

Winter 2018

# FRONTLINES

REPORTING YOUR IMPACT ON THE WORLDWIDE BIBLE TRANSLATION MOVEMENT

## WAITING FOR THE WORD IN THE DRC

The Word of God in their language cannot come soon enough for the Budu people. Living deep in the forests of the Wamba district in the eastern province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Budu people number around 180,000. Eighty percent of the population profess Christianity, and traditional religions are almost non-existent.

For both dialects of Budu — Nita and Koya — translation work on the New Testament is close to completion. To help prepare the people to access God's Word for themselves, literacy teams have organized literacy sessions throughout the area, and hundreds of Budu people are learning to read.

During a community testing of translated Scripture done in one community parish, one lady said, "We had never so deeply understood the Word of God like we just did when it was read in our mother tongue." The need to read as well as listen to the Good News in the local language is huge among the Budu people, even those displaced from their homelands.

The Budu-Nita team has only two books left to translate; the Budu-Koya team has five books remaining for translation. Both teams have expressed joy in seeing their communities use all of the dedicated Scripture to date: Genesis and Luke for the Nita; and John, 1-2 Corinthians, James and Revelation for the Koya.

Recently the Budu translation team attended the funeral of a chief who had been greatly involved in the Budu translation activities. People attending the service mourned greatly, throwing themselves on the ground and crying out words that expressed grief. Words of comfort from the local authorities and some family members had no impact on the people.

The translation team suggested that communication be done in the local Budu language by a high church official. As the mass began, people were more attentive and most had stopped crying. In the Budu cultures, this was a sign of a spirit of consolation and calmness. People responded to the message by saying "hmmmm," an expression that shows approval.



# PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Prayer is foundational to the work of Bible translation. We've seen lives changed, hearts transformed and entire communities impacted as a result of people praying. But how can we pray when we don't know what to pray? Thankfully, God knows! When words fail you, open up the Bible and allow God's own words to shape your prayers.

**1. Find a quiet place to connect with God.**

**2. Begin with Scripture-based prayer that prepares your heart to connect intimately with God.**

» Gracious God, I come boldly to your throne. I need your mercy and grace in my life (based on Heb. 4:16).

» Lord, I need you. "Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions" (Psalm 119:18).

**3. Use a verse or chapter to shape your prayer. You can do this by praying the verse back to God and inserting the name of a specific people group.**

» Lord, the whole earth is yours. The world and all its people belong to you — including the Rapa Nui people of Easter Island. May these people understand the depth of your love for them today (based on Psalm 24:1).

Read more at [wycliffe.org/prayscripture](https://wycliffe.org/prayscripture).





# THE HUNGRY SEASON

by Zachariah Yoder

"It is the hungry season," Jack\* explained to us.

My sister had come to Nigeria for a six-week visit, and together we took a "vacation" to visit my colleague Jack in the village where he worked. He took us to visit a church in one of the villages where the Mapori\* language is spoken.

The service was uplifting, and I enjoyed interpreting what was said and sung for my sister. Afterward, as we were about to leave, our hosts spoke to Jack: they had something for us to eat. As my sister and I sat eating boiled cassava, I marveled at their hospitality in the hungry season — the months between planting and harvest when food is scarce and more expensive. My private prayer of gratitude was a blessing for all who spoke their language to one day have and use the daily bread of the Scripture in their language, especially for those who do not know Jesus.

That was over six years ago. Then unexpectedly I found myself back in that same village.

Two years ago our Vernacular Media Services team helped to record the Gospel of Luke in Mapori. This year, we came

to help demonstrate how small groups could use the recorded Scripture in small listening Bible studies. We divided ourselves into three groups, heading to three different villages. As our motorcycle pulled into the village I realized, "I have been here before."

A few minutes later I sat in the very same church where I had eaten cassava with my sister. Now I listened as a Mapori man led a listening Bible study and the group "fed" on the audio recording of Luke. After the study was over, I led a group discussion on how this listening Bible study differed from the Bible study they were used to in the church. The group was quite excited and one common point stood out to me in particular: "In this Bible study, everyone is contributing, even people who do not usually talk during our usual Bible study."

Your gifts to the Worldwide Projects Fund help provide audio and video Scripture for multiple people groups in Nigeria including the Mapori. Please join me in thanking God for the audio Gospel of Luke in Mapori! Please pray that it feeds both those who already know Jesus and those who have yet to believe in him.

