



Samburu Cluster

“Are We about To Receive Our Bible?”

On Christmas Eve, Samburu Christians gathered in churches, stretching from Maralal to Baragoi, Wamba, Lorroki and Nyiro—80 congregations in all—and heard the Christmas story in their mother tongue for the first time. About 3,200 church members held their own Scripture booklets, following along with the reading.

“Does this mean we are about to receive our Bible?” one lady asked. A team member told her that translation work is on-going, and one day their Bible will be available.

- Praise God for the first translated portion of Samburu Scripture.
- Pray that Samburu churches will continue to support Bible translation.

Beyond Church Walls

As Samburu people across the region tuned their radios Christmas Eve, they picked up familiar sounds of their mother tongue. Translator David was preaching from the new Scripture booklet. These remote listeners, like those in churches, heard the Christmas story in their heart language for the first time.

After the program, David’s phone rang repeatedly. Many pastors and believers called with gratitude, saying they understood the Samburu translation clearly. The radio station broadcast the reading several times that evening and again on Christmas morning. The team is encouraged and motivated by the enthusiastic response.

- Praise the Lord for the encouraging response to the Samburu radio program.

Translation: Luke and More

Samburu and Ilchamus teams revised their drafts of Luke’s Gospel, adding certain discourse features like hidden or implied meanings that aren’t obvious. Then the Samburu team back-translated Luke 1-14, and the consultant checked the first two chapters.

The Ilchamus team needs to finish the Christmas Story for use in their villages next year. But they made terrific headway, drafting 2 and 3 John. They also worked with the consultant for two weeks on Matthew’s Gospel.

- Pray that the Samburu team will finish checks of Luke with the consultant, reviewers and community, in order to produce the “JESUS” film.



- Location: Kenya, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 190,000
- Year Project Began: 2006
- Expected Completion Date: 2013





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The Most Important Word

Translator Alfer scratched his head, figuring out the best way to translate “*virgin*” in the Christmas story. Samburu don’t have a specific word with that meaning. Yet, the concept is essential to the story of Christ’s birth. Finally, he decided on a descriptive phrase, “*ntito nemeyiolo lee*” which means “*a girl who does not know a man.*” He’s happy with the phrase because it carries the accurate meaning of the word.

Shepherds Meet the Good Shepherd

As nomadic pastoralists, the Samburu and Ilchamus people respect the work of a shepherd. Herdsmen are devoted to their flocks, and a few have even been killed by wild animals while defending their sheep. So they love the picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd in Luke 15:4-6 and John 10:1-18. Christ’s willingness to search for one “*lost sheep*” rings true in their hearts.

Understanding AIDS

Kande, a 12-year-old African girl orphaned by AIDS, is the main character of a true-to-life story based on accounts told by an African pastor about children in his community. As the story unfolds, readers learn the many problems and dangers HIV and AIDS victims face, trying to survive. They also learn that by following God’s instructions for living, they can avoid getting or spreading AIDS to others. They also learn how to love and care for those affected by the disease.

The Samburu team plans to translate “*Kande’s Story*” to help people understand, through their heart language, that AIDS is real. They expect that the booklet will help many people change their lifestyle, and that some will turn to Christ. These materials are a life-skills tool, to help Samburu read their own language.

“When Will You Finish?”

A 70-year-old Ilchamus lady asked Alfer, “*When will you finish translating the Scriptures?*” He said, “*Possibly in 2013.*” Then she said, “*I always ask God to keep me alive until I see the Scriptures translated in the Ilchamus language.*” This shows God preparing the Ilchamus people for the Bible in their heart language.

- **Pray that Alfer and David will have great wisdom choosing precise words.**

- **Pray that many Samburu and Ilchamus will come to know the Good Shepherd as their personal Savior.**

- **Pray that God will use “*Kande’s Story*” to powerfully change the course of the AIDS epidemic among the Samburu and to guide many to faith in Christ.**

- **Pray that many Ilchamus and Samburu will anticipate mother-tongue Scripture.**