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Joel's Africa Update: Madagascar



Dear brothers and sisters,

I thought I'd update you on some happenings in Madagascar with the group I'll be joining there, Together in Bible Translation (TiBT). Recently, a celebration was held for Père Benolo for 40 years of ministry. Back in 2001, he and a team began translating the Bible into the Ntandroy language, about 700,000 speakers. Benolo's heart was so in it that he started the work even before the team, when he was a mere high school student. This work is reaching a major milestone, as the Ntandroy New Testament is nearing completion. Along the way, many have benefited from each book as it was published individually, but there is something special about holding a full NT in hand.

In 2012, the moment the Jesus Film became available in Ntandroy it spread like wildfire. In the village of Ilakaka, bars had always been full. Once the Jesus Film was released, the priest in Ilakaka reported that the bars were empty and people were lining up to see the film wherever it could be shown. It became the talk of the town. At funerals, instead of telling traditional stories, people told stories about Jesus!

Ntandroy is just 1 of 9 active Bible translation projects in Madagascar. The others are newer, like for example Tanôsy, for which I recorded the book of Mark last summer—they are hard at work on the epistles.

I've reached 23% monthly budget! Right now I'm contacting various churches in the area with hopes of sharing about Bible Translation and reaching the necessary 100%. My faith goal is to be in Madagascar by January.

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Praise and thanks for reaching 23% budget!
- Progress in Malagasy Sign Language translation, starting with the Jesus Film
- TiBT to successfully register their NGO in Madagascar
- Encouragement to translators in the 9 active Bible Translation projects in Madagascar
- For the 13 other languages which have been identified but not started translation work yet
- Favor with churches I am contacting, for fruitful relationships



Père Benolo (in white) voiced Jesus when we recorded the Gospels in Ntandroy in 2022



Pray for the Tanôsy Bible Translation team

Malagasy Deaf

TiBT holds training workshops for existing translation projects (9 currently) but also "Discover your Language" workshops to start new translation projects. Last week they held the first Malagasy Deaf workshop ever. 43 representatives of Malagasy Deaf were there. Their first goal is to translate the Deaf Jesus Film, which I must say is worth checking out online—better than the original Jesus Film!



- Joel

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To Partner
wycliffe.org/partner/joelj
lbt.org/juedes

To Contact
252 Country Club Dr
Calimesa, CA 92320
joel_juedes@wycliffe.org