

April 10, 2003

**"My word ... shall not return to me empty, ...
without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."**

Isaiah 55:11 (NASV)

Thank you for praying for my flights to and from Ethiopia; they were the smoothest part of my visit. The Banna translators missed two days of work with me due to unrest in the area, but God enabled us to complete the materials needed for the Banna Primer Construction Workshop, to be held September 12-26. These include 26 Bible lessons, 11 health/agriculture lessons, a teacher's guide, 64 Scripture verses, and more. We also recorded and transcribed 3 short texts in Banna to be used for analyzing tone. Banna translators David, Getu and Ayke read through our draft of Mark and made a few more revisions and spelling changes. I left a CARLA draft of Matthew 1-11 for the translators to work on. ***Please pray for God's choice of leaders and participants for the Banna Primer Construction Workshop. Pray that my colleague Donna Clawson's work permit will be in hand by then, and for God's enabling as she works with the Banna translators and prepares for the workshop.***



David, Getu and Ayke work on revision of Mark's Gospel
Do you see the light in their faces? Believers stand out in
southern Ethiopia because of the joy that lights up their faces.



Getu plays Banna "guitar" at church

I had the unexpected privilege of speaking at an Aari church conference about the vision God has given me for Aari literacy. ***Please take time to pray just now for the people in this photo, that they and every Aari believer will make the effort to learn to read in the Aari language ... and that those who already know how will teach someone else.***

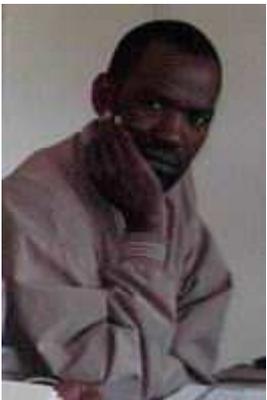
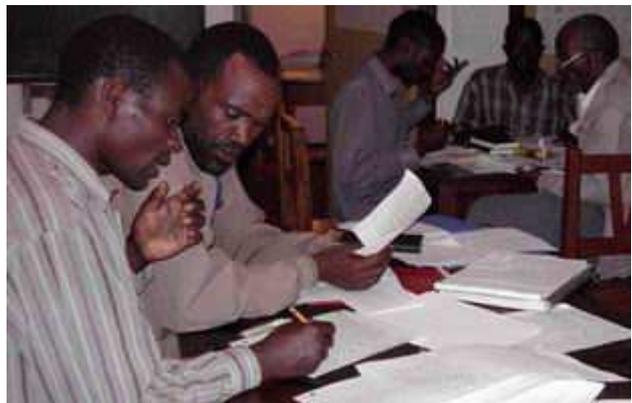




Eight fine Aari men gave themselves whole-heartedly to the construction of the Aari Primers from March 2-14. They fell in love with Gideon Kiongo (left) and Patrick Malasi (right) who had come from Kenya to help Allen & Joan Lovekin (from Literacy Evangelism International) lead the workshop.



Nothing went as planned ... well, not as *I* had planned ... so I decided to trust God and praise Him whatever happened. **HE began developing in the Aari participants a vision for literacy-evangelism, and they began to take ownership of the work. Praise Him!**



The first few primer lessons were hard to write. We could only introduce 2 new characters (letters) and 4 new words each lesson. We spent 1 1/2 days finding the words and sentences for Lesson 2. Everyone felt discouraged! But God gave perseverance, and each succeeding lesson was easier to write. Enthusiasm grew.



A church leader(left) looks for picture words on the computer. Picture words, like “banana” or “shoe” are words that can be clearly shown by a picture.

Duba (right) suggests a picture word, pointing to the character it starts with.





Once the participants understood the process, we divided into 3 teams. Fikadu & teammate (left) ponder the lesson they will write.

Two church leaders (right) show Carolyn a lesson they have just written.



The Aari participants decided to invite other church leaders and government officials to celebrate completion of the workshop. So on Friday, March 14th, we shared with them what we had done and entreated their cooperation in the literacy effort. They responded with enthusiasm. One official took photos, interviewed participants and took notes on how the Aari language is spelled. ***PRAY that the excitement generated by this will result in an effective literacy effort throughout the Aari area.***



Allen and Joan Lovekin worked hard to ensure that the Aari primers would be top quality. We had hoped to finish the editing and revising in Addis Ababa March 15-21, but illness (Gideon with malaria and Joan with an infection which brought a 102 degree fever) and other constraints prevented this.

Praise God for protecting and providing for Mother in my absence. Please pray for renewed strength for me, and that we will soon complete the checking and revising of the Aari primers. There are three primers with a total of 90 lessons. Each Lesson has a Scripture reference to be used by the teacher for witnessing to the student. From Lesson 12 on, there is at least one sentence about Jesus in each lesson. The final 25 lessons tell about Creation; the Fall; the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus; the Holy Spirit; Jesus' soon return; and our eternal home. ***If each one who knows how to read in Aari will give an hour a day to teach one other, God will use these primers to minister to the spiritual and practical needs of the Aari people. I anticipate a great harvest. Please pray with me to that end.***

Because He promised,

Carolyn Ford

<http://missionary.sim.org/ford/>