

INFOCUS

Aghem project
Cameroon

Quarterly report for Oct-Dec 2009

A visit from Canada

Global PartnerLink of Canada, InFocus's partners in sponsoring the Aghem project, paid a visit to the Aghem in November. We will include in this report some photos that they took.

Learning to use the translated Scriptures

A scripture use workshop was held in the office, where people were educated on the importance of mother tongue scriptures, how to operate a Bible study group in churches and community, and scripture memorisation. After the workshop, 14 resource persons were chosen and like the sending out of the 72 disciples, were sent out in pairs to seven churches to introduce mother tongue scripture activities. After this was done, many Christians expressed their joy and were anxious to memorise the verses given to them. A follow up meeting was also held to have an evaluation on the first outing. All the resource persons unanimously agreed that it was indeed a fruitful exercise.

Progress on translation

Three translators attended a workshop in Bamenda in December on translating epistles, and produced a translation of the letter to the Philippians.

Exegesis input was done on John's gospel chapter 1-7 and corrections entered.

And how is literacy going?

- 35 community classes are operational including three colleges with a total enrolment of 1594 people, with 149 able to read (while the 1594 include college students, the 149 are only those in the community).
- six church-based classes with an enrolment of 120. In addition, 46 able to read.
- one meeting held this quarter to brief teachers on the emphasis of evaluating their learners and presenting the literacy statistics

Giving thanks

- for the successful visit by GPL to the Aghem project in November
- for the Presbyterian Church Kesu, Faith Baptist church and Full Gospel Mission Wum, who granted the project the chance to have a translation Sunday in their respective congregations where the vision of the project was well understood
- thank God for saving the life of Emmanuel Nang (spiritual adviser Translation committee) in an attack by armed robbers in Nigeria
- for the Wum secondary schools which opened their doors for literacy in Aghem

Prayer requests

- for those who are sick just now: Kpwa Wilfred, Kum Alfred and Aseh Derick
- for success in literacy in both primary and secondary schools
- for the impact of a spiritual retreat and ecumenical service which were to be held in early January in both the lives of individuals and the project at large.
- the number of teachers in the project as more colleges are showing their interest.



“This is the time...”

The project observed a Translation Sunday at Full Gospel Mission Wum on November 22nd 2009. During the presentation, Christians of this congregation were very attentive to hear about the project. After getting the importance of mother tongue translation, how churches can be part of the project and the role the church in the Bible translation project, Elder Cletus mounted the pulpit and said, “This is the time for us Christians to do all that is commanded by God and stop complaining, because this is a time for us to get involved in this project and act like children of God, ready to do his work”. He thanked the intercessors of the church who have been praying for the project. He again encouraged them to continue and even called on other Christians to join them.

Challenges to be faced - and prayed about

The Scripture Use Promoter finds it difficult to travel regularly from Zhoa to Aghem to carry out his task, a means of transport would be of great help.

The Inter Church Committee is not always available, as all its members are full time church leaders with many pastoral duties; this makes things difficult when it comes to disciplining some staff of the project.

Work in the office was not that effective this quarter simply because of the transition in season which brought about sickness which, in turn, affected the staff as many were regularly sick and were either absent, or present at work but doing nothing. Some could not even go for consultation because of lack of finances.

This resulted in some complaints from the staff as they began to consider their unstable status as volunteers and to wonder about their future. They observed that they needed to either be registered in the National Insurance or open personal accounts in a credit union as “a safeguard for rainy days”. In search of a solution to this problem, the staff have started with a monthly saving to help start up with any investments.



Wilfred and Charles at work

A good way to learn Aghem

500 copies of the 2010 Aghem diaries were published and are selling briskly.

Alfred reports: When the 2010 diaries finally arrived, they immediately went into circulation. The diaries were taken to Wum high school, and when the vice principal of the school Mr Kwa Ignatius saw them he was happy with the publication, and said, "This is good stuff for me to be reading; it is easy for me to learn Aghem and is also portable. Now if you people publish things like this, always bring them to me". Going through the Aghem community now, you will find people with 2010 diaries, who are very happy to know the days in Aghem language and [other useful information such as] the ranking of chiefs and Fons.



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InFocus, Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3XL
01494 682251 infocus_uk@wycliffe.org

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