



Language: Mangbetu

Speakers: 700,000



Dates: 2017-2018

Project Goals: Gospels of Matthew and John

MANGBETU 2 (mahng-BEH-too)

AFRICA — DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

THE PEOPLE

The Mangbetu are a welcoming people who are known for their honesty with others.

At home in the equatorial forest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Mangbetu live on very fertile lands. They are able to grow different kinds of crops and enjoy a variety of foods like mushrooms, fruits and even caterpillars.

With an economy largely based on agriculture, Mangbetu families farm, fish and raise cattle for their livelihood.

In spite of their physical strength, many people harbor a fear of death. When someone dies, loved ones search for a reason — or a person — that may have caused it. Traditional beliefs contribute to cycles of revenge, as well as the practice of polygamy.

While 80 percent of the people are Christians, there is very little Scripture in the Mangbetu language. To overcome fear and grow in the knowledge of the Lord, Mangbetu people need God's Word in the language that speaks to their heart.

THE PLAN

We are partnering with local translators to produce God's Word in the Mangbetu language!

In this one-year project, the team will finish translating the Gospels of Matthew and John. Then, following a series of checks and revisions, these Gospels will be printed and distributed.

When the affordable Scripture booklets are made available to Mangbetu speakers, the team will gather valuable feedback on the translation.

Community members are actively supporting the project through the formation of a language committee. Through it, the team receives input on their goals as well as administrative help.

To spread awareness about the project, the team is traveling to a number of Mangbetu communities to hold mobilization meetings. Getting more people involved will help make additional translation work possible.

This relatively young translation team will also undergo more training to better equip them for future work.

THE IMPACT

"During these past days, I have been feeling beaten down, discouraged and deprived," said an elderly Mangbetu woman to a project team member. "If only I could read the Word of God, maybe I'd be relieved."

When the team responded and helped the woman to read some Scripture passages in Mangbetu, she said, "Ah, thank you, God! I feel comforted, and my strength is renewed. I believe I have seen and felt you through these paragraphs."

As translated Scripture is made available to the community, it will be used in churches, schools, and a variety of meetings and cultural ceremonies.

"We want to see lives transformed and attitudes changed as a result of the Scripture translation," said a project team member. In particular, the account of Jesus' resurrection will help believers to put their trust in Christ, and no longer fear death.

Your prayers and investment will help Mangbetu people access God's Word in their own language!