Translation of the Chidigo Bible has come a long way. Through tough battles, God has held the translation team together this far. 76-year-old Pastor Shedrack Mwalonya, Project Advisory committee member relates to the hurdles well.

Pastor Mwalonya has been involved in Chidigo translation since its inception in the year 1987. He has chaired most of the community reviews of the books of the Bible. His passion for this work has been evident; taking lead in using the Chidigo New Testament to preach to his congregation. His devotion to the project saw him call the Project Officer from time to time to inquire of the progress of the translation and the anticipated time the Bible would be ready for his community.

At his age, he says that the greatest gift he can leave to his children is the Chidigo Bible. He believes that the Word of God is the solution to some of the key challenges facing the Digo people, for instance, Witchcraft, unbelief, poverty among others.

Praise God for the far that He has brought the Digo project and the community. May God grant Pastor Shedrack long life to see and hear God speak to him in his language. Praise God for his goodness and what He is about to do among the Digo people.

The Bible is currently being printed and soon it shall be launched and dedicated. Alikpwe Jesu!

Psalms 107:9 Mana nkumuusira chiru hiye ariye na chiru (nkumuhenda ariye na chiru atosheke), na kumvunisa manono hiye ariye na ndzala.

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The Ilchamus New Testament Final Checks

Praise God for the successful completion of Ilchamus New Testament Final Checks. Thank God that this was made possible in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Praise God for the enthusiasm among the Ilchamus people to have the Scriptures in their language.

Robert Parteneu, the Ilchamus Project Officer says that Bible translation in their language has enhanced relationships among different denominations within the community. Pray that these relationships are sustained in Jesus Name.

Praise God for the typesetting exercise that has begun. Pray for insight as the community go through the trial version of the New Testament.
The Ogiek people live in the Mau Forest Complex, a place they have called home from the days of their forefathers. The Ogiek neighbor the Maasai and Kipsigis communities. In the past, there were tensions of war among them. Thankfully the situation calmed down and people are able to mingle and work together.

Despite all these, the Ogiek community is aware of the Bible Translation Project that aims at translating the word of God into their language. Many of them visit the translation offices in Njoro, Nakuru County to inquire about the progress of the translation of their Bible and to when it will be available for them to interact with it.

The people are eager and thirsty to see and read the Word of God in their own language. This is showed by the staff’s visits to the local churches. During one of the visits, we read to the congregation the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37 in our language. The Church was filled with deafening shouts of, ‘Amen’! This encouraged us to keep on with the noble task of translating the word of God into Ogiek language.

Praise God that the Gospel of Luke in the Ogiek language is ready for dedication on 20th June 2020. Plans are ongoing though they have slowed down due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the government’s directive to not allow people to conduct meetings.

However, we trust in God that this will come to pass and the dedication will happen as planned.

The Word of God in Ogiek Language

Praise God for the restoration of peace in the Mau Forest Complex

Pray for sustained peace in the area so that people could have ample time to read the Scripture Portion after dedication.

Pray for a successful dedication of the book of Luke, that God may open ways to see this a success and that it may jumpstarts other translation related activities like the Jesus Film.

Pray for the Ogiek community that God would give them permanent settlement due to the impending eviction from the Mau Forest Complex, and that the government would undertake the exercise in a humane manner.

By Stephen Leshao

Trauma healing training for church and community leaders

By Grace Njeru

People are traumatized by different life experiences such as tribal clashes, domestic violence, natural disasters, sexual abuse, death among others.

Whenever people go through such experiences, the easiest thing to do is ignore the experience and move on with life. This results to bottled up negative emotions and severs relationships between the perpetrators and victims of trauma. The best way to reverse the effects of trauma is to help the victims engage with Scripture in a way that brings forgiveness, healing and restoration.

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By Stephen Leshao
In January 2020, Bible Translation and Literacy (BTL), organized a Trauma healing workshop in Eldoret. This workshop was attended by church and community leaders from the Ilchamus, Ogiek and Marakwet communities. These are some of the communities that have had various forms of traumatizing experiences such as inter-tribal clashes, cattle rustling and evictions. The workshop was aimed at helping the leaders go through the healing process from the trauma caused by these experiences and equip them with skills to lead the other community members through this process and bring healing and restoration to survivors of trauma.

At the end of the workshop majority of the participants confessed that they were not aware that they had gone through many traumatizing experiences that had left them wounded and still harboring grudges against people including, those closely related to them. One participant said that in his community men are not allowed to cry but the workshop provided a safe space to cry out his heart and this made him feel lighter.

One Pastor confessed that he was convicted of his sin of omission because he failed to stop the youth in his community from attacking people who belonged to other communities during the 2017 election violence.

*All the 24 participants are currently leading small healing groups within their circles of influence.

The Trauma Healing training uses a biblical approach and is conducted by certified facilitators.