



Pagabete

THE PEOPLE

About 25,000 Pagabete speakers live in the rainforest, isolated from others by the Dua River. The people rely on subsistence farming, hunting and fishing to support themselves. The men leave their villages for several months each year to live in the forest and hunt. They return to their villages in December for the holidays, clear fields and plant food crops in the spring, and then return to the forest.

The Pagabete's basic diet includes cassava, plantains, rice and yams. They also raise pigs, chickens, ducks and goats for food and income, as forest hunting is becoming less productive. The people have great difficulty selling their agricultural produce because of their isolation and the poor condition of the roads in their region. Some Pagabete villages have been damaged or even destroyed during the nation's civil war.

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-Ngiri, 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-Ngiri, 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

An illiterate Pagabete man named Nicodem traveled outside the language area in the 1960s, heard the Gospel and became a Christian. He returned home, displaying a miraculous ability to read the Bible, and began to preach, converting many of the Pagabete people to Christianity. The Catholic Church was already established among the people and at first opposed this Evangelical movement. Today, however, the church groups coexist peacefully.

About 75 percent of the Pagabete people claim to be Christians, and the rest practice animism or adhere to cult-like groups. Though many young people attend church, immorality is common among them. The church has grown rapidly in recent years, and the Bible is taught well, but it is still not practiced whole-heartedly. Without



- **Location:** Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Population:** 25,000



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Pagabete Scriptures, most preaching is done in Lingala, a language of wider communication. The Pagabete people show a hunger to own Bibles, and during church services, there are frequent explanations of the Scriptures in the Pagabete language.

THE PLAN

Well-educated Ngbandi-Ngiri, 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 Pagabete 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 Pagabete 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 Pagabete 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

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