



Yambetta New Testament

Translating Scriptures, Changing Lives

Like other Yambetta speakers, translator Bendo didn't understand the national-language Bible he read. Now, he says he's proud to hear the Word of God clearly in his own language and what he learned has changed his life.

Before this intimate contact with the Scriptures, Bendo had lived a life contrary to the will of God. He was once violent and didn't take care of his family. The money he earned was wasted outside of the home. He writes:

"But when I read Genesis 2:18-25 in Yambetta, I understood the place of the wife and her importance to the man. I realized that God created her with a rib from man. That's from a part of me. When I sold cocoa, I used the money for drinking without giving any to my wife or children. I didn't consider her to be my partner. But this Word of God that I read in my language penetrated to the core of my heart and now I've come to my senses. My wife and I now manage our finances together.

"The harmonious life that we now lead has caused us to decide that we want to celebrate our marriage at the church very soon. Before, I never would let my wife talk to me about such things. But now, because of a renewed understanding of the Word of God in our mother tongue, we're able to do this."

- **Thank the Lord for these changes in Bendo's life, which have resulted from his study of Scripture in his language. Pray for continued harmony in his marriage.**
- **Praise God that Yambetta people are desirous to hear His Word in their mother tongue. Pray that their hearts and lives will be transformed by what they hear.**

Shoulder to the Wheel

It's been a busy several months for the Yambetta translators. They've completed the first draft of Acts and drafted 2 Thessalonians. They also finished checking John's Gospel and Acts verse-by-verse together as a team and then went on to check 2 Thessalonians and 1, 2 and 3 John. In addition, the reviewers' committee completed testing of Matthew's Gospel with other native speakers to ensure clarity and naturalness. They tested and revised 1 John too. Next on the agenda are testing of 2 and 3 John and follow-up revision.

The team is pleased to report that the consultant's check of Matthew is now finished. The same will be done for 1, 2 and 3 John soon. Meanwhile, the team has begun drafting Ephesians and Revelation. After those are drafted, only four New Testament



- **Location: Cameroon, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 8,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2009**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2014**

- **Praise God for the good progress the team is making on the Yambetta Scriptures!**



Yambetta New Testament

books will remain to translate in Yambetta: 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians and Hebrews.

Literacy Classes in Need

Literacy classes began again in November. Two classes were slow to start, but were up and running in December. There's a need to start another class in the village of Kiboum, but no trained teacher is available.

Emergency Operation

Main translator Leonard and typist Mobam traveled to Yaounde to attend a workshop on the Paratext software program. On the first evening, Mobam became very ill. He had an emergency operation for a hernia and stayed in the hospital for a week. Mobam is a key team member. When he's behind, the whole translation team becomes backlogged.

A hernia surgery seems very minor to us in the U.S., but due to lack of services there, it had become inflamed, causing an obstructed bowel. This would have caused death in just a few days. The surgery involved removing a portion of his small intestine. Thankfully, he was in the capital attending the workshop or this may not have been possible at all.

Change Comes Little by Little

Many Yambetta people remain attached to the traditions of their ancestors. Few believe the Bible, but those who do are mostly members of denominations that preach the biblical message. Thankfully, that message is evidencing life-change as more and more people are responding to the Word of God and taking the gospel seriously because they understand it. Those who believe are still in the minority, but their impact is being felt.

In one village, an elderly man belonged to a secret society of sorcerers. Before he died, he requested to be buried by the other sorcerers. His request was honored. Yet before the ceremony, some courageous villagers criticized the event. They said it belonged to the past and they encouraged people to put their confidence in the Lord. Those who had the boldness to speak out belonged to the minority who've accepted the gospel. Yet they too had belonged to this secret society in the past!

- **Pray that the stirrings of interest in literacy among the Yambetta people will pave the way for increased use of the Yambetta Scriptures.**
- **Pray that a teacher will be found for the literacy class in Kiboum.**
- **Praise God that Mobam was healed and is again working with the team after being close to death. Pray for God's ongoing protection over the team and their families.**
- **Praise God for the courage of these Yambetta believers who spoke the gospel message to members of the secret society they'd once belonged to.**
- **Pray for the believers' spiritual growth and that more will be added to their number.**
- **Pray for church elder Agom, who was selected by his pastor to participate in a workshop using Kande's Story, a true-to-life account based on the life of a 12-year-old African girl whose father and then mother die of AIDS. Pray that this will mark the beginning of Agom's involvement in the translation work.**