

Update from Katy, February 1, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners,

Thank you for praying! As always, I am deeply thankful for your partnership.

I was privileged last month to participate in a training workshop on the latest release of the computer software that has been developed for those working on Bible translation. In recent years this software has been developed in wonderful ways. Users can now readily access the original language texts and other Bible versions as source texts, with commentaries and special notes for translators available at their fingertips, as well as having a flexible environment for keyboarding and editing new translations. Draft translations can be shared between team members for cross-checking and for suggesting improvements. I came away marveling at the tools we now have to speed up Bible translation work and with a deep awareness that this is God's time to get the message of the gospel out into every corner of the world. People need to hear this message in their own language!

Of the 7000+ languages spoken in the world, more than 1600 languages have been identified as still needing Bible translation, languages where nothing has begun yet, in addition to more than 2000 languages in which translation is already in progress at various stages. Pray that the Lord will call more people to serve him through Bible translation, including (a) speakers of the languages concerned, (b) those who can train and help them, and (c) those who can pray and support. It is time to work together to finish this task!

News from Nigeria: work is moving forward on the Mbembe cluster Old Testament project. Please keep praying especially for Ernest Ebak and John Afro, mentioned in my last update. Because of current organisational difficulties in Nigeria, the Mbembe project does not yet have an approved budget - the translators have been working without allowances, only occasional financial help. With appropriate support, the translators would be able to work full time on the translation, which would greatly speed up the work. The situation needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

My own news: Concerning the new edition of the *Bible Translation* training manual that I have been working on, I am grateful that there has been good progress this month on formatting for publication. But there is still much to be done. I shall be busy through February and March with proofreading and other related tasks. Please keep praying for me that I can do my part to finish this well.

May the Lord guide and bless you too in all that you are doing!

Love and blessings,

Katy

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