Exodus, the Minor prophets and selected Psalms. Translators will also work through New Testament portions including Luke, John, the Pastoral Epistles and the Letters of John.

These Scriptures will address many of the social ills among the Erei people and lay a firm foundation upon which to build healthy self-esteem. An approved writing system will validate and preserve their Erei language and way of life. Most important, God's Word will answer the unspoken questions: *"Who is God? Are we important to Him, and if so, why? What is His purpose for us?"*



- **Location:** Nigeria, Africa
- **Number of Speakers:** 20,000
- **Project Goal:** Genesis and Exodus portions, Minor Prophet portions (Haggai and Micah), Selected Psalms, Luke, John, Pastoral Epistles and Epistles of John
- **Year Project Began:** 2009
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2012

THE CONTEXT

Although missionaries brought the gospel to the Erei people more than 60 years ago, only about 10% of the population follow Christ, spread among four denominations. Churches lack resources in the mother tongue to help reach the Erei population or encourage growth among their members. Many still practice African traditional religion. In the void of an understandable Scriptural foundation, cults are establishing themselves in the Erei community.

THE PEOPLE

Existing schools and clinics cannot meet the health and educational needs of the people in the seventeen Erei settlements. Farmers work hard, yet many of their family members die of malnutrition and other preventable diseases. Children fortunate enough to complete elementary school often marry early, rather than pursuing further education, since it is not readily available.

In addition to the physical poverty that plagues Erei communities, young people who have ventured into the outside world have returned with new ideas and habits that undermine their parents' traditional cultural values.





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THE TEAM

Friday Inya is a mother-tongue speaker of Erei, and lived for much of his childhood in that area. He holds a Bachelor of Divinity degree and has taken linguistics training at the Graduate Institute for Applied Linguistics in Dallas, Texas. With his background and natural ability in his first language, Friday is well-prepared to train others to join him in a translation team.

An outside consultant is also available to help guide a literacy program. The team will eventually include literacy personnel, in addition to Bible translators.

Once the team is fully functioning, Friday hopes to pursue training as a Bible translation consultant, to help other African projects.

THE SOLUTION

With great enthusiasm to help develop the Erei community to its full potential, Friday started a vocational program. He helps supplement what the students receive in the local schools, by providing tutoring in various academic skills and in English. In the process, he looks for others who might have aptitude to join him in Bible translation. The program is called *Centre for Translation, Learning, Discipleship and Development*. He hopes this will also raise awareness of and interest in literacy.

In the process of building his team, Friday will begin working on translation of portions of the Old and New Testaments. The churches are poised to use and distribute the materials as they become available. Translated portions will meet a long-standing need for understandable Scripture tools for growth and outreach.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Erei 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 Erei team.

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