



Language: Avatime

Speakers: 24,000



Dates: 2005-2017

The Need: \$37,800

Project Goal: New Testament, Genesis

AVATIME

AFRICA — GHANA

THE PEOPLE

The Avatime (a-vah-TEE-may) people live in scattered settlements in the mountains of southeastern Ghana. They grow cassava, corn and fruit to feed their families, and sell the extra produce to earn a little income.

Christianity was introduced to the Avatime 100 years ago, but fewer than 10 percent of the people attend church regularly. Many still follow traditional religious practices, sometimes alongside nominal Christianity.

Although a Bible is available in Ewe, the regional language, most Avatime speakers don't understand it very well. Churches often use Ewe for preaching and Bible reading instead of Avatime, the people's heart language.

Consequently, people tend to go through church services without understanding the message, believers often disagree on lifestyle decisions, and non-Christian practices creep into congregations.

Believers have asked for help to get God's authoritative Word in their mother tongue.

THE PLAN

The Avatime project manager, Divine Mununkum, first worked with a team that was translating God's Word for a cluster of languages in northern Ghana. One of these languages was his own mother tongue, Lelemi. Having Scripture in his language motivated him to help the Avatime have access to God's Word as well.

In phase one of this project, Divine led the linguistic analysis and helped develop an alphabet for the Avatime language. Since then, the team has been using the Lelemi New Testament as a source to help draft the Avatime translation, since the two languages are related.

The Avatime New Testament translation also has the potential to help initiate translation in three other languages that don't have God's Word.

Now, the entire Avatime New Testament plus Genesis has been checked by the consultant. It has now gone to the typesetting stage in preparation for printing!

THE IMPACT

The Avatime team wants everyone to have God's Word.

Each year, the Avatime region holds a rice festival that brings many people together. Team members take this opportunity to sell Bible books and present Christian related activities.

They also engage people with God's Word through community testing — an activity which both fine-tunes the translation and exposes people to the power of Scripture even before it's published.

Justine, like most Avatime people, received her schooling in the trade language — the country's language of wider use. She says:

"I read the trade language fluently. But to my surprise when I read the story of the birth, ministry and death of Jesus in John's Gospel in my mother tongue, it made much more sense than the trade language version did."

Your prayers and investment will give the Avatime people the opportunity to hear God speaking in their language!