



The Boma People

Pastor Prefers Boma

“Many years ago God called our forefathers to spread His Word to other countries. Now is the time for us in this generation to do our part—and share it in our own mother tongue! That’s why I use the Boma language in my sermons. Those listening are surprised to hear it and even more surprised at how it reaches their hearts. This is because the words are understandable. Now we can use our own daily expressions and situations to tell God’s Word to others.

“I’ve used Mark 4:35-41, the passage about Jesus calming the storm on the lake, in my preaching. This story describes the disciples’ struggles facing the storm. We Boma people understand it because we’re sailing people. When I describe the setting of this passage using Boma, people comprehend it well. The result is that the congregation is strengthened to face their own struggles, since they know that even in their difficulties Jesus Himself is sailing together with them. This gives us new hope and a new perspective.”

Picking up the Pace

During the first part of this year, the Boma translation team faced some obstacles in completing their goals. First, because of the extra work to prepare Acts for publication, they didn’t finish checking their renderings of key terms in the five “T books” (1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) as quickly as they’d hoped. Also, the city experienced a power crisis, and outages meant only five hours of electricity per day—when it was working! On top of that, visa problems kept the project facilitators from entering the area, thus hindering their involvement for a while. In addition, ten holidays actually fell on working days during that period. Finally, the local Scripture reviewers couldn’t meet because of scheduling conflicts with required church functions.

So now the team has regrouped and is getting back on track. This month they’re getting the T books ready for a thorough review of important thematic words such as *sin* and *salvation*. This activity will help them gain a better understanding of those terms and know when revision is necessary. As they check through this material, they’ll also involve some local church members in the discussion. This provides opportunity for much-needed community input.

Translation Step 2: Team Check—The translation team carefully reviews the Scripture drafts together verse-by-verse, checking for accuracy and clarity.



- **Location:** Restricted access area, Southeast Asia
 - **Number of Speakers:** 245,000 primary speakers; 2 million second-language speakers
 - **Project Goal:** New Testament
 - **Year Project Began:** 2008
 - **Expected Completion Date:** 2015
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- **Pray that the translators can keep up a good pace as they work through key terms in the five T books. Pray for consistent electricity and facilitator availability as well.**



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Meetings for Moving Forward

Because the Boma team works in coordination with a specific denomination in the area, their project plans must meet official approval. At the church's annual meeting, the translation team's plans for 2010 received that approval. One of the team members represented the group at those meetings.

The team also had an opportunity to interact with a curriculum specialist who is creating school materials in the Boma language. They shared thoughts about how the language is written (orthography issues) and how punctuation is used in Boma. All parties found the meeting quite productive.

Typesetting Acts!

The team has been working with the typesetter to ensure that the format and layout of Acts are acceptable to the local people. They also want to be certain that it's as error-free as possible so that the Boma people won't be distracted as they read it.

Acts: Renewed Energy for the Church

The Boma church will soon read Acts in their mother-tongue for the first time. They'll hear Jesus command His followers to take His message to the rest of the world. Believers can discover what the power of the Holy Spirit means in their lives. Having experienced rioting and violence themselves, they'll resonate with the persecuted Christians in the early church. This book could be a key to revival among Boma believers.

- **Praise God for answered prayer regarding the typesetting process of Acts. Continue to pray for people's acceptance and use of this new Scripture portion.**
- **Pray that the Boma Christians will be encouraged. Pray that they'll be more motivated than ever to draw close to Christ and to share their faith.**

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104, Arlington, Texas 76015
Toll Free: 866-One-Verse (866-663-8377) OneVerse.org
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