



Dan and Lisa Friesen

"Translating God's Word Into Oroko"

CBC, Box 4

Kumba, SW Province

Cameroon, Africa

Ph: 011-237-796-0806 (when outside the village)

January 27, 2006



Meet the Translation Team

For this prayer letter, we'd like you to hear directly from our translation team members (NOTE: Family name comes first, then first name, then local name):

Etongwe Dominic Bakoma

I am a pastor by profession but forced by circumstances to now be a classroom teacher. I am a father of 4, plus care for 10 fatherless children of my 2 dead sisters.



I have found it very interesting to discover that our dialect has its own grammar. This work is rewarding as we will also be teaching others. The stipend we are given is also helpful.

Join with me to pray for the realization of a business project with which I can support my family. I need financial capital to start one of the following: 1) A palm estate, 2) Taxi or motorcycle taxi business, or 3) Purchase or lease of a cocoa farm.

Bea Jacob Mosenge

I oversee my parents' farms. I am an appointed deacon in the Baptist church. I have a wife, 5 children, and others who are dependent on me.



Hearing the Word of God in my language is a break-through in our culture, which will bring the people closer to God. Pray that God should give me wisdom to translate His Word. I would like to be employed by the project so I could work full-time and see the project completed sooner.

Mokwe Levi Ekoko

I am a poor farmer, church preacher and church secretary. I have a wife and 4 children. I am interested in translating the Bible into Oroko language and learning about the computer. The pay stipend we receive can help keep life going.



Please pray for my health and that of my family and everybody involved in the translation projects. Pray that the Almighty God will help the realization of the translation project.

Rev. Moto-Poh Abel Mukete

In 1963, my career as a preacher started. I worked as a catechist after 3 years training. In 1968, I went back to school for 4 years. Since then I have worked as



a pastor, administrator, church secretary, and hospital chaplain. I am married with 5 children and near retirement. I am partially deaf and need a hearing aid to communicate with people.

What do I find most interesting about this work? 1) The fact that I am part of this work, 2) Putting and helping to put the Oroko language in written form, and 3) Learning to read the Bible in Oroko.

Prayer requests: 1) I need to stay fit for this work. I often experience difficulties with my hearing-aid. 2) We need donors/sponsors to make the work more stable and productive. 3) We need more translators and reviewers to join in the project. 4) We want to praise God for our project advisors. Pray for their health and protection.

**Pastor Eyakwe Joseph
Nangunda**



I was recently married on the 17th of December. I am a Presbyterian minister of a pastorate of 5 congregations in 5 small villages. I am the last of 3 siblings and have become the bread winner of the family.

I am glad that God is using me for His work. I feel like I am one of those Bible writers of old. This challenges me to live up to the Word I am translating.

Please pray that God should reward me and my wife with the resources of His kingdom by increasing the family. May God also touch the minds of the Oroko people to receive God's Word in their tongue, otherwise our work is in vain. Pray also that my wife should have a job. She is a nurse by profession, but we are living in a small village. It is not going to be easy for us with my meager resources. I know that God can provide.

Efilo Zacheus



I am 34 years old and married to Efilo Mary. We have a son and a daughter. I thank God for calling me into the ministry of reconciliation. I served as a full-time pastor for two years and now am a student at Cameroon Baptist Seminary in Kumba.

One of the most interesting and rewarding things about Oroko translation is that God's Word has started to be heard in the Oroko mother tongue, which I count it all joy. I believe and trust that this translation will help the Oroko people to have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and personal testimonies about his work in their lives.

Please pray that God should continue to provide for my school needs as well as enabling me to meet the needs of my brothers and sisters who are swimming in sin day-in and day-out.

In the area of the translation project, which is my major concern, at this point of time, I claim by faith that God is going to lead every detail to completion. And that with our human understanding, nothing good can be realized in the end. May God take the glory.

Mrs. Epie Grace Senge



I am a member of the Christian Women's Fellowship of the Presbyterian Church. I am a widow with 3 children (all girls). At the moment I live on small handouts given by friends and family members. One of my daughters is a sickle-cell patient who can be very demanding at times.

What I find most interesting is that the Oroko people will be able to read the Word of God in their own language and (I hope) understand it better.

