

# The Nugunu People



## Building a Scripture “Library”

The Nugunu translators have been focusing on the Gospel of Matthew. They look forward to the time when Matthew will be a part of the Nugunu Scripture “library” that’s building, book by book. Note the portions displayed in the photo below.



The team had anticipated working with consultant Simon in January to complete the checking of Matthew. But when Simon got sick, the session had to be postponed. They re-

scheduled the makeup meetings for March, and Simon was able to help them.

Now the team has worked through Matthew chapter 8 with Simon. They’re ready to check another portion of the book as well. They’ve worked hard to get past chapter 15 on their English back-translation, which prepares the Nugunu text for Simon’s work.

### Translation Step 4: Back-Translation

A back-translation enables consultants, who don’t typically know the local languages, to understand how the translation communicates.

- **Pray with the team for continued progress on this Scripture checking process. Praise God that they were able to recently revise 1, 2 and 3 John.**
- **Ask the Lord to protect the health of consultants, team members and others associated with them.**

## They Need a Scapegoat

When there’s a death in the Nugunu community, someone must be blamed. Tradition dictates a two-part funeral rite. The day after the burial, the immediate family gathers and discusses the death, telling everything he or she knows about the circumstances. After this very long discussion, the family chooses messengers who will go to the extended family with the news. He can’t be a brother of the deceased (sharing the same mother). The messenger announces that a funeral rite will be held in five days.

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- **Location: Cameroon, West Africa**
- **Number of speakers: 40,000**
- **Project Goal: New Testament**
- **Year Project Began: 2008**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2014**



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During those days, the uncles gather to do some “research”. They trust the truth to the *amigale*, a kind of spider that lives in a hole. They believe this spider has mystical powers to reveal the ones responsible for the death and to indicate the punishment or sacrifice that should be required of that person or group of people.

The Nugunu people have cause to be angry about death. Jesus Himself became “*indignant*” and wept at Lazarus’ tomb. He knew who actually caused death: Satan himself is to blame! But Christ must be weeping with indignation as He watches the Nugunu people seek out a scapegoat. He’s eager for them to know that He paid for sin and conquered death, so there’s no reason to punish others. Will they realize the truth when the translators offer them these verses?

Romans 5:8-9 - *“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation.”*

Hebrews 9:12 - *“With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.”*

- **Pray for the translators as they continue their important task that will offer Nugunu speakers hope, replacing the fear and retribution demonstrated in this ritual.**

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