

Aari Team in Addis Ababa

April 15, 2005

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"Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us."

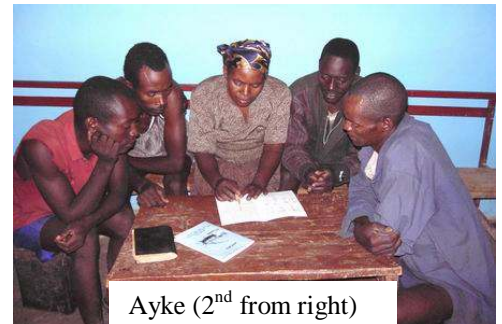
Matthew 6:12 (TEV)

Because we need forgiveness, we need to forgive. On Easter Sunday we were singing about Jesus: "He bore every sin." He bore the sins of those who hurt me - paid for them with His blood. That satisfied God the Father; how could it not satisfy me? "He bore every sin." That includes my sins too. Hallelu-Yah! I am forever grateful for the cross; and I am forever grateful for the resurrection, because it is the proof that God has accepted Jesus' sacrifice for sin. Forgiveness isn't cheap - it cost Jesus His life-blood - but it is precious beyond measure.

Since neither I nor the Aari church leaders could invest the time, energy and finances needed for an effective literacy effort, we agreed to ask Kobus Van Aswegen, who was already overseeing a translation and literacy project for the neighboring Maale language, to take over the Aari work. Kobus was happy to do this, and I have given him a copy of all the work Duba, Fikadu and I had completed. That includes the just-finished translation of Joshua and Judges. Praise God! This frees me to give more attention to Banna translation.

So the physical hand-over was fairly easy, but the emotional "letting go" isn't - not for me, and not for Aari translators Duba and Fikadu, who worked with me for 17 years. We had really wanted to complete the whole Aari Bible. But no one argues with a craftsman about which tool he chooses for finishing his work. *Now please ask God to strengthen Kobus and whoever works with him so that the Aari Bible may be completed and the Aari people may learn to read it in their heart language. And please ask Him to communicate to Duba and Fikadu His pleasure in the work they have done. Pray that there will be no bitterness in their hearts or mine.*

Banna translators Getu and Ayke worked with Donna and me to revise the first 16 chapters of Luke's Gospel. They have been teaching 4 people each to read using the Bible-content primers, and at least 8 people have become fluent readers in the Banna language over the past 6 months. Praise God! (There are other groups using the primers, but I didn't get to visit them.) *Please pray that these 8 will teach at least 1 person each so that the literacy ministry can multiply.*



Ayke (2nd from right) and his reading group

Former Banna translator *David* came to see me. He is quite busy in local matters and only gets to church occasionally. It is hard to know where his heart is. *Please keep praying for him.*

Praise God for His care for Mother while I was away, despite some illness and other challenges. Praise Him for the understanding of my colleagues who urged me to shorten my next visit in Ethiopia. I hope to spend a month with the Banna team in September, but we have agreed that I will not book the flights until I have rested. *Please pray that I will rest in Him.* Thank you for your partnership.

Because His yoke is easy,

Carolyn Ford

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