



*Partners in Bible Translation*

February 2010

Dear Friend,

During a funeral service in the Central African Republic, Madame Bogaou fanned herself to relieve the heat as she sat on a backless wooden bench. Pastor Laoukoura stepped to the front of the room and began to speak. What he had to say—on this day of mourning—were words of life to her. They cut through the warm air and swept into her soul. Why?

It was because he spoke God's Word in the language of her heart—and she wasn't used to hearing God's Word in Kaba. "Even those closest to you . . . will betray you. . . . But not a hair of your head will perish! By standing firm, you will win your souls." The pastor read this in the Kaba language from Luke 21:16, 18–19 NLT. For the first time, Madame Bogaou felt the power, comfort and hope of Jesus' promise as she heard the Word of God in her own language—the voice of God in Kaba.

"I have heard many sermons," she told Pastor Laoukoura after the service, "but the one you just gave in Kaba meant much more to me than those given in the Sango language. . . . Now I see the importance of having the whole Bible written in our own language."

The Kaba people do not have the complete Bible, however—only a portion. They do not understand Sango, the national language, well enough to have a deep understanding of their faith, and so, only a handful of people even bother to bring their Sango Bibles to church.

Because the Kaba people don't understand Sango well, it is difficult for believers to grow to maturity in their walk with Christ and to share the gospel with others. And because there is little written in Kaba, they have difficulty reading their own language.

That is why Wycliffe Bible Translators launched the **Kaba Translation and Literacy Project**, which has two goals:

First, Wycliffe wants to help the Kaba team complete the New Testament. After 15 years of work, the goal is within reach.

Second, Wycliffe has started a program to teach people to read Kaba, helping them grow in God's Word and apply it to their lives. Literacy projects improve the quality of life for entire communities through access to information about medical issues like how to prevent and treat malaria and the importance of hygiene, including clean water.

Faithful Wycliffe friends like you may be quite familiar with our two-pronged efforts at translation and literacy. Giving a community access to God's Word in their mother tongue is a

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treasure of eternal value offering a message of hope and salvation in a language best understood. Being able to read is the key that unlocks these treasures stored in Scripture and gives communities access to a wider range of material and knowledge that improves the quality of their lives.

This is extremely important to all of us at Wycliffe: a holistic approach that reaches people with the gospel while also dealing with their physical and social needs through literacy training. Teaching people to read is a gift with life-transforming results.

We have two goals for the Kaba project in 2010: **(1) To finish translating** the books of Philippians, Romans and 1 Corinthians and **to continue working** on Matthew, Mark and John; and **(2) to begin pilot literacy classes** and **hold two Scripture Use seminars** to encourage the use of the Scriptures already translated into Kaba.

The project is nearing completion, so the progress we are able to make in the year ahead is crucial. However, financial needs totaling **\$160,540** must be met to keep this project moving to completion. These funds will support translation, literacy and Scripture Use training for this spiritually needy community.

Thank you for prayerfully considering a financial partnership with these men, women and children in the Kaba community.

Then others, like Madame Bogaou, will hear the Word of Life in their heart language. Their lives will be changed now and for eternity. Thank you for caring so deeply about others.

Warmly in Christ,



Bob Creson  
President

P.S. The transformation Madame Bogaou experienced when she heard God's Word in Kaba can be multiplied if you can help provide financial support for this translation and literacy project. Please detach the prayer slip from the enclosed reply form and keep it as a reminder to pray for the Kaba people. Thank you again for helping us meet the financial goal necessary to carry this work forward.