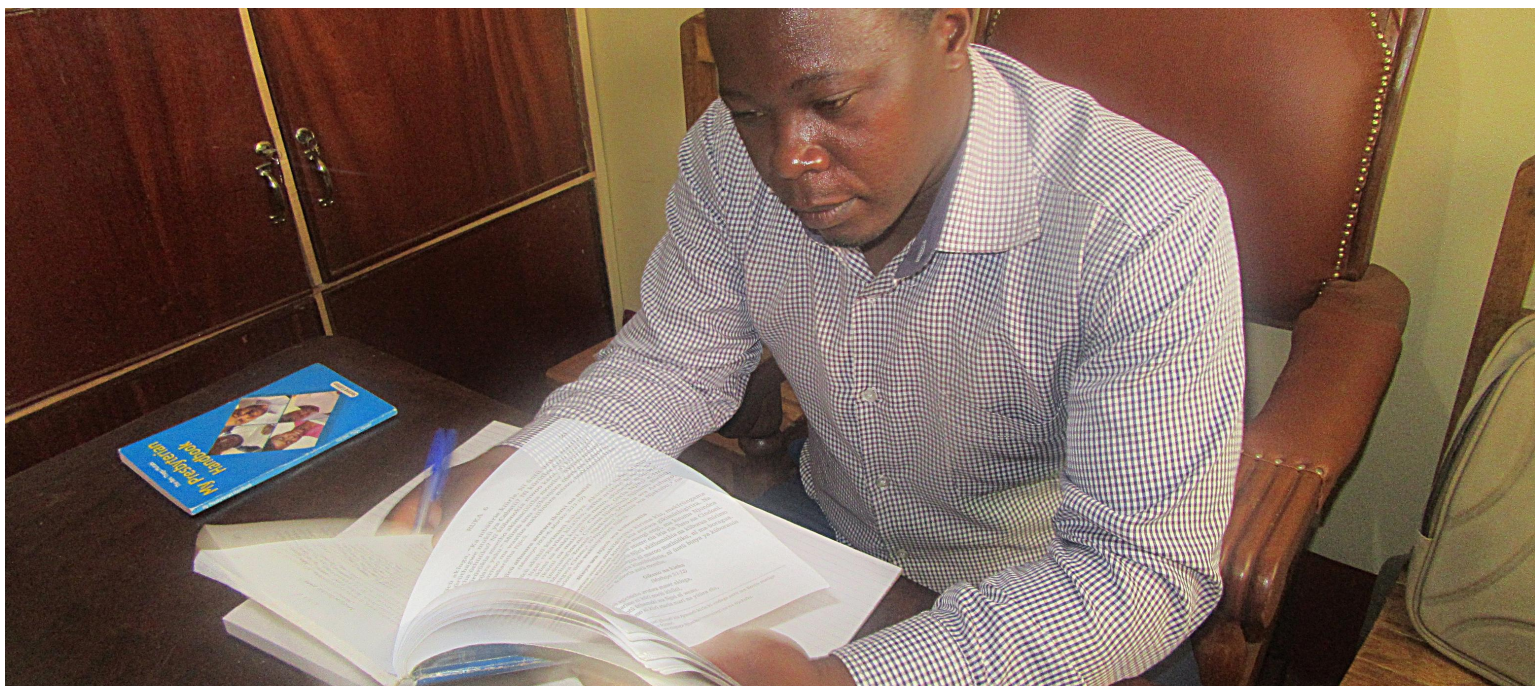


THE TESTIMONY

BTL's monthly brief of God's great deeds among His people



Morris Munene preparing the WhatsApp daily devotional

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Morris, our WhatsApp pastor

One day at daybreak, my mobile phone kept buzzing, an indication of several incoming messages. I got interested to check, only to find a number of 'Ni wega' messages which means 'thank you,' in Gichuka language. The Chuka WhatsApp group members were responding to a very well-crafted devotional by one of our members, Morris Munene. He had prepared the devotional in Gichuka language and had posted in the group early morning at around 3.00 a.m.

I first met Morris Munene during Gichuka Jesus Film auditions. After successfully taking a role in the film, he requested to join the Gichuka Bible WhatsApp group. It is in the group that he learnt that the Chuka translation project had a website which updated the Scripture portion mobile app versions regularly. Being an evangelist at the PCEA Kiang'onde Parish, Chuka, he took advantage of the WhatsApp platform to begin daily devotionals to the group members. He posts the devotionals both in English and Gichuka languages, while his Scripture reference is the Gichuka Bible app.

