

# Green - White - Green

#101

Tessaro Newsletter

April 2022

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Thanksgiving to God for the prayers, encouragement, and support of partners in order to get God's word to people.
- Thanksgiving for the opportunity to work with our international associates, Rev. Kierien Ekpang and Rev. Linus Otronyi.
- Prayers for peace around the world, and especially that people would embrace the Prince of Peace.
- Thanksgiving that our Lord Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!
- Prayers for Karen as she guides Sunday School teachers and John David and others.

### Correspondence

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### Contributions

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*Please do not send any  
contributions to Nigeria*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings from central Nigeria. We pray that all is well with you. Here we are about three-fourths of the way into the dry season. While there are disadvantages of not having had any rain for more than four months, there are also advantages. Trips and activities are not interrupted by rain, and clothes dry quickly!

## WORKING ON 1 SAMUEL IN TAROK

We are just wrapping up another session with the Tarok team. We are going through First Samuel. We also have some consultants-in-training working with us. As they gain more skills, the work in Tarok and other languages should move more quickly.



*The Tarok translation team  
with the consultants-in-training*

## "ENEMIES"

It is not unusual here for people to feel that their "enemies" are the cause of the problems in their lives. While people are facing difficulties in relationships, finances, health, and other aspects of life, they are often quick to blame their problems on dark spiritual forces being cast on them by their enemies. They often look for power to overcome those forces, retaliate, and take revenge.

When we were looking at 1 Samuel 19.17, the expression "my enemy" seemed to jump out. The Tarok team explained that they can logically think of two kinds of enemy: opponents in war and people who are opposed to you in various other situations. And while David and King Saul were not exactly fighting a literal war against each other in 1 Samuel 19, the Tarok team felt that the expression *ukpa ikum* 'companion in war/fighting' would be appropriate. Interestingly enough, the draft in Ikwerre has *nye irno m* 'person who hates me.'



*The Yala team at work*

## PROVERBS IN YALA

In January we met with the Yala team to look at most of the book of Proverbs. Like many groups of people here, the Yala-speaking people have a large inventory of proverbs which they like to use. In addition to making for lively conversation, proverbs cause people to think about what the speaker is actually intending to say. Ferdinand Orji was a famous Yala translator, and he collected a number proverbs; here are some examples: Olichō jē arī ɔpōpiya ǎnɛ. "It is one who has climbed up on the palm

tree who is able to know if the palm fruits are really ripe for harvest." Ihó yī inyi i jē inyi nī. "The load on the elephant's structure is never too much for him." ɔyēɛjɛ i tūuhwi yī lɛkpa yī ǎdā yī nū nī. "The tiger's cub is never afraid of the father's forest." These proverbs are used in a variety of situations to emphasize a point.

In the book of Proverbs, wisdom is often portrayed as a wise woman. Proverbs 7:4 explains a good way to interact with wisdom: "Say to wisdom, 'You are my sister,' and call insight your intimate friend." Proverbs 8 goes further, with wisdom saying in verse 27, "When he [God] established the heavens, I was there" and in verse 35, "whoever finds me finds life." These statements correspond nicely with what St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:25, that Christ is the "wisdom of God," and with what Jesus says in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." We are grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and support to get this message to people.

## 2 CELEBRATIONS

We have had two celebrations already this year. Both of them were quite small, in order to follow COVID protocols. We celebrated Karen's birthday in January. We also celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary. These celebrations remind us to be thankful for the blessings which God gives to his children.



*Karen with Karen Rose and John David:  
Happy Birthday!*



*Happy Anniversary!*



**Lutheran Bible  
Translators**

## THANKS!

Thanks for your prayers, encouragement, and support to get God's word into people's hands and hearts!

God's blessings,

*Chuck + Karen Tessaro*