



July, 2007

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"Take courage and work, for I am with you, says the LORD Almighty." Haggai 2:4

Reluctantly I left Mother, who had not been feeling well, on June 12th for a month in Ethiopia. Praise God for those who ministered to her in my absence, and for giving me courage to go. Clearly He had planned my time in Ethiopia so that none of it was wasted.

I observed as Mary checked the translation of John's Gospel into the Me'en language. This gave me a better idea of what is required of a translation consultant, and I was blessed to get to know the Me'en translation team.

Later, Mary checked our translation of 1 Corinthians into Banna. Ayke had prepared a back-translation in the national language, Amharic, using the computer program "Adapt It". This helped speed up the checking.

We still need to analyze natural text (Banna fables, life stories, descriptions) and apply what we learn to our translation, and to study key terms ("grace", "righteousness", "church", "priest", etc.) in depth so that we can find the best word or phrase to use in Banna. I had planned to work on this with the Banna team the last week of June, but God brought to my attention something more urgent:



Getu

Donna and Ayke were ill that week. We had started but not finished the Jesus video script in September 2005. Getu and I spent the week completing the Banna script. The next week Ayke and I visited the Great Commission office to ask them to record the video in the Banna language. Mr. Solomon promised to pass on our request and to let us know whether funds will need to be raised for it. Please pray that Getu and Ayke will follow up on this successfully. (They are in Addis Ababa until mid-August for computer training and English lessons.)



Donna & Ayke

We also asked about the Aari Jesus video, which was shown only once, in 2005. A copy can be given to someone who will take responsibility to show the film on a regular basis and send a report every month. I passed this information on to the Aari church leaders. Please pray that they will follow through so that God can use this video to draw people to Himself. The more they hear the Word in their heart language, the more likely they are to want to read it for themselves.

I had hoped that by now the Banna Christians who had received tutor training would be teaching their friends to read using our revised primers. This has not happened. In fact, there has been little visible fruit from all the effort we have put into preparation of literacy materials and training of tutors, whether in Gurage, Aari or Banna. It is easy to feel discouraged about that. Nevertheless, God is using His Word to change lives. For example, the Gurage New Testament is used for the evangelistic radio programs prepared by SIM and aired 3 times a week. Here are a few excerpts from letters sent to the radio station:

Your radio program gets everyone's attention. Everyone tunes in whether he is a Christian or not because he can hear the lesson in his own language. ... The number of listeners is increasing daily because they hear your program in their own language. I am one of your listeners. Pray for those like me who are also listening but are not yet in Christ. ... I am a university student and a regular listener to your teaching. My friend saw me listening and asked me about your program. He decided to be in Christ. ... We gather together in the evening to listen to your radio program. We are amazed from what we have heard. Our question is, "How can we replace our sinful actions with those which will please God?"

Someone responds to each one who writes, often enclosing a small booklet that deals with an issue the writer asked about. Praise God for this ministry, and please pray for much lasting fruit. Pray that many will hunger to read God's Word in their heart language, and that God will raise up those willing and able to teach them.

Taking courage, working, and counting on your prayers,

Carolyn Ford

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Coffee Time