



Ngbandi

THE PEOPLE

The Ngbandi people live in villages scattered through a tropical forest. Most build their homes of poles, palm fronds, vines and thatch, with packed adobe walls. The people rely primarily on subsistence farming to provide for their families, but they also grow limited cash crops like peanuts, coffee and corn. Their staple foods include cassava (a starchy root) and bananas served with rice. They keep chickens for special meals, and some raise goats and pigs to generate income.

Civil unrest and war have taken a toll on the people. Their education system, roads and healthcare facilities are all in poor condition. The Ngbandi people have few representatives in local and national governments, and they often feel isolated and threatened by the surrounding larger people groups. This increases their motivation to use their own language, which they esteem and want to develop.

THE BACKGROUND

Since 1998, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been at the center of one of the largest interstate wars in African history. The war has claimed an estimated 3 million lives and has directly affected more than 50 million Congolese people. In the midst of this terrible war, the Ngbandi, Mono and Pagabete people have responded enthusiastically to Bible translation efforts. The political situation has made it difficult for outsiders to enter the country, but Ngbandi, Mono and Pagabete translators are stepping up to take on the task of Bible translation so that the work can continue. Congolese bishops are showing support for translation work and have released educated people from their congregations to help translate the Scriptures.

THE NEED

After decades of Christian activity among the Ngbandi, about 70 percent of the people practice various versions of Christianity. However, some of these people are attracted to sects and other non-standard churches that blend elements of traditional religion with Christian beliefs. Because most Christian teaching is in the trade language Lingala, many people are unable to apply Christian beliefs to real-life problems and challenges.

The rest of the people adhere to traditional animistic beliefs. They need to hear the message of a God who loves them and wants to deliver them from their sins and fears.



- **Location:** Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Population:** 264,000



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THE PLAN

Well-educated Ngbandi, Mono and Pagabete translators will work together to produce first drafts, check each other's drafts and plan and evaluate their projects. Sharing an office will allow them to learn from each other and work in a more focused environment. They will also spend time with their respective people groups, working with review committees, running Scripture-use courses and conducting local testing. Translators will attend a workshop each year to build upon their initial training and qualifications.

THE RESULTS

The Ngbandi translators aim to complete the New Testament and the book of Genesis by July 2013. The translation of Genesis will help establish a better understanding of God's plan of salvation. Access to the Scriptures in the Ngbandi language will deepen the faith of Christians and churches, resulting in changed lives and renewed enthusiasm to reach out to nonbelievers.

JOINING THE TEAM

The translators in the Democratic Republic of the Congo cannot complete their goals alone. They need you. Your financial gift will support Congolese Bible translators by providing quality linguistic training, equipment, salaries and travel expenses. 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 prayer support as they sacrifice to see the Scriptures in their language. Commit today to pray for the translation work in the DRC and the Ngbandi people who are waiting to hear about the love of Christ. Call The Seed Company at 1-817-557-2121 to express your commitment.

- **Project Goal:** New Testament plus Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2005
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2013