*\*Name changed*





# CELEBRATING THE BAKA NEW TESTAMENT!

Last March the Baka people of South Sudan held a big celebration in the town of Maridi to launch the New Testament translated into their language. Regrettably, insecurity on the roads prevented people from coming from the town of Yei, where there is a sizeable population of Bakas.

The Bakas of Yei were able to have their own celebration on August 5 where Matthias Nehemiah Káadoṁkú, the chairman of the Baka community in Yei, shared this testimony:

“The reality of God’s words have come to us. It will provide us a good understanding for total commitment to Christ for salvation, peace, justice and freedom from enemy of Christ. Our central concern now is to remain faithful, as the Word of God has come to us in our language. We should read and study it because there is so much false teaching.

“This New Testament will help us to distinguish truth from wrong. It will tell us what God is like. And how we can truly get to heaven. It is not by being good, by being baptized, or by anything else we do. But it’s by understanding God when he is talking to us in our language. Along this line, God’s Word shows us just how much he loves us. And it is in learning this that we are drawn to love him in return. We also need to continue praying for our translators and those who contributed money to make the whole thing come to reality today.”

Your gifts and prayers for the work of the Baka language team helped bring this translation project to completion!

Please pray for the Baka Scriptures to make a significant difference in the spiritual growth of the Baka people. And pray for the project team as they now seek other ways to support their families.



# THE FOUR P'S OF CREATING A WILL

The process of completing a will can be overwhelming, but you'll find it's a worthwhile investment of your time — bringing peace of mind for you and your family. By working through the four areas listed below, you'll lay the foundation for an estate plan that helps you steward your God-given resources, and best provide for the people and ministries you care about most.

## 1. PEOPLE

List family members and other individuals, as well as charitable organizations, that will be part of your estate distribution.

## 2. PROPERTY

Identify all of the assets over which God has made you a steward and include the title in which the assets are held.

## 3. PLANS

Create your plan using prayer. Then move forward with what you understand to be God's plan of stewardship for the distribution of your estate. Think about how you

want the property you've identified distributed to the people you've listed. These plans will determine who will be given your assets and how much each person or organization will receive, as a dollar amount or percentage.

The Wycliffe Foundation has **free resources** to offer to you as you prepare to create or revise a will. You can request your copies on the enclosed response card.

## 4. PLANNERS

List those people who you rely on for advice to make significant financial and legal decisions, like your attorney, accountant or financial planner.

The Wycliffe Foundation can help you design a biblically-based estate plan that is "attorney ready" before you meet with your planners. And the Foundation's service is provided in a confidential manner, without charge for Wycliffe donors.

We're happy to help you; call us toll free at **877-493-3600**, or email [info@wycliffefoundation.org](mailto:info@wycliffefoundation.org).

# WORDSEARCH

## Grabbing the voice of Jesus

In the Karang language in Cameroon one says *mgba kusol* or "grab voice" for audio recording. Since 2008, Jonas Gamada's voice has been the kusol of Jesus. On Monday, the SIL consultant grabbed Jonas' clear, resonant kusol for language team recordings, including the words of Jesus to the seven churches in the Revelation. Jonas' voice is distinct and recognizable so it's a good thing that he's also respected for his model behavior among the Karang. In the coming months the SIL consultant will also use Jonas to grab the kusol of Jesus for the final version of the gospels.





# NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE FIELD

*Please pray for these Wycliffe projects around the world.*



## NWAPHONGO TAABUNGYE BAAKA YE ...

Literal translation: God is the Provider and he does not forget his own people ...

Lobala pastor Reverend Ngolonga Nzengi recently attended a pastors' conference in Gemena. He wanted to know how the Lobala project was doing. When the language team informed him that they just came to complete the typesetting in Yaounde, Cameroon and the Lobala New Testament would be published very soon, he exclaimed with joy saying, "Nwaphongo taabungye baaka ye ..." Rejoice with us that when things get difficult and tough to handle, God always shows up to give the providential solution and make a way for his people!



## USING TECHNOLOGY TO SPREAD GOD'S WORD IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

During this quarter, the audio recordings of 1-2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon were completed for the various languages of the Aitape West project. These recordings have been prepared to sync with the written translation on mobile phones so that people can listen to the Bible on audio while they follow along as each sentence is highlighted. This popular technology will certainly aid the spread of God's Word among these oral cultures and help people to develop literacy skills in their own languages.

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