

The Meal That Satisfies

By Jennifer Stasak

Can you remember the best meal you've ever had? Maybe you think of deep-dish pizza, crisp French bread or simply your mom's classic macaroni and cheese. But the idea of a meal has a deeper meaning for the Siwu and Nyagbo language groups of Ghana.

Despite the fact that they don't speak the same language and live in completely different environments, the Siwu and Nyagbo people have one thing in common: a hunger for the Word of God in their own languages.

Most people in the Volta region of Ghana where the Siwu and Nyagbo live speak either Ewe, the local trade language that's taught in schools, or English. Even when the Siwu and Nyagbo read the Bible, hear sermons or sing hymns in church, services are mostly conducted in Ewe.

But that is not the language that speaks to their hearts. To feed their souls with understanding, they want the Word of God in their languages.

The Siwu finished translation work on the New Testament in their language in 2009. Meanwhile, the Nyagbo are just beginning translation work on the New Testament. This marks the first time that the Nyagbo have written their language down.

But the New Testament alone is not enough for the Siwu. Merely having Bible stories is not enough for the Nyagbo. The Siwu and the Nyagbo want the whole meal: the complete Word of God.

John Atsu Sagbavu, one of the Siwu translators, said, "Having the New Testament without having the Old Testament is just like having your raw bread without tea or oats. So you'll be half-fed. To be fully fed and satisfied, we need the Old Testament."

A good meal is satisfying — it nourishes our bodies and provides us with comfort and fulfillment. And it's even better when it's shared. Togbe Owusu, the chief of Nyagbo-Sroe community, is an old man with an infectious, toothy smile and an enthusiasm for Bible translation work among his people. "[Translation work] has given light to our children for generations," he said. The chief wants his people to be fed by God's Word — for every generation to be seated around the table.

That is what Ghanaians are hoping and praying will happen. Their goal is to see their country changed by the Word of God.

Michael Serchie, the project manager, said it best when he envisioned the future of his country:

"I believe that if people are able to read the Word of God and they know what God has for them, individual lives will be changed. It will result in changing of family lives, it will result in changing in communities, and it will result in changing of a whole nation. That is how the Bible works."

That's the best meal of all.

DEAR FRIEND,

Just as the Word of God in the Nyagbo and Siwu languages is bringing hope to entire communities in Ghana, translated Scripture is transforming people all around the world.

Every translation project is cause for celebration as more and more people encounter the gospel in their language. But as we celebrate, we can't forget about the language communities that are still waiting for a translation to begin. Our mission is to see a Bible translation in progress in every language still needing one by 2025. It's a task too big for us, but not for God!

The road ahead has many challenges as we start and finish Bible translations projects. Your continued prayers and partnership are so important as we work toward this goal. You play a part in people having the opportunity to engage with the truth in God's Word. What you do matters!

Thank you for your partnership this past year to help people receive Scripture in a language and form that speaks to their hearts. We look forward to serving alongside you in 2020!

Until all the nations worship,

Dr. John Chesnut

President/CEO, Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

A GLIMPSE OF GHANA

Located on the northwest side of Africa, Ghana gained independence from Britain in 1957. Since then, the nation's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to education and literacy with widespread growth in the number of schools across Ghana.

The Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation was established as the first indigenous organization in Africa devoted to Bible translation. They work to mobilize the church within Ghana to catch the vision for the ministry of Bible translation within the country and beyond.

You can make a difference in places like Ghana by joining our prayer team. Sign up at [wycliffe.org/prayer](https://www.wycliffe.org/prayer) to receive prayer emails on different countries, people groups and more to help you pray about what God is doing around the world.



WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE WORLD

- » Praise God for the work that's already been done in Ghana and the impact it's made on communities.
- » As local organizations and churches take ownership of the work of Bible translation in their communities, ask God to provide more people to participate in this life-changing work.
- » Pray for the remaining languages — at least 2,000 — that are still waiting for Scripture.

GHANA

FAST FACTS



POPULATION: **26,428,000**

TOTAL NUMBER OF LANGUAGES:
87

NUMBER OF LANGUAGES WITH ...

No Scripture: **27**

Scripture Portions: **6**

New Testaments: **32**

Bibles: **22**

*Statistics are from [wycliffe.net](https://www.wycliffe.net).