



Language: Winye

Speakers: 55,000



Dates: 2017-2020

Project Goal: New Testament portions

WINYE (win-YEH)

AFRICA — BURKINA FASO

THE PEOPLE

Even though many Winye people can speak Jula — the trade language of their West African country — they are proud of their own language and never want to stop speaking it. And it’s the only one acceptable for communicating deep spiritual truths.

Primarily located in the southwestern part of Burkina Faso, the Winye people live in more than 20 rural communities.

Their livelihoods are largely based on small-scale farming. They grow sorghum, millet, beans, and cash crops of cotton and peanuts. Winye people also enjoy weaving baskets and creating pottery.

Almost 15% of the Winye follow Christianity, but traditional beliefs remain prevalent. Most Winye believe that rituals involving sacrifices govern all areas of life, including farming. Christians who don’t submit to these practices are sometimes threatened by those who do.

To encourage believers in their faith and to see others come to Christ, the Winye people need God’s Word in their own language.

THE PLAN

We’re partnering with local translators to produce more of God’s Word in the Winye language!

Already published in both print and audio formats, the Gospel of Luke is widely used among Winye communities. Now the highly experienced translation team is focused on finishing and publishing Romans. They’ll then complete the revision and checking of 17 other New Testament books.

To meet the needs of local churches, the team will provide one printed book and an audio recording each year of the project, starting in 2018. An advisory committee made up of Winye church leaders influences the project’s direction and will help decide which books are published first.

In addition to the planned New Testament books, local churches desire a variety of Scripture-based materials such as study guides and evangelism tools. Booklets about hygiene, health and agriculture are also needed, as well as materials to support an ongoing literacy program.

THE IMPACT

“The gospel presented in another language has had limited impact on the everyday lives of the Winye people,” a project adviser said. “Scriptures in Winye are needed to bring spiritual growth and effective evangelism to the people.”

Ever since Christianity was first introduced to the Winye in the 1950s, it has largely been viewed as a foreign religion. Having God’s Word in Winye will help people understand that the Good News is for them, and that God is not a stranger.

As Scripture is translated and published, it’s used in Winye church services, Bible studies, youth camps, radio broadcasts and more. Access to God’s Word also allows people to personally study and reflect on it.

By the end of this project, only two New Testament books — Hebrews and Revelation — will remain to be translated.

Your prayers and gifts will help the Winye people access more of God’s Word in a language that speaks to their hearts!

Updated 9/2019