



www.carolynford.org
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"It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel's way; it will become a level plain before him!"
Zechariah 4:6-7a NLT

Almost a year after I first asked, I had the privilege of meeting in April with the linguist at Addis Ababa University who had analyzed the sound system of the Hamer-Banna language in preparation for deciding on a script to be used in textbooks. We were able to quickly agree on the characters to be used for a limited edition of the Banna New Testament, 1000 copies each in the two scripts being considered.

Spiritual battle takes many forms. A few days after the University professor and I agreed on the scripts, "friendly fire" opened up from a colleague who does not know the Banna language but has strong ideas about how a language should be spelled. He had convinced one of the Banna church leaders that his system was superior to the one the professor and I had agreed on. I spent many hours with this church leader and my colleague, showing them why I felt the agreed-on scripts were better. I am not a debator, and both of these men are tall and strong with big voices. One morning when I was feeling especially discouraged, the Lord gave me the words quoted at the top of this letter. Then He leveled the mountain before me. The church leader was convinced, and during the first week of May he discussed the issue with the Banna translators and other church leaders. All agreed that we should go ahead with printing the Banna New Testament in the scripts agreed on. The colleague has also promised to work with us, preparing simple Bible lessons in the agreed-on scripts. Praise God with me for His faithfulness!

The reviewers have not yet looked at Banna Genesis, but they have promised to do so "very soon". I had been asking them to do this for over a year, so I have now given them a deadline: If they can review Genesis and get their suggestions to me by June 8th, we will still try to include it with the New Testament. Otherwise, we will submit the New Testament for typesetting and hope to publish Genesis separately later on. Please be much in prayer about this. I feel Genesis gives a very necessary foundation for understanding who God is and why we need a Savior.



Mattewos & Gezahegn

Kafa translator Mattewos has applied for post-graduate study at a university in Nairobi, Kenya, in preparation for becoming a Bible translation consultant. Please ask God to work out all the details and provide the needed funds. Mattewos plans to continue working on the Kafa Old Testament at the same time and is grateful to be able to do several of the courses by distance education.

Prayer Requests:

- That Banna translators and reviewers will complete their work on Genesis by June 8th.
- That typesetting of the Banna Scriptures will go smoothly in both scripts.
- Health for Kafa translators Gezahegn and Mattewos, and safe delivery of Gezahegn & Abnet's baby due in July.
- For checking of Kafa Psalms. Praise God for completion of the consultant check of Proverbs.
- That God will carry Mattewos through the training to be a Bible translation consultant and give him an open door to minister in that capacity.

Again, thank you for partnering with us by your prayers and support, without which we could not continue!

Not by force or strength,

Carolyn Ford



My 3 newest grandnephews

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