

## INFOCUS

### **Aghem** project Cameroon

Quarterly report for Apr-Jun 2011

#### Some things that have been achieved

Exegesis on Titus was done; John chapters 1 – 12 have been tested and corrections entered. The consultant check of James 1:1-10 was done. The consultant was not available to check Mark this quarter and this is now planned for next quarter.

After a local workshop held in the office, twelve leaders from different groups in churches promised to begin Scripture Use activities in the different churches. Follow up to begin in the next quarter.

In literacy, mother tongue lessons in schools (1876 students), churches (250 students) and in the community have been supervised this past quarter. Two meetings were held to update teachers in teaching skills and record-keeping.

28 copies of the 2011 diary, 1 Reading & Writing book, 2 Gospels of Luke, 1 leaflet on using the sun to purify water and 2 Christmas stories were sold, and 2 VCDs on parables of Jesus.

#### The mother tongue is important

In May a Scripture Use workshop was held in the project office with 12 participants from different groups. These participants were Baptists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics and the Full Gospel Mission.

The lessons of the day were: the experience of a local pastor on the use of mother tongue Scriptures, God wants to talk with us in the language of our heart, and the role of language in church growth.

In the course of the workshop, participants expressed a lot of joy and surprise to learn that it is found in the Scriptures that mother tongue is important. Some were even happy to learn new words in their mother tongue like Key Biblical terms which to them was such a wonderful experience. They promised to go and happily share their newly acquired skills with their group members.

#### Giving thanks

- for a useful Scripture Use workshop
- that the final key terms list has been established with the help of the consultant

#### Prayer requests

- for peace to reign in Musaka, a border village between Cameroon and Nigeria which has experienced border crises where homes and lives were lost
- that there shall be no failures in the consultant session for the book of James and Mark next quarter
- for the availability of teachers for the upcoming refresher teachers' course in August



## The value of the mother tongue in school ...

In June, in a Scripture Use meeting with the Kangsen Memorial choir of Presbyterian Church Kesu, the shell book on "Places of worship in the Old Testament and the role of the priest and Levites" was presented. The Christians were happy to learn these things for the first time.

The group also sang songs that they have composed from the translated Gospel of Luke. They immediately said they will have to move from one village to another, and from place to place and sing these songs so that the people get the message in the songs and it can make an impact in their lives. They did for a week and now in the Aghem community and even in churches people sing these songs (these songs on the parable of the Rich fool, the widow's mite, the ten virgins and the Temptation of Jesus). This group has opted to be meeting every Tuesday for the composition of many other songs still from the Gospel of Luke.

## ... and in church

Mama Maria Nsen came to the project office to meet the staff and recited a vision she had about Scriptures in the mother tongue.

She said, "In my dream last night I saw late Rev. JC Kangnsen, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon. He told me how the Word of God is now penetrating the Aghem land, a thing he had long told us when he just came back from studies in Nigeria.

Therefore, I am telling you people involved in this Bible translation in the mother tongue to consider this as a noble task and a calling because the Scripture is beginning to be fulfilled in the Aghem land. Again, I am very happy that these things have started taking place and I am still alive, I am about 86 years old. I am praying that all of you should become pastors tomorrow so that this mystery of the Word of God should be better understood".



The next generation!

## Challenges being faced

There are technical difficulties with printing and photocopying, because of power failures.

The project has started experiencing a fall in literacy as most of the teachers and students have gone on holidays out of the area. However, there is a need to call the available teachers to order and encourage them to take up classes again during this vacation so those who are interested should not be discouraged.

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