



The Nugunu

A Nugunu Wedding Tradition

When it's time to arrange for a Nugunu wedding, the parents of the groom set a date to go visit the bride's family. After the first meeting and two subsequent meetings, the groom's family brings palm wine and cola nuts as gifts. During the first two meetings, they don't do anything decisive. But on the third occasion, the in-laws tell the groom what requirements or conditions he must fulfill to commence the engagement.

During the third meeting, the bride's family includes her in the conversation. She offers the gifts from the groom not to her parents, but to a specially selected uncle who's the family's spokesman. He asks the bride a series of ritual questions, after which he fills a vessel with wine and offers it with some of the cola nuts to both the bride and the groom. After this short ceremony, the girl's family announces the bride price to her suitor and his parents.

- **Pray that the Nugunu people will realize how rich a price Christ paid for His bride. Ask God to use this ritual as another object lesson of His unchanging love for them.**

Looking Over Luke

As the team works through the consultant's comments from the May checking session of Matthew, they also continue to revise the Gospel of Luke and submit their work to the revision committee. So far they've done this for chapters 1-20. They hope to finish this soon and then back-translate the book into literal French so the consultant can check it.

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.

- **Pray for good progress on Luke, for team concentration and unity and for protection of their time and of their families as this book gets closer to the finish line.**

Time for Literacy Tests

Students in Nugunu literacy classes took tests recently to see where they place in the school system. This evaluation is important to find out how beneficial it is for them to learn to read in their own language. Those who must start school learning to read French have an extra obstacle to their education: they must learn

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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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to speak French and acquire the skill of reading simultaneously. This is discouraging and extremely difficult.

Nugunu literacy classes are offered both in conventional schools and also in the various local neighborhoods. As people learn to read their mother tongue, it will be easy for them to use the Nugunu Scriptures.

A Hidden Message

“Listen to me and remember what I say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed.’ But they didn’t know what he meant. Its significance was hidden from them, so they could not understand it, and they were afraid to ask him about it” (Luke 9:44-45).

Sometimes even disciples are confused. Jesus told them plain truth in their everyday language, and they still didn’t understand. Maybe God hid the truth from them temporarily. Or maybe their presuppositions clouded the picture. Fear intercepted any questions that would have clarified their comprehension.

For Bibleless peoples like the Nugunu, the truth is hidden for a different reason: there’s a language barrier to any available Word of God. When that veil is removed and they understand clearly, the appropriate response is obedience. But for them, as for us, obedience is a choice. What is God saying to you today? What keeps you from understanding? Is fear keeping you in the dark? Have you chosen to obey?

- **Please pray for some church leaders in the Nugunu area who are reticent about using the Nugunu Scriptures. Pray that this group will come to understand the importance of God’s Word in the mother tongue for evangelization of Nugunu speakers.**
- **Pray that as Nugunu believers understand God’s Word, they’ll choose to obey.**
- **Consider what clouds your understanding. Don’t be afraid to ask God to clear the fog and to give you faith to obey.**

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