Pray 1) That the Holy Spirit may continue to guide and direct my every move in order to be ready and able to do this task which God has called me to do, 2) That God may open up avenues for finances for me to be able to be independent (very important), and 3) that God will give us (translators) more friends to join us so that together we will be able to do this task; so that at all times people will be available to work in case some are sick, etc.

**Mosongo Mathias
Naliembe**



As a retired teacher (headmaster) after 22 years of teaching, I have become a farmer. Also, I help in the village administration.

I help to effect many programs of the church including preaching. I'm married and a father of 7 living children – all struggling to live, be educated, and then employed.

Translation helps me to understand the Bible more and to tell the Bible stories in my dialect.

Prayer requests: 1) Ask God to continue to bless my family. 2) For God to stop the evil spirits from having power against me. 3) For God to bless the translation team to do effective work. 4) God to guide and grant traveling mercies to all members of the team.

Rev. Mote Eugene Ndasah

I've been a preacher all my life. I was a youth pastor, Director of our Church Centre and the Presbyterian Secretary.

What I find the most interesting is the translation itself from English into Oroko, finding new words, expressions and phrases. I enjoy reviewing the work of the translation teams.

Prayer requests: 1) That God gives us workers to carry out His project. It will certainly take a long time, but surely God will provide. 2) I am a retired pastor but diabetic, and as a result of diabetes I have developed heart problems, and this is very expensive for me in our situation and difficult. Most of the material I use comes from outside (blood monitoring glucose machine, test strips, and drugs). I depend on sympathetic donors. Pray that God continues to open the hearts of donors.



Pastor Mbangah Jonas

[Note: This was written by Friesens, not Jonas himself, since we haven't received his letter yet.]

I am a pastor with the Apostolic Church in Cameroon, shepherding 5 rural churches. I am single and the youngest son of elderly parents. I have been assigned the task of "testing" the Scripture passages that have been translated to see how well the general population understands them.

Please pray that God will encourage and strengthen me in my ministry, that God will help me to find a godly woman to marry, and that God will enable me to do the work of testing well.



Pastor Elangwe Aloysius

I am a pastor with the Apostolic Church, shepherding 6 churches with poor buildings. I am married with 9 children.

I appreciate the good working conditions we have for translators and am looking forward to the production of a complete Bible in the Oroko language. Please pray: 1) That I should be a productive and successful translator, 2) That the project should have a good financial base, 3) That the Lord should richly bless all the supporters and collaborators of the project.



Bea Elias

I am married with 3 children, a teaching elder in the Apostolic Church, secretary for our church district, the Discipline Master at the local secondary school, and a farmer.

I feel privileged to be part of the translation project, because I am learning so much from the Bible.

Pray for wise use of time and energy as I try to balance my many responsibilities. Pray for a joyful marriage home, peace, and long life for the translators. Pray for the realization of the project, God's grace throughout the project, and that the public would embrace the work. Pray too for my children's education.

