



Ubangi NT Cluster*

Teams Visit Language Areas

Due to transportation issues, none of the three Ubangi Cluster Bible translation teams were able to visit their language areas for two and a half years. JAARS, the technical support arm of Wycliffe, saw the need and gave each team a motorbike.

As they each hit the trail and visited several areas in their language groups, the teams saw amazement on the faces of villagers everywhere. People thought the translation projects had closed. It warmed the hearts of the translators to see such strong proof of how greatly the mother-tongue speakers want to have the whole Word of God in their heart language.

- **Praise God that the three teams have access to their language communities and will be able to gain helpful feedback from the people on their translation work.**

Mono – Reading Interest Connects Churches

There's new interest in learning to read as Mono speakers are discovering that their language can, indeed, be written. The translators recently held some training seminars. Many Mono speakers from various denominations attended, enthusiastic that the Mono Scriptures could be read in churches and reach people. Their vision caught on and pastors came to the last seminar. They're now reading the translated portions in prayer meetings.

Why is this unusual? Before, major denominations were shunning each other. But now they attend the same seminars, read the same Scriptures and walls are coming down.

The team plans to hold another training seminar in a different location, reaching three new areas of the language. They'll share their vision, give a work progress update to churches throughout the language region and hold a training session for the revisers' committee.

Meanwhile, the team has drafted¹ through chapter 24 of Matthew's Gospel and through chapter 14 of Revelation and keyboarded Matthew chapters 1-4 and Revelation chapters 1-3. The team-checking² and community testing³ steps are in progress for these books and for Hebrews, and Acts has been consultant checked through chapter 10.

The team received a new laptop and is now translating directly into the computer, eliminating the need to keyboard the text from handwritten copies. Copies of Philippians and James were printed, as planned, and sent to the revisers.



- Location: DRC, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 393,000 in 3 languages
- Year Project Began: 2006
- Expected Completion Date: 2013

- **Praise God for using His Word to bring better church relations in Mono.**
- **Continue to pray for more consultant-checking opportunities.**



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Ngbandi-Ngiri – Challenges

This team encountered several setbacks. Rain sometimes prevented them from getting to their scheduled events. When they arrived in Budjala, they discovered a flood of politicians were in town handing out banknotes — equivalent to 50 U.S. cents.

Because of the poverty situation, everyone went to the town center to get their money, so the team couldn't form a Scripture reviewers' committee. Then the printer produced 100 copies of the much needed literacy transition handbook with the wrong font, rendering the printouts useless. This handbook is designed to help those who are literate in another language make the transition to reading Ngbandi-Ngiri.

In spite of the challenges, the team distributed Bible texts for community testing. They plan to do testing of John's Gospel, 1 Corinthians and 1 and 2 Peter. They also hope to reprint the transition handbook and form a reviewers' committee in Budjala.

Pagabete – Ups and Downs

Several gifts recently encouraged the Pagabete translators. The Seed Company sent two new computers and a digital camera, and JAARS sent a technician to install two batteries and a regulator. However, they discovered the solar energy system needs a converter.

Sickness still affects the team. Secretary Mbombo's child had two blood transfusions, project coordinator Pastor Nzongo Roger's wife was scheduled for surgery this summer and others had malaria. In spite of all this, the team made corrections to Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians and 1 and 2 Timothy and printed Scripture texts that are ready for community testing and a Pagabete book on daily life in Israel in Bible times.

The translators did a team check of Ephesians and tested 1 and 2 Thessalonians and 2 Timothy. They plan soon to check Matthew, Galatians and Hebrews, continue reading through consultant-checked⁵ texts and then send them on to revising committees in the language area and distribute songbooks and the transition handbook.

“With God All Things Are Possible”

Jesus told his disciples, “With God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). Let's press on and continue to pray against every obstacle that would hinder God's Word from reaching the Ubangi Cluster peoples.

- **Pray for a stable electrical supply.**

- **Pray for God's watchful care over the Ngbandi-Ngiri team and their families.**

- **Continue to pray for good health throughout the area, especially for young children.**

- **Pray that the November 28, 2011 elections in the Congo will be conducted properly and that God will set in place a leader to end their poverty and restore calm.**

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.

UBANGI NT CLUSTER PROJECT UPDATE—2

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