



Tharaka Old Testament

Depending on God's Spirit

The Tharaka team is depending on the Holy Spirit to help them discover the right words as they translate the Old Testament. During their task, they refer to exegetical resources and ask other native speakers for suggestions on how to render difficult biblical concepts. Typically, after praying and taking a break, one of them will suddenly come across the right expression. They see this as illumination from the Holy Spirit.

The team had a particularly hard time translating the various skin diseases in Leviticus 13 and 14. But after struggling, someone would hit upon the right way to translate them. These experiences confirm that God is with them in their translation work. Leviticus 11, which discusses clean and unclean animals, was extremely problematic to translate. Some animals, birds and insects in Leviticus are known in Tharakan culture, but others are new. Sometimes it took the team hours to find the right name for an animal or bird.

- **Pray that God's Holy Spirit will continue to guide the Tharaka team as they seek to communicate clearly His Word in the people's heart language.**

Pushing Towards the Goal

The translators look forward to publishing Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Zephaniah, Haggai and Malachi. Before these books can be printed, the consultant needs to check the book introductions. Meanwhile, the translators are glowing in the reward of satisfaction for completing a draft of Nehemiah and starting to draft 1 and 2 Kings.

The team has finished back-translating Exodus from Tharaka into literal English to get it ready for the consultant's review. They've done a back-translation of Habakkuk too. Now those two books are all set for the consultant along with Esther and Hosea. The technical advisor is glad to announce that he finished checking Exodus and has checked Hosea and Habakkuk as well. Esther was turned over to the consultant, but it wasn't possible to review it at that time, as the consultant had to leave the country. The team hopes to have the consultant review it soon.

The team compared their translation of Leviticus to a standard English version to verify its faithfulness to the original meaning. In addition, they've done a back-translation of the first 10 chapters in preparation for the consultant. They gave this back-translation to the technical advisor, who is planning to sit down with the team to conduct an accuracy check. The team is currently back-translating the remaining chapters of Leviticus (11-27).



- **Location: Kenya, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 112,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2006**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

- **Thank the Lord that two more consultants have offered to help check Old Testament books for the Tharaka team.**





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Just Like Someone Is Talking to Me

The translators are thrilled that the mother-tongue New Testament continues to be used in local churches. Another 39 copies were distributed in the last several months. The translators use it themselves for team and family devotions. They recently read portions of Leviticus to members of the Tharaka community who'd visited the translation office.

Some church leaders met together and read from the New Testament and the *Four Spiritual Laws* in Tharaka. One pastor said, *"The reason I like reading the Tharaka Bible so much is because when I read it I understand it without thinking too hard. When somebody reads it aloud, I hear it as though someone is talking to me."*

Keeping the Torch Lit

To ensure the ongoing use of the Tharaka Scriptures, people are being trained to read in their mother tongue. Ten youth from various local churches were taught how to read and write in their own language at a weeklong literacy workshop, which helped them read the Tharaka New Testament effortlessly. The participants also learned how to become spokesmen for mother-tongue education. Plans are underway to train 100 others.

Project coordinator Onesmus met with 40 Tharaka church leaders to build their vision for the translation task. He also gave them training in leadership and teamwork. They all agreed to promote widespread use of the Tharaka New Testament and support the ongoing translation of the Old Testament.

Tapping into Jesus

Jesus said, *"Apart from Me, you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). Only as believers tap into Him as branches join to the vine can they be fruitful in their lives and service for Him.

- **Pray that the Tharaka translators' commitment to the work and their love for the Savior will remain strong and grow.**

- **Praise God that people are using and enjoying the Tharaka New Testament.**
- **Pray for the team's continued progress on the Old Testament so that people can have the entire Bible in their mother tongue.**
- **Pray for a successful Tharaka literacy program so that more and more people will have easy access to the Scriptures in their mother tongue by knowing how to read it.**
- **Pray that church leaders will continue to have a positive attitude toward Scripture-use in their congregations. Praise God that a number of churches have come alongside the translation work.**