



PROJECT PROFILE

Ninzo New Testament

PROJECT SUMMARY:

About 35 percent of the Ninzo people consider themselves Christians, but because they do not have the Scriptures in a language they really understand, very few actually follow biblical principles in their daily lives.

So far, the translation team has drafted the entire New Testament and the book of Jonah. The team is taking the final steps toward typesetting and publication of the first Ninzo New Testament.

THE PEOPLE

About 100,000 Ninzo people live in a hilly region of Central Nigeria. Most make their living as farmers, tending their crops of guinea corn, yams and maize, primarily by hand. They are a hospitable people, and some are expert weavers of grasses and reeds.

Every Monday morning, the chiefs of all the Ninzo villages gather to meet with the traditional ruler of their people, who is chosen from the Ninzo royal family.

THE NEED

Missionaries from South Africa brought the Gospel to the Ninzo people in the 1920s, and today, about 35 percent of the people consider themselves Christians. About 10 percent adhere to another major religion. The rest have no strongly stated religious identification at all, though many seem to practice various elements of traditional animistic religion.

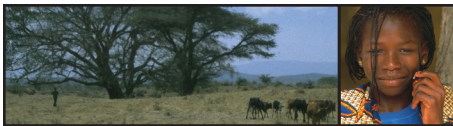
The majority of Ninzo speakers do not go to church, but even those who do are unable to understand much of the Gospel message. Christian church services are conducted in Hausa, the trade language of northern Nigeria, but important church announcements are always in Ninzo, which is a strong indicator that many people do not understand Hausa very well.

Because they do not have the Scriptures in a language they really understand, very few people follow biblical principles in their daily lives.

Though the Ninzo people's traditional ruler practices a major world religion, several years ago he challenged Ninzo Christians to start a Bible translation and literacy project! He had observed that similar efforts in neighboring languages fostered development among those groups. His challenge inspired some early work that floundered until formation of the Ninzo Language Committee by 30 prominent Ninzo speakers and assignment of a Nigerian couple as full-time advisors by Nigerian Bible Translation Trust (NBTT).



- **Location:** Nigeria
- **Population:** 100,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament with Old Testament portions; "JESUS" film
- **Year Project Began:** 1996
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2012



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THE PLAN

Under leadership of the NBTT advisors, the translation team drafted the entire New Testament and the book of Jonah. The books are in various stages of checking and revision in preparation for publication.

The team aims to complete this process and publish New Testament with Old Testament portions soon. In addition, they want to complete the “JESUS” film and promote literacy initiatives during these final six months of the project.

THE IMPACT

After 80 years of Christianity in the Ninzo region, the Gospel message is still unclear to many people. Translating and clarifying the Scriptures will strengthen the church and create new evangelistic opportunities. The translated Scriptures will give the people greater access to God’s truth, the truth that will set them free.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Ninzo 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 such as 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 Ninzo team.