



KEITH PATMAN'S

TRANSLATION NEWS

EQUIPPING MOTHER TONGUE BIBLE TRANSLATORS IN MANY LANGUAGES

September 2016

“We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.” (Proverbs 16:9, NLT)

Dear family and friends,

Last week, I was working on arrangements for myself and several others planning to travel to Cameroon in November for the Nugunu New Testament dedication, when I received news that threw a monkey wrench into everyone’s plans—the dedication has been put on hold! It might happen in the first quarter of 2017, or the team may decide to put it off till dry season rolls around again in November 2017.

The reason? I’ve just learned that formatting errors were found after the typesetting of the New Testament last year, and there were complications and delays in resolving them. As a result, it is only now going to the printer in South Korea. Unfortunately, as different entities in different parts of the world were working in new configurations to address the problems, no one thought to communicate with the Nugunu translation team about the delay, so they forged ahead in preparing for the date in November when they had been told to expect their New Testament to be ready. The news of the delay has been very disappointing to them, as well as to those of us who were planning to celebrate with them this November. The Yambeta dedication will be delayed for the same reasons, although not as long.

However, we trust that the dedications *will* take place, even if it’s not on our timetable. Please pray with me that the Lord will determine the steps of the translation teams and other decision-makers in Cameroon to reschedule on dates next year that will be optimal for launching his Word into the Nugunu and Yambeta-speaking communities. Pray that those who have been working so hard to prepare the way will not lose heart or lose momentum. And please pray that from here on, there will be clear and accurate communication to avoid further disappointment.

I will go ahead with my November trip to Africa, where I will continue work with the Mango team in Chad, then on to begin work with three new translation teams in Cameroon, checking the Tuki translation of Mark’s gospel and the Nuasue and Numaala translations of the first half of Luke’s gospel. Please pray for safety and health for all of us. And ask the Lord to help me make a good start with each of these new teams. This will be a one-time engagement with the Tuki translators, but I plan to work with the other two teams—and possibly another—for the next several years as we check all four gospels in their languages.

May the Lord determine our steps!



Partners in Bible Translation



Jaci and I had a wonderful vacation in the Pacific Northwest at the end of August. We enjoyed time with family, friends and partners in mission as well as a camping getaway on Orcas Island.

Home: 2666 Outrigger Lane, Naples, FL 34104 / keith_patman@sil.org / 301-385-1778
For gifts: Wycliffe Bible Translators / P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200

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