



Elizabeth 11/99

David 5/96

The WAM Report

From Wendy And Mike Buchanan

Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in computer training and member care

June 2006

Munukutuba New Testament dedication in Congo! Feb 4th, 2006

You and I have much to celebrate as members of the team that helped to accomplish the translation of this New Testament! On Saturday, February 4th, in the Republic of Congo, the people were treated to an unusual sight. A parade led by a brass band made its way along a main street, accompanied by a crowd of people colorfully dressed in their best clothes. Some were carrying placards, others wearing T-shirts which read *Zulu na ntoto ke zimbana, kasi mambu ya munu ke zimbana ve*. These are Jesus' words in Matthew 24:35, translated into Munukutuba. In English, this verse reads: *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away*.



The brass band of the Evangelical Church of Congo

The celebration of the New Testament in Munukutuba began as this parade made its way to a church, where about 5000 people came together for a three-hour dedication service. The event was organized jointly by several major denominations. Our Wycliffe colleague, Andrea said, "It was very encouraging to see the different denominations work together to organize this event, and all making a financial contribution towards it."



André Mpandzou, one of the translators

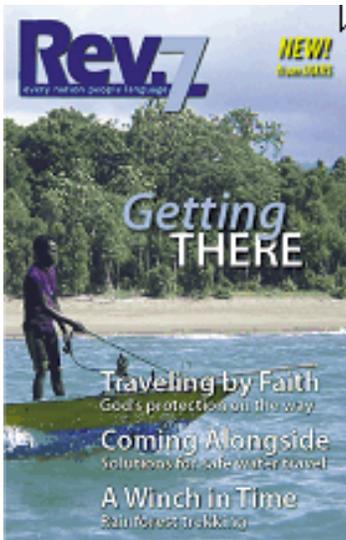
The arrival and distribution of this New Testament is an important milestone in the Congo. It is the first one to be completed by SIL/Wycliffe and the Bible Society of Congo—the fruit of 20 years of hard work. Munukutuba is one of the two large national languages in Congo, and until now the 1,000,000 speakers have needed to know either French or Kikongo in order to read the Bible.



*Pastor Nguimbi, Major Mavouna
& Pastor Basila dedicate the first NT's*

Many people responded excitedly to the New Testament in Munukutuba. Just after buying his own copy, Kevin Bakouma, a guard of the SIL office in Pointe Noire, animatedly told how he sometimes acts as an interpreter in his church, translating sermons from French into Munukutuba. Before, he had often struggled to translate verses of Scripture that were quoted in the sermon. Now he was excited that he could find the verse in his Munukutuba New Testament and be sure that here was a good translation that expressed the meaning well. All those who spoke at the dedication service were united in emphasizing the importance of reading it, seeking to understand it, and living out its teachings.

We have been privileged to continue supporting our colleagues in SIL-Congo by doing the accounting for the members there. Our translators would not be able to continue their work in Congo without access to their ministry funds each month. In supporting us, you have played a great role in bringing this New Testament to the many Munukutuba speaking people of Congo. Thank you for your support!



Some of Mike's African Adventures published!

The new JAARS magazine is entitled *Rev. 7 Every Nation People Language*. Revelation 7:9-10 says, "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

This issue has an article about Mike's survey days in Congo, the article is titled "A Winch in Time." If you have not received a copy of Rev 7, you can subscribe by using the enclosed response card. The magazine is available free of charge.

Did you know:

- During the week of July 4th, Mike will be at the Cornerstone music festival in Bushnell Illinois representing Wycliffe/JAARS.
- David received a battle injury under his eye from a friend's "sword" and had to get dermabond stitches .
- Wendy is excited about leading a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Bible study in our home this summer.

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*Your Partners in
Bible Translation,
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David & Elizabeth*

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