Morris shares the devotionals every morning, mostly before 4.00 a.m. During this time of the coronavirus pandemic, when we are not meeting in churches for worship, we hold our Sunday services at home with our family members analyzing Morris's daily devotionals sent during the week.

Morris is our WhatsApp pastor. He continues to inspire many people through his devotionals. Many souls are being ministered to, with the devotionals being forwarded to other groups. Praise God that the Chuka people are interacting with God's word through the translated Scriptures.

by Justus Mugambi, Project Officer, Chuka Language Development Project



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Baada ya Zuruwa ya Nuhu

Muungu nkakumwaarerwa Nuhu, mbona akwa...

The Church never closed

When the COVID-19 pandemic phobia was at its peak all over the world, churches closed, and meetings were not being held anymore, I received a WhatsApp message from a young man, "I know that your sermons are brief and to the point. I am humbly asking you to be sharing short sermons via Facebook Live so that people would not go hungry without spiritual nourishment during this season of COVID-19 pandemic."

I had never heard about Facebook Live before, but decided to give it a try. I asked my son whether he had an idea how Facebook Live worked, and he answered in the affirmative. He became my camera person, a role he did with a lot of passion. My first sermon gained an instant congregation worldwide, the congregation continued to grow with each Live video.

Some of my congregants however, were experiencing difficulties accessing the sermons due to poor network coverage within my location. With the rising problem of internet connectivity, I again inquired from my son how we could make it better, and he advised that we record the sermons and upload them on the YouTube platform.

I really thank God for my son; he would stay awake until past midnight uploading the sermons on YouTube and later sharing the YouTube links to Facebook and WhatsApp platforms.

One day during a funeral meeting, a young man informed me that he usually watched me on Facebook live, recounting to me what I had covered in the previous weeks. This opened a session of questions arising from the sermons. The funeral meeting became a Bible study class; no one bothered to stop the discussion being conducted in the Pokomo language.

I am happy that the initially goal of the online church opened other doors of language development among the Pokomo native speakers. The class empowers Pokomo believers with knowledge of their language and of the Bible, creating fluency in reading Scriptures among the Pokomo community so that they are prepared to read the Pokomo Bible which is at the Final Checks stages.

by Shedrack Falama, Project Officer, Pokomo Language Development Project

"For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9



Retired Sergeant Christopher Salakasi reading through the Tachoni Covid book to his family. On his laps, is the Tachoni Gospel of Luke booklet.

When Rtd. Sgt. Christopher saw me walk into his compound, he excitedly inquired if I had carried another Bible for him, "You must have brought me another copy of the Bible. You know I have read the Gospel of Luke that you translated in my language so many times now and my church at home loves it." "No, this time, I have valuable information about Corona Virus that has struck the world." I responded.

Rtd. Sgt. Christopher graciously received and was excited about the material, and since the Covid book is not voluminous, he read it to his family before the home service could begin. "This is good, it will help my wife and I so much. I do not want to die of this illegal virus; I believe it is not in the plan of God for me to die of it. Thank you for the book. I am happy it is written in my own language, so understanding it is much easier."

After the church service, he familiarized himself with the measures explained in the book. I helped him wash his hands with soap and running water tapped in a Jerry-can. He also sent one of his grandchildren to get masks for the family. With his newly acquired knowledge, he reached out to his neighbours demonstrating and informing them, on how they could prevent the virus from spreading to other members of the community.

by Samson Ngosia, Project Officer, Tachoni Language Development Project

Have you carried another Bible for me?

During the lock-down due to COVID-19 Pandemic, the Tachoni team translated the COVID-19 book from the Bloom library, '[Olumbe Iwa Korona](#),' to sensitize the Tachoni community on the virus and how to prevent it. When the book was published, I printed a copy for my 86 year old friend, Retired Sergeant Christopher Salakasi. One Sunday morning, I visited Rtd. Sgt. Christopher at his home.

Being a Sunday, I found him together with his wife dressed in their church's regalia. I wondered why they were fully dressed for church, yet all social gatherings, including church services had been banned by the government in order to contain the spread of the virus. To my surprise, he was preparing for his family church service. I later learnt that though he is retired, he must still dress like a Sergeant for him to conduct a church service.



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