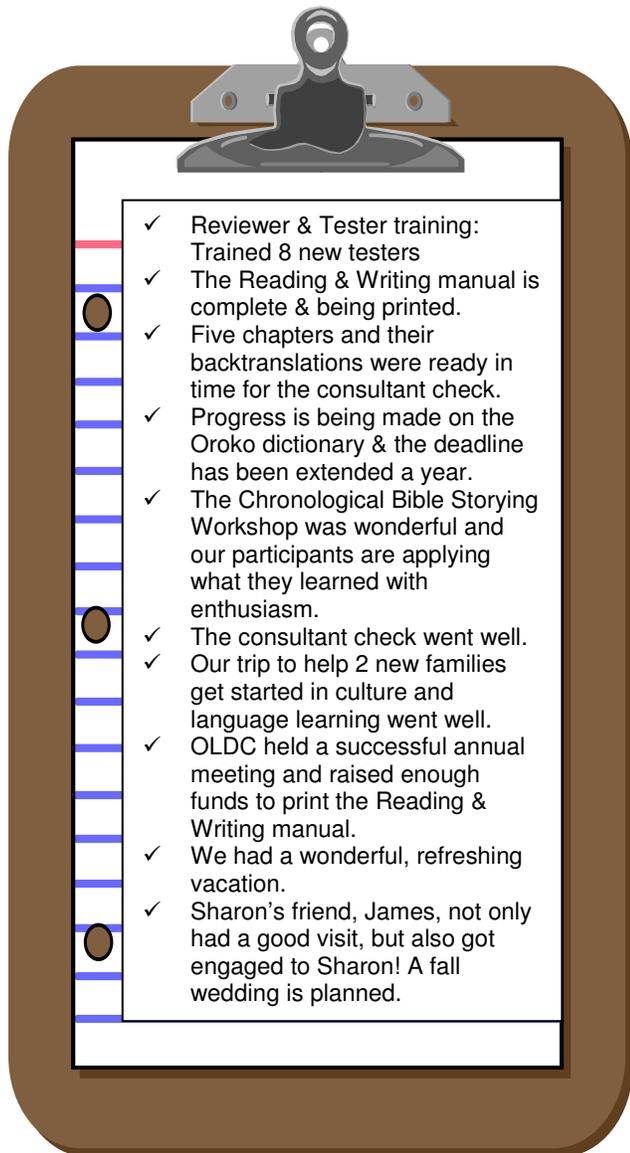


Please pray for the physical and financial needs of the translators and their families.

All of them are sacrificing to be a part of this program and all have very real needs, both stated and unstated. The work of the translation teams is partially funded by donations from local churches here in Cameroon and partially by outside donations. While some of your donations are already going towards the translation work, if you would like to specifically give to the translation project (separate from our own support needs), donations can be sent to World Team (address on the back page) and designated for the Oroko Translation Project - GMA 62022. This project only takes care of finances involved with the translation itself. If you are interested in one of the translator's personal needs, please contact us directly to see how you can help.

Answered Prayers

As we typed up prayer requests to go with this letter, we were struck by how much has happened in the last few months and how abundantly God has answered your prayers. Here are some of the highlights:



This time we are not sending a separate prayer insert, as we hope you gather prayer requests from the whole letter!

Serving Him Together,
Dan, Lisa & Rachel Friesen

Prayer and Praise

for Dan & Lisa Friesen

February 5 - 11

- ☺ Praise for many answered prayers the last 4 months!
- † Pray for good response to the Jesus film being shown here this week by a fellow missionary who renovated our village's water supply

February 12 - 18

- † Pray for both translation teams as they make revisions to prepare for a consultant check.

- † Pray for Pastor Mbangah Jonas

February 19 - 25

- † Pray for WT Cameroon leadership team meetings
- † Pray for our joint school sessions in Bamenda

February 26 - March 4

- ☺ Praise for missionary kids Rachel can play with during our joint home schooling session in Bamenda!
- † Pray for Rev. Mote, Rev. Motopoh, & Epie Grace as they review the work of the two translation teams.

March 5 - 11

- † Pray for our preparation for a consultant visit.
- † Pray for Team A: Mathias, Zach, Levi, & Elias.

March 12 - 18

- † Pray for Urs & Gerd Ernst, SIL consultants who will be coming to help us this week.
- † Pray for Team B: Joseph, Aloysius, Dominic & Jacob.

March 19 - 25

- † Pray that we'll be able to prepare OTAB (Oroko Translation Advisory Board) to manage the translation project while Scotts and us are absent from Jun-Aug.
- † Pray for our preparations for the Literacy workshop next week.

March 26 - April 1

- ☺ Praise God for Rachel's 9th birthday (Mar 28th)!
- † Pray for the Literacy Committee workshop this week & for completion of a literacy primer.

April 2 - 8

- † Pray for Elsie, the MK teacher coming to supervise Rachel's schooling for the next two weeks.

- † Pray for good progress on the Oroko dictionary.

April 9 - 15

- † Pray that we'll get some special projects done while Elsie teaches Rachel.

April 16 - 22

- † Pray that the Easter story will be read in Oroko in churches this Easter season.

- † Pray for us as we help staff a translation seminar at a local seminary.

April 23 - 29

- † Pray for widespread use of Oroko oral Bible stories.

April 30 - May 6

- † Pray we'll finish well before going on home assignment in Jun & that nothing falls between the cracks.
- † Pray for Sharon as she packs to return to the US in 2 weeks and for preparations for her wedding this fall.