



Kamo scripture portions ready

We've been working on the translation of the Bible into the Kamo language. The translation project has been going on for about a dozen years, at first as a pilot project, translating just the book of Luke. Now they are working on the whole New Testament. I have been their consultant for the past few years. On this trip, we finished Matthew. The team has been working on drafting Matthew and community-testing the translation, and my job is to go over it with them. When we finished going over Matthew and making some adjustments as necessary, then we went over it again checking it for formatting, spelling—there is whole suite of things called basic checks that we do. Some adjustments always have to be made. While we were doing the basic checks of Matthew, we included other books in our checking that have been completed: Mark, Luke, John, Acts, 1&2 Timothy, and James. Then we did a key terms check on all of these books. That took days. The key terms check give us an opportunity to review decisions about translating key biblical terms such as “grace,” “savior,” “Messiah,” “resurrection,” “kingdom of God,” “high priest”—there are hundreds of them. We want to make sure that the renderings of these key biblical terms is consistent. With all of these key terms and other consistency checks done, we then made printouts of each individual book (combining the epistles) in booklet form. They were really excited to see that. They will be able to show the Kamo community how much has been completed—60% of the New Testament. They have drafted most of the rest of the New Testament but it will take a few more years to complete all the checking and revisions. The picture above shows us holding the six different booklets we produced.



The Kamo community is proud of their language and are excited to have the scriptures in their language. These scripture portion booklets will be a real encouragement. The Kamo chief supports the work and says that the translation is bringing the development of the language, preserving it, exposing the Kamo community to the whole world, and is uniting the Kamo community. The churches are preparing to celebrate Kamo Language Day, with a competition for the child who can read a passage from the translation most fluently. This is in addition to International Language Day that they celebrate every February 21, with recitations, singing in the language, including the national anthem, a parade, all attended by the chief and other important members of the Kamo community. I don't do Facebook, but if you do, you should be able to find a page for promoting the Kamo Bible translation project under the name of the lead translator, Maryamu Danbaba.

I will be returning in August to work with the Kamo translation team on their translation of 1&2 Corinthians and maybe a few smaller epistles.

-- David



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Our mailing address is:
David and Lynn Frank
6908 Legacy Ln
Waxhaw, North Carolina 28173