

Annual Anyi Translation and Literacy News & Report 2003

Volume 2, September 2003

Dear Anyi ministry friends,

Oh, how time flies! Another summer has come and gone. It is time for me to give you my annual update on the Anyi Morofu translation and literacy.

Translation Update

This summer I finished translating **1 & 2 Timothy**. I also finished editing **Galatians** that I translated a while back. Here is the tally of the translation activity as it stands now: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Galatians, Colossians, 1,2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, 1,2 Peter, 1,2,3 John, Revelations. Some of these books need editing as I received positive and constructive feedback from the reviewers. Praise God that I'm able to chisel away at this goal while keeping up with my teaching and family responsibilities. All in all, I have drafted 17 of the 27 books of the NT. I have my eyes set on James, and 1,2 Thessalonians for next summer.

Terminology Management

In addition to my translation activities this summer, I spent some time looking for Anyi equivalents to many concepts that literate people take for granted. Anyi lacks terms to describe the parts of speech – noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, preposition, conjunction, and article; terms for basic mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentage, fraction, etc.), and terms to refer to written discourse (text, paragraph, sentence, title, subtitle, chapter, verse, etc.). So, a great deal of time was spent this summer trying to find names for these things. After a little bit of research about how Greek and Latin grammarians went about naming these things, I found that much of the terms used in English are of Latin origin. The process of finding out equivalent terms for Anyi has proved to be

quite challenging because the terms proposed need to be easily remembered.

Orthography Seminar in MI

I was invited by Bibles International, a Bible translation agency based in Grand Rapids, MI, to give their consultants a seminar on how to help them design efficient spelling systems for the languages in which they are translating. The participants seemed pleased, and I was also happy to form some friendships with like-minded people. Kim traveled with me. It was like a mini vacation for us. We drove on the famous Mackinaw bridge and spent a night in Mackinaw city on our way back.

Literacy Update

The literacy director, Yablé Koffi, has also been very active this year. In addition to literacy classes and seminars regularly held at our headquarters in Bongouanou, he has been providing the new literates with booklets about prayer, church songs, local children stories, and local plants used in the healing of various types of ailments. Our literacy program continues to draw many people in spite of the prevailing climate of social and political unrest in some parts of the country.

Budget Woes

Some of you know of my fundraising goals. The annual operation budget of the literacy branch of the ministry is five to six thousand dollars (variable due to the fluctuations in exchange rate). I personally cover all the translation-related expenses. It has been my prayer to find ten churches that would make donations of \$500.00 a year. I am still far from reaching this goal. Only 2 churches have committed themselves to helping. Another church has made an initial commitment of one year. I am now modifying my fundraising strategy. I will still try to contact churches, but I will also

try to raise support from individuals. I would appreciate any contribution, large or small, that you can make toward the 2004-2005 budget. Your tax deductible contributions for the Anyi ministry can be mailed to the following address: **536 Anyi Literacy and Translation Fund (ALT/CATA)**, C/o Advancing Native Missions, P.O. Box 5303 Charlottesville, VA. 22905. E-mail: anm@adnamis.org; Website: www.adnamis.org. **Note:** Make check payable to **Advancing Native Missions**. Do not forget the code: **536 Anyi** in the memo portion of your check.

Prayer & Praise

1. We thank God for a successful year of ministry in spite of social and political unrest in the Ivory Coast. The work is going on strong.
2. Please, join us in prayer for the 2004-5 budget.
3. My parents, especially my mom, are having age-related health difficulties this year. Pray that I may find them alive when I visit the Ivory Coast in Spring 2004.
4. Pray for God's blessing on one of my younger brothers who has moved with his family to France to launch a church planting ministry among the French.
5. Pray for lasting peace to return to the Ivory Coast.
6. Finally, pray for safety for the literacy director, Yablé Koffi, and his family and all of his associates as they try to minister in a politically and socially unstable country.

Translation treasure

Here is a translation treasure for your enjoyment. When I was translating 1 Timothy 3:15 I struggled with how to translate "**living God**" in the phrase "church of the living God." For the Anyi to say that God is alive is a complete redundancy because in the Anyi worldview God is always alive. So, there is no need to add the adjective "living". However, to be faithful to the Greek text, I have to find a way to

express what the text says. The way the Anyi would naturally talk about God in a context like this is to say "the God whose eyes are wide open, i.e., not sleeping." For the Anyi, to have your eyes wide open is synonymous to being alive. Consequently, this metaphor captures vividly and naturally the concept of a "living God."

Family news

We are all doing well. The summer was packed with activities for all of us. We tented in one of the state parks near us. Jeremy and I went to the Duluth International Air Show. Jeremy played soccer, I got to be an assistant coach for his team. Now that school is back in session, we have started new kinds of routines:

- Kim has been elected as a deaconess of assimilation at our church. She is the coordinator of volunteer activities involving newcomers. This keeps her very busy.
- Jeremy just turned 8. He is in second grade at Saint Cloud Christian School. He enjoys school and his Martial Arts classes.
- Corinne (Tallie) turned 4 early in the summer. She began going to a Christian preschool three days a week. She loves it! She also loves her gymnastics and dance class.
- I (Ettien) begin my fourth year of teaching at Saint Cloud State University. Things are going very well.

Parting Thoughts

Now is time to say so long. Until we connect again via e-mail, phone, newsletter, or in person, may the God whom the Anyi refer to as having His eyes wide open, the one who never sleeps nor slumbers bless you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your generosity towards the Anyi translation and literacy ministry.

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