

*Update from Katy, April 19, 2017 (with my apologies for the length of this update!)*

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for praying especially for the past month in Nigeria. It was a very eventful and quite stretching time – many signs that the Lord is at work despite serious challenges.

**Checking translation:** The Bhamumono team are moving forward keenly with the translation of the New Testament. We were able to check their translation of the *Gospel of John* together. The team are now working on the *Gospel of Matthew*.

**Mbembe OT project** The serious local conflict in the Mbembe area has quietened but there is still tension. Translators from the conflicting areas did not feel they could work in the other dialect area at present. So I worked with the Okohm translators in their area for one week and then for the next week in the Adun area – we had planned to work together. Both sessions went very well and the teams are developing nicely – see the Adun team in the picture on the right. The leaders are working hard to raise local financial support for the project. I am so pleased that one longtime Mbembe leader has personally funded the construction of a translation office.



The biggest financial need at present is for laptops. Six are needed for team members who already have basic computing skills, each costing approximately \$1000. Laptops are essential for Bible translation these days – not because the computer does the translation – it doesn't. But a wonderful program called *Paratext* makes the Bible versions and commentaries that the translators need readily available to view – and also provides a customized window for keying the draft translation, with chapter and verse divisions already marked. The draft can then be readily shared between translators on the team so that they can cross check each other's work and discuss. In due course the translation is shared more widely with reviewers and read to others, until eventually all the editing and checking process is completed and it is ready for publication. *Pray for the teams as they press on with the translation of Genesis. Pray for the provision of the needed laptops.*



**Legbo New Testament:** I was privileged to take part in a special meeting of commitment and dedication by leaders and translators of the Legbo project, a language neighbouring to Mbembe, a project that has had serious problems over many years. *Pray for the Legbo team today as they put all their effort into completing the New Testament in Legbo.*

**Listening to concerns:** As I have shared earlier, there has been a serious break in the partnership between two major organisations involved in Bible translation in Nigeria, namely the Seed Company, an international organization that has been providing funding help, and the Nigerian organization, the Nigeria Bible Translation Trust. I spent much time listening to different ones as they shared their pain and concerns, constantly praying. *Pray that the way will open for reconciliation. Pray that the Lord will give leaders of both organisations wisdom and patience to find ways to put past wrongs right, and to heal broken relationships, enabling the Lord's people to work together with love for each other, in a way that honours Him.*

**Meetings** This next weekend I travel to the Seed Company offices in Arlington, Texas, for a week of meetings with the leadership team of the Seed Company translation department. *Pray that this will be a time when we listen well to each other and to others, when we hear the Lord's directions clearly, and when we encourage and bless each other.*

**Revision of the *Bible Translation* training manual** This project has been on hold while I have been in Nigeria. When I arrive back in the UK on April 30 after the Seed Company meetings, the next six weeks are dedicated to this project. *Please pray for inspiration and clear thinking, and for the ability to concentrate and finish this project well.*

With much thankfulness to the Lord for all He has done and is doing.

Love and blessings,

**Katy**

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