



# Tharaka Old Testament

## “When Can We Stop This Stammering?”

A Tharaka speaker who was reading an Old Testament passage in a neighboring language during a church service faltered a few times and after finishing asked, “When will the Tharaka Bible be complete so we can stop this stammering and confusing people? I’m sure most of you listeners had problems following what I was reading.” This shows that the local community values the Scriptures in their mother tongue.

- **Thank the Lord that two more Scripture-use workshops took place recently with 49 church leaders in attendance. Copies of Ruth and Haggai were handed out.**
- **Praise God that the Tharaka New Testament continues to enjoy widespread use.**

## Digging in Their Heels

The Tharaka team has finished drafting<sup>1</sup> Jeremiah and Lamentations, in answer to prayer. These books are now ready for subsequent steps in the translation process. Drafting of 1 and 2 Chronicles has begun and drafting of Isaiah continues. A consultant check<sup>5</sup> of Leviticus is underway this month. Then that book will be ready for final preparations for publishing. The team check<sup>2</sup> of Genesis is ongoing and is expected to be completed by year’s end. The consultant check of Genesis is planned for early next year.

- **Praise God that Jeremiah and Lamentations have been drafted in Tharaka. Pray for the drafting of 1 and 2 Chronicles and Isaiah and the team check of Genesis.**

## “Yet I Will Rejoice in the Lord”

Habakkuk chapter 3 has been a very encouraging portion of Scripture for the believers. They’ve been praying like Habakkuk that they may see God’s intervention in their hard times. For about two years, most parts of the Tharaka area have had insufficient or no rain. Few or no harvests, dying livestock, little income and general lack are being experienced in the region.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (“Though the fig tree does not bud ... and the fields produce no food ... yet I will rejoice in the Lord”) has had much relevance and been read aloud on various occasions. One church leader commented that this Scripture was meant for the Tharaka for such a time as this and urged the people to wait on God for His provision.



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

- **Praise God that the workshop was held for training church leaders in the use of audio Bible recordings. Ruth was one of the first books to be recorded.**

- **Keep praying for rain and God’s provision as the rainfall this year hasn’t been enough to supply crops for the people and pastures for the animals.**

### 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.

THARAKA OLD TESTAMENT PROJECT UPDATE—1

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