



Website: <http://missionary.sim.org/ford/index.shtml>
June 7, 2004

Tragedy: “And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, ‘Read this, please,’ he will answer, ‘I can’t; it is sealed.’ Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, ‘Read this, please,’ he will answer, ‘I don’t know how to read.’ ” *Isaiah 29:11b-12 (NIV)*

In Isaiah's day there was a problem with the people's willingness to read God's message. In our work with the Aari and Banna, the problem is truly one of not knowing how to read. That is why I am so excited about our primers.

The Aari and Banna primers come in sets of 3. The first primer introduces the name Jesus in Lesson 12, and there is something about Him in each lesson thereafter. The second primer includes an introduction to numbers, simple arithmetic, weights and measures. The third primer has a few lessons on health followed by a series of Bible lessons. The SIM Press in Addis Ababa did a beautiful job of printing 200 of each set. Goal: 100% literacy among the Aari and Banna.

The Lutheran churches in the Aari area have agreed enthusiastically to host a tutor training workshop. They will invite 5 participants from the SIM-related churches. We'll also have 3 Banna tutor training workshops.



It's a blessing to watch the Banna team develop. David is especially gifted in linguistics and translation, Getu in computer skills, and Ayke has such a willing spirit to help in any way we ask. At the right he is drawing each character in the Banna script and adding arrows to show new readers how to write.

Once we had submitted the primers for printing, Aari translators Duba and Fikadu (left) worked on the translation of Joshua and Judges. After spending a whole morning on the first 4 verses of Joshua 12, we skipped over to chapters 23 and 24. Before I go back (end of July) I want to prepare a map showing all the boundaries and place names mentioned. This should speed up the translation of chapters 13-22 considerably.



Praise God with us for:

1. 200 sets each of Aari and Banna primers and the potential they have as tools for evangelism and discipling;
2. Gideon K. and Patrick M., who will come from Kenya to lead tutor training workshops for using the primers;
3. a good draft of 1 Corinthians in Banna; and of Joshua 1-12, 23-24, and Judges 1-12 in Aari;
4. several opportunities in May to share about missions with young people, and with a few not so young;
5. the generosity of God's people (that's you) toward the expenses of the literacy effort in Aari and Banna.

Please pray:

1. that God will Himself select the 25 participants for each of the tutor training workshops, and that each one will complete the workshop with confidence and motivation to teach someone else to read using the primers;
2. that the leaders of the SIM-related churches will eagerly partner with us in a literacy program;
3. that my colleague Donna Clawson will soon be able to return to Ethiopia with full monthly support;
4. for God's watchcare over travel plans for the 4 workshops (Gideon & Patrick from Kenya, Duba and Fikadu from Metser, myself from the USA - I leave July 27th and return Sept. 14th);
5. Mother's health and well-being. God always cares for her, with help from my sister and her family, but 7 weeks can seem very long.

Your partner in the Gospel,

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