

SHORT REPORT ON LITERACY PROJECT

The BST's Literacy Project started since 2001 in the Northern Part of the country. It has been carried out among Kabyle, Bassar and Lamba people. Ever since, activities like training of trainees, retraining of trainers, training of writers in mother tongues and follow up and evaluation of literacy classes had been done with the specific goals of:

- creating, stimulating and maintaining the desire and the capacity of local populations to read the Bible and biblical products translated into local languages;
- helping overcome obstacles that make the reading of the Bible already translated in local languages difficult for most of the people;
- reinforcing the intellectual capacity of individual in their local language so that people can read and produce literature in their mother tongue;
- contributing in helping illiterates who are passive because they cannot read and write to become active in the life of their church;
- reducing the gap of marginalization of people who cannot read and write and encourage these people to become active in local development projects;
- supporting the effort of local churches to let the word of God have more impact in the life of the community members.

Testimonies show that at the end of the course, learners are able to read the Word of God (New Testament and New Reader Portions) in their mother tongues. They also write letters in their own languages. With these new readers and writers, churches grow spiritually and numerically in the area because after reading and understanding the Word of God, church members thereby put the Word of God into practice. Churches are blessed with people who can now lead Bible studies without the presence of the Pastor, the Catechist or an elder. Some of these new literates become Sunday school teachers while some also become the reviewers of the translation of Old Testament books into their mother tongues. They do participate in church leadership such as leading rosary prayers, station of the Cross in the Roman Catholic Church. These new literates become an attracting way to non Christians in their area toward the Word of God. They thus become a way of strengthening fraternal fellowship. It is reported that a family at the point of divorce got reconciled because of the couple's ability to read Ephesians 4 in the mother tongue. With the reading knowledge gained from literacy classes, learners are able to follow medical instructions prescribed to them and they are also able to understand the awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS posters and flipcharts.

Literacy classes also help the community to develop. Intercommunication is made easy. People are able to read stories, histories, journals and poem in the local language. They are thus open to learn another language different from their mother tongue. They are also open to apprenticeship, commerce, agro-pastoral activities as well as hygiene. Some automatically become secretaries in their communitarian associations. Some of them give good educational means at home among their family members and become a guide to the traditional midwives. Last but not the least, literacy classes remove age and gender barrier differences in the community: elderly people and the younger ones, men and women at times with their own children are put together in one class.

Members of various churches come together as one body, something that did not exist in the past. They accept and tolerate one another and church members are even able to be in a temple that is not necessarily theirs. It is also interesting to see a literacy tutor teaching in a denomination other than his/her own. To support the project and to consider it as part and parcel of the Church, local congregations apart from giving out their church room, buy teachers' guide and other necessary

document for the literacy tutors. Church leaders also do come often to encourage both tutors and learners.

Expenses of the year 2005

ELEMENTS	AMOUNT IN FCFA	AMOUNT IN US \$
Purchase of a laptop	1480.000	2960
Printing of primer	8.775.000	17.550
Office stationary	350.000	700
Salary (October-December)	345.000	690
Official launching	254.000	508
Workshop	984.385	1968,77
TOTAL	12.188.385	24.376,77

The BST has made a step forward by enlarging its Literacy Program to the Southern Part of the country. In reference to our Project Methodology Description which stipulates:

- recruit and train a national coordinator of the project,
- recruit and train literacy officers in local languages in which there is a Bible or an ongoing Bible translation project ;
- organise awareness seminars in the churches ;
- produce prima and other literacy materials for literacy classes ;
- organise at least one literacy class in 15 urban churches and 10 in rural areas ;
- reinforce the capacities of the trainees through:
 - periodical evaluation
 - asking them to be teaching assistants during classes
 - doing a follow up
 - asking them to do reading during Bible studies
 - asking them to read passages discussed during FCBH meetings
- collaborate with churches that are already involved in literacy program by supplying them with primers and new readers, selections and portions;
- develop communication strategies,

we planned to concentrate on two languages in the South of Togo: Ewe and Mina without neglecting what we have already started in the North.

On the first of October 2005 we recruited a National Coordinator for the Project. Throughout October 2005, we took the time in making corrections on the first draft of the Ewe primer constructed in Ghana in 2002 which was sent to us by Mr. Andre NOUREUX, Director for Africa at Literacy and Evangelism International (Tulsa, USA). This Director in question has been invited by the Bible Society of Togo (BST) to facilitate and coordinate the construction of prima.

On the 19th November 2005: Mr. ANDRE NOUREUX and Mr. DANIEL AWOLOU arrived in Togo and with the mission of helping us construct a primer in Mina language and also meet the Ewe team for the corrections done on the Ewe primer. They left Togo on the 2nd December 2005 around 9:00 am for Benin with the first draft of Mina primer on laptop, CD-ROM and printed texts and the corrected Ewe prima.

Planning for the year 2006 and activities done are as follows:

PERIOD	ACTIVITY	OBSERVATION
January-February	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Launching of New Readers Portion at Bassar 2.Finalizing and proof reading of the prima 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Launched on the 15th January 2006 at Bassar 2. Ewe primer finalinazed and Mina primer under proof reading
March-April	Awareness Campaign in churches	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Started and are in progress 2. Letters sent to churches on the 22nd of March 2006 to designate their literacy tutors for training
Mai	Printing of prima in Ewe and Mina	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ewe primer sent for printing 2. Mina primer: final proof reading before printing.
June-July	Training of the National Coordinator in Tulsa-USA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visa problems 2. Lama Literacy Project Seminar.
August-September	Training of literacy teachers in Lama (20), Bassar (20) and Kabye (30) N.B. Prima	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From 3rd July 2006 to 18th August 2006: Bassar Literacy Program Seminars. 2. From 1st August 2006: Kabye Literacy Program Seminars in Progress. N.B. Ewe Primer volume 1 and 2 printed. Mina primer volume 1 and 2 under printing.
October-November	Training of regional coordinators (5) in Accra-GHANA	Two people will be sent to Accra for the training.
December	Launching of Ewe and Mina prima	

Currently we are checking on the printer for the printing of the Mina primer.

May God bless his work.