

Jamaican Patois



Visitors' Letter, Part Two

After project partners David and Susan visited the Jamaican Creole translation project from the U.S., they stayed in the country for another day or two. They'd been with the team to distribute and test Scripture portions. They had the opportunity themselves to share some of these after they left the team. Here's part of David's letter to the team:

"During our stay in Montego Bay, we were able to tell two taxi drivers, two hotel receptionists and three ladies that work in a restaurant about the Jamaican Bible. We had a lot of interaction with the receptionists that eventually led to a conversation about why we were in Jamaica.

"After we told the receptionists about the Jamaican Bible, we gave them the pamphlet and bookmark we had. One lady was excited from the beginning and the other—although initially skeptical—had a change of heart after hearing her friend read the Lord's Prayer. This was one of those special times when God put us in a position to be His witnesses.

"At the restaurant, we ended up talking with three of the ladies working there, all around our age. We had a long conversation with them about the translation project. And then we gave away our last brochure and bookmark.

"Thank you again for showing us how God is working around the world."

Formal Agreement Provides More Exegetes

Last month you read that Jamaican Creole-speaking exegetes (Bible experts) were working with the team. Those people became available because the Jamaican Theological Seminary signed a formal agreement with the translation project.

The school is now providing three more exegetes who will work with the team in addition to the two previously introduced. This should allow for greater efficiency, keeping a steady workflow without a backlog of Scripture drafts to be checked.

Steps to Better Translation

The translators continue to check their drafts of 1 Corinthians, Hebrews and Revelation. They individually finished reviewing and editing Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. Now they've begun reviewing Galatians together as a group. Next month, they'll finish Galatians and move the other three epistles into the "group-review" line and then on to the exegetes.



- Location: Jamaica
- Number of Speakers: 4,000,000
- Year Project Began: 2008
- Expected Completion Date: 2012

- Praise God for this agreement between the Jamaican Theological Seminary and the translation project. Pray that the Bible scholars will be able to keep on schedule.



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The team has submitted 15 books in the second draft stage for the exegetes to check. So far, they've finished this step for 1 and 2 Thessalonians and 1 Timothy. Now they're working on 1, 2 and 3 John and 2 Timothy.

Consultant Ron walked the team through their draft of 1 Thessalonians during his time with them to check that book. Now they're implementing the corrections he suggested, improving the quality of their work.

Translation Step 5: Consultant-Check—This is a formal review by a trained consultant of the translation to make certain that it's true to the original meaning and speaks clearly.

Encouragement from 1 Thessalonians

“Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful” (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

Imagine reading this passage for the first time. The Jamaican people will soon have that opportunity. Paul is praying for the Thessalonian believers, and for every believer that reads this text. The promise in verse 24 provides rich assurance for every believer because of the character of our Father God. With the Jamaican believers, we can rejoice that He who calls us is faithful.

- **Thank the Lord for the good progress the Jamaican translators are making.**
- **Praise God that the team recently enjoyed opportunities to present and promote the project at the University of the West Indies, in several churches, in public schools and on television.**
- **Please pray for relief for the people of Jamaica from an ongoing drought. They've been suffering from this drought for a year now.**

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