

Llamas in church ?!?!?!?!?

Many 2020 planned dedications for completed Scripture had to be postponed, cancelled or changed significantly because of quarantines and the pandemic. In one West African Country, the April 2020 dedication of the New Testament and Genesis was limited in attendance to 15 instead of the planned thousands. Formal dedication celebration or no, how wonderful to celebrate Scriptures now complete and available in languages people understand best.

"Now God speaks Pugulu. In order to learn about him, you need to read this book" - Puguli church leader March 7, 2020 -just before lockdown- New Testament dedication Burkina Faso, West Africa

In Peru, the full Bible is now available for the people of five Quechua speaking language communities. Translation Work began in 2004 with five teams of translators from five different Quechua languages.

I watched video from the dedication ceremony for the Bible in one of those languages (Quechua Huaylas). There were llamas walking down the aisle as part of a procession. It turned out that the llamas were carrying the Bibles! The llamas wore little pack saddles with Bibles in the pouches. Because Peru, Andes, llamas... Meanwhile, the outside pictures of where the ceremony took place were breath-taking with the snow capped mountains in the background.

[When I use the Bible in my language in my sermon] The congregation really pays attention. Something is different. At moments like these I feel like an instrument in God's hands delivering his Word" - Shatu, translator and pastor, Peru

"Every single word sunk in and entered my heart" - Maria, describing how reading the gospel of Mark in her own language surprised her. She uses Spanish all the time but now realized that messages in Spanish just "skimmed along the top of her head". Peru



Samburu New Testament, Kenya, East Africa and Quechua Huaylas Full Bible, Peru (with llamas!!!)

"... having the New Testament in Samburu will transform this region." - from Samburu New Testament Dedication Celebration, Kenya

"I now see how many lies I was telling in my preaching" - pastor Aluzio meaning that he was not understanding the Portuguese Scriptures very well. Now that he can read it in Macushi, he is seeing how often he misunderstood and misinterpreted the Scripture. Brazil

"Today is our yearly celebration, but don't be mistaken, this one is not the same. Today, we are celebrating God's Word in Ibaas!" For 10 years, the Ibaas speaking people in a region of Nigeria held an annual celebration each Dec 26th as an encouragement to those waiting for the translation to be completed. The dedication ceremony was held on that day, Dec 26th, in 2019.



Ibaas New Testaments (pre-pandemic) Nigeria; Post-pandemic: smaller, social distanced, masked celebration Flame* New Testament (*pseudonym), West Africa

Thank you so much for your support that enables me to continue to participate in the work of supporting Bible translation through technology.

For Prayer:

- My team will be selecting vendors for two different projects this month. Vendor selection can be contentious - pray for unity among teams and favor with selected vendor.
- A product we've been able to use (and as a donated license) will be discontinued Feb 2024. Even with the long notice, it's still a big (daunting) project. Pray for perseverance.
- Thank God for wonderful vendors who continue to provide donated and discounted licenses to non profit organizations, even when their values differ from ours.
- Praise for Fall. I'm immunocompromised so mostly avoiding opportunities to share germs with people. Nicer weather has opened outside, social distanced options. Good for my mental health plus fall: nice weather, fall colors....



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