



Sena New Testament

Entering the Hall of Faith

For centuries, Christians have gained encouragement from reading what has become known as the “hall of faith” in Hebrews chapter 11. We’re reminded of the strength, obedience and faith of people like Noah, Abraham, Moses and others who endured every hardship while clinging to the promises of God.

But those who don’t have the Bible in their mother tongue can’t read this uplifting passage in the language that speaks best to their hearts. They don’t hear the repetition of the phrase “by faith” that characterizes the chapter and that reminds us of what was at the core of each of these Old Testament heroes’ actions.

- Praise God that the Sena people are drawing closer to the day when they’ll be able to read the “hall of faith” chapter in their heart language.
- Pray that local believers will be inspired by the “hall of faith” as they read the book of Hebrews in their mother tongue.

Church Has a Sena Flavor

One local pastor decided to use the Sena booklets of the Gospels of Mark and Luke and 1, 2 and 3 John in his preaching. He has now planted three churches, due in part to the availability of the Scriptures in the heart language of the people.

That’s not all. The sound of music rising from churches in some areas has a distinctly Sena flavor. A group of musicians have created songs based on the Scripture materials produced by the translation team.

Toward the Best Possible Quality

The final consultant-check of Romans and Hebrews took place, as planned. The team has now embarked on a revision of all New Testament books. This includes a read-through of the books that have passed the consultant-check so far. The goal is to improve the Sena translation to make it the best possible quality.

- Pray for translator Pastor Nhazeze and the rest of the team as they do their work.
- Pray for availability of consultants to check the remaining New Testament books.
- Keep praying for Pastor Silva, who continues to suffer from diabetes. Pray that his problems won’t become worse.



- Location: Mozambique, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 1,900,000
- Year Project Began: 2005
- Expected Completion Date: 2011

- Pray for ongoing growth in the relationship between the translation team and the Sena churches. Pray that together they’ll open the way for transformed lives as the Sena Scriptures are introduced to the community.

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Not a Solo Activity

Translating the Scriptures isn't a solo activity. The team regularly invites the Sena community to come alongside the translation effort by distributing Scripture literature throughout the districts—Mark, Luke, and 1, 2 and 3 John in particular. In return, the churches and community give good feedback to the translators during comprehension testing. This refines the translation and uncovers errors.

- **Pray that team members João and Alberto will be successful in their studies at the Hefsiba Theological Training Center as they work toward becoming better-trained and competent translators. Soon, João will begin a year-long internship.**

Singing a Sena Song

The musicians mentioned above aren't the only ones whose hearts beat for the music of the church. Some time ago, the translation team traveled to the Chemba district where they met a pastor's wife who pleaded with them to translate a hymnbook into the Sena language. She explained that the songs of the Sena church represent a mixture of languages. People sing along, but they don't always understand the meaning of the lyrics.

When the team visited the district recently, the pastor's wife updated them with exciting news. Since she was already using the translations of Mark, Luke and 1, 2 and 3 John for evangelization, she also used the books to adapt the songs of the hymnbook to more closely reflect the Sena language. The team was thrilled to see her do the job they didn't have time to do! Now, these songs are helping people grow spiritually and in knowledge of God's Word.

Yet, the team understands that this development points to a greater need—a need for the translation of Psalms, which is progressing well. Sena songwriters look forward to drawing on the songs of this ancient Hebrew hymnbook to create new songs that speak directly from the God's Word to the people's hearts in Sena without the need for adaptation using a translation in another language.

- **Pray for good transportation to distribute the Sena Scripture materials for testing.**

- **Pray that enthusiasm for Sena Scriptures and hymns will continue to blossom among the local believers.**

Six Steps of Translation

- 1. First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
- 2. Team check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
- 3. Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
- 4. Back Translation:** translators translate the draft "back" into a major language for a non-native consultant.
- 5. Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
- 6. Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

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