



PROJECT PROFILE

Lubwisi

THE PEOPLE

The Babwisi people live on the western slopes and plains of the snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains, which straddle the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The vast Bwamba and Ituri rainforests stretch across the northern Babwisi area. With 50 to 70 inches of annual rainfall and a warm, tropical climate, the Babwisi can grow up to three crops a year. The Babwisi have traditionally lived as subsistence farmers, but some grow cash crops like cocoa, coffee and rice. Most people live in mud huts with grass roofs.

The Babwisi people are very expressive and laugh often. Their society is patrilineal: inheritances are passed down through the men. Polygamy is commonly practiced. Though there are schools in the area, the literacy rate is below 50 percent.

The Babwisi, particularly those living in Uganda, have suffered from famine, fighting and disease. In certain districts, 50 percent of the people are infected with HIV. Many Babwisi live in poverty, and the surrounding mountains have limited the people's access to electricity and running water. Beginning in 1996, fighting between rebel troops and government armies caused thousands of refugees to flee into the Babwisi area. The Babwisi continue to feel the effects of the rebel activity.

THE NEED

The Babwisi have the Bible in a language related to theirs, but Lubwisi is the language that they use in their homes, churches, primary schools and marketplaces: it is the language of their hearts. Without Lubwisi Scriptures, the church struggles to develop strong Babwisi leaders who can teach faithfully from the Bible.

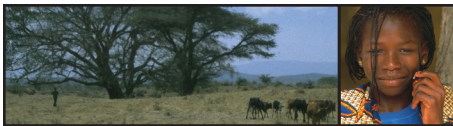
About 66 percent of the Babwisi people identify themselves with Christianity. The rest adhere to another major religion or to traditional animistic beliefs. The Babwisi practice witchcraft and polygamy, and even some of the people who attend Christian churches consult with shamans. The people need the Word of God in the Lubwisi language so that they can break free from their spiritual bondage and grow to maturity as the body of Christ.

THE BACKGROUND

Linguistic and translation work began among the Babwisi in 1992; however, rebel and bandit activity and the impact of the 1994 genocide have kept outsiders from working in the area for the last several years. It became clear that the Babwisi people themselves needed translation training so that they could continue translating the Bible, even during difficult times.



- **Location:** Uganda, Africa
- **Number of Speakers:** 84,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament plus OT Portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2006
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2011



Lubwisi

The Lubwisi translation team has produced the Gospel of Mark, Jonah and the *JESUS* film script. Upon the clear reading of a section of Mark in Lubwisi, the Babwisi church erupted in spontaneous applause and wonder. Several hundred people, including high-ranking government officials, attended the dedications of Jonah and Mark.

THE PLAN

The two Lubwisi translators, Bishop Hannington and Charles, have been concentrating on translating Luke and Acts. Beginning in January 2006, the Lubwisi translation team started working with a team from the Lugungu language to translate the rest of the New Testament. Under an experienced consultant's guidance, the Lubwisi and Lugungu translators are checking each other's work for accuracy and comprehension. This cross-checking will not only make them better translators but will also prepare them to become translation consultants so they can assist other language projects in the future. Ten Babwisi people representing seven Christian denominations have volunteered to join the Lubwisi translation review committee to check the translation for understandability. An experienced consultant reviews the translations. The Lubwisi translation team is aiming to translate 1,000 verses per year and hopes to complete the New Testament and possibly Genesis, Proverbs and an Old Testament history and culture book by the end of the project.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Lubwisi translators cannot complete their goals alone. They need you. Your financial gift will support national Bible translators by providing quality linguistic training, computers, salaries and travel expenses for the mother tongue translators. Prayerfully consider how God might use your financial gift to translate His precious Word.

The work of Bible translation is also in great need of your prayers. Translators and their families will depend on your help as they sacrifice to see the Scriptures in their language. Commit today to pray for the translation work in Central Africa and the Lubwisi speakers who are waiting to hear about the love of Christ. Please call The Seed Company at 1-817-557-2121 to express your commitment.

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