

- Matthew
  
- Mark
  
- Luke
  
- John
  
- Acts ch. 1 –19
  
- James
  
- 1 Peter
  
- 2 Peter
  
- 1 John
  
- 2 John
  
- 3 John
  
- Jude
  
- BOOKS  
PENDING:**
  
- Romans
  
- 1 Corinthians
  
- 2 Corinthians
  
- Revelation

**BIBLE STORY  
DVD:**

•SIL in  
Yaounde have  
produced a  
DVD of the  
story of the  
Good Samaritan with pic-  
tures and text!

# Cameroon 2009

AUGUST 2009

## Growing Partnerships

The trip to the Cameroon was a great experience and a great time to build relationships. We were welcomed so much by everyone we met, both in Yaounde and in Wum. The main purpose of the visit from my point of view was to see the work of Bible translation that we are supporting and to meet the people who have committed themselves to see the Gospel in the Aghem language. It was an immense privilege to meet the teams. It was also an immense challenge to my faith!

Paul talks about being in partnership for the Gospel in his letter to the Philippians and we want to be in partnership with our brothers and sisters in the Cameroon. I hope our visit was as much an encouragement to them as it was to me.

One of the challenges was to speak to the team in Wum. What do you say to people who have set aside much to translate the Gospel—who are already committed to following Christ



**Some of the Project Team  
in the Office.**

and who can teach me so much? Well—I shared with them what I had preached in Crawley only the week before! And that is that like in the story of the ten lepers in Luke’s Gospel where

the text tells us that “as they went, they were healed” (Luke 17 v 14), so God meets us along the way. He most often says, “Go and I’ll meet you there!” This can be an encouragement to us to keep going when things get tough. There are many challenges for the translation teams, but God will meet them along the way. David Livingstone was once asked if there was a good road to where he was, so that other men could join him. He replied he didn’t want men who would come only if there was a good road. He wanted only men who come even if there was no road at all! And sometimes we cannot see the road ahead, but we keep going trusting God will meet us along the way. I hope this was an encouragement to the teams.

## What an impact it’s having!

One of the best stories I heard was of the impact of the translation of the Gospel into the mother tongue of the Aghem people. In some of the churches in Wum, the Bible is now being read in the mother tongue and its impact is so encouraging. We heard stories of people

weeping in church as they hear the passages they know in their heart language. We heard stories of people coming back to church because they can now hear the Bible in the heart language. Not all churches in Wum have the Bible read in Aghem, but where it is being read in

Aghem it is bearing fruit. In one church the sermon is also being given in the Aghem language rather than English. It is so encouraging to know that the work of the translation team is being put to good use in the churches and that it is already bearing some wonderful fruit.

## Being a Translator

First you have to be vetted by a Pastor! And then get TBC 1, 2, 3 to qualify.

## Translating a Text

- Translators use various translations for discussion of a text.
- The text is then drafted, typed, trialed and edited.
- Then it goes for consultation.
- It is then reviewed.
- The text is then read aloud in Aghem for further checking.
- After this process the translation can be printed.

## Variety of Translations

- Songs are being translated. A hymn book is proposed.
- Booklets containing parables are available.
- A Big Book of the Good Samaritan is ready.

## Wider Benefits of Literacy

- The project has created reading and writing booklets. They are currently waiting for the edited texts to come from Bamenda.
- The project has been asked to translate a story book for use in Primary schools.
- Songs are used to teach literacy. They correspond to the workbooks.
- There is an HIV booklet in Aghem.
- The project is trying to promote the use of the Aghem Language in schools.

## Some Facts

- There are 223 community learners.
- There are 61 learners from the churches.
- There are 179 learners in secondary schools.
- There are 15 literacy classes.
- There are 5 church based teachers and 3 secondary school based teachers.
- One teacher is 15 years old.
- There are 5 denominations using the Scripture as literacy.

# Whatever it takes!

There are many challenges faced by the project, but they have a “Whatever it Takes!” attitude to continuing their work. There are a range of challenges facing them:

1. Not all congregations have people who can read the Aghem language. Training exists to put one in every church.
2. Follow up is difficult in that not all the coordinators are able to follow up their work.
3. There are an increasing number of schools and not enough teachers of the language! One issue here is money—6,000CFA’s a month is not enough to cover travel costs for some teachers.
4. The Project Office needs continuing repairs and maintenance which are not always done.
5. The health of the team sometimes

prevents work getting done e.g. if one goes down with malaria. The cost of medicines or hospital visits is high.

*Nii nuḡhu ghia à biigh gho a zìpò ghà’*

*CHORUS: Nii nuḡhù ghia à biigh gho a zìpò ghà’ à Yeso!  
Nii nuḡhù ghia à biigh gho a zìpò ghà’ à Yeso lo!  
Nii nuḡhù ghia à biigh gho a zìpò ghà’ à Yeso!*

*SOLO: Oh mò ghà’ ghiinj ghia à biigh gho a fe am mbì a Yeso lo!*

*CHORUS: Nii nuḡhù ghia à biigh gho a zìpò ghà’ à Yeso!  
Nii nuḡhù ghia à biigh gho a zìpò ghà’ à Yeso lo!  
Nii nuḡhù ghia à biigh gho a zìpò ghà’ à Yeso!*

6. The Review Committee sometimes can’t get those who know the language well to help. Sometimes they want to be paid or they want more pay. Some don’t want to commit to the project.
7. Technology is often a problem. Computers and printers are difficult to replace. The printer couldn’t be

replaced for 6 months!

8. Attendance at literacy classes is a challenge. To get people to realize the long term benefits is a challenge and other things are seen as more important.

9. Exegetical checking needs more people to speed up the process after the drafting of a text.

## Primary Needs

The Project Team identified three primary needs:

- Office: their own office for the translation work.
- More computers.
- A reliable supply of electricity! When it goes out the work cannot continue easily.