

THE TESTIMONY

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



The Duruma and Ilchamus translation teams during the Final Checks of the Duruma Full Bible and Ilchamus New Testament in November 2019.

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The Duruma Full Bible and Ilchamus New Testament at The Final Read Through Stages

The Duruma Bible translation has taken about 33 years since its work commenced, while the Ilchamus about 15 years. We thank God that the Duruma and Ilchamus communities are soon going to receive their Full and New Testament Bibles respectively. The wait has been long, but cannot be likened to the joy of holding the Bibles at last. Pastor Felix Nyale, a Chiduruma pastor at New Testament Church, understands how the wait has been. He says,

"We are anxiously and eagerly waiting for the dedication of our Bible. It has been a long period of time waiting and now there is a ray of light even though some of us have already gone to be with the Lord; they died waiting. It will be like a dream come true. It will be a new one with a new experience. Everyone will be glad to read it. There will be tremendous growth in the knowledge of the word of God among our people."

Praise God for these wonderful milestones. Pray for insight and keen eye as the community members read through every word of the Trial Versions. Pray for the remaining stages that these Bibles have to go through; pray for favour and smooth processes.

"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!" Isaiah 43:19a



Photo by the Seed Company

We thank God that the Bible came to us at such a time as this. There is an increased readership of God's word among young people. Bible colleges have also adopted Kĩtharaka as a language to be taught in their institutions. With such progress for the Tharaka language, I see the continuity of the Tharaka Church, benefiting from informed teachers of God's word through the language they understand best."

I found a friend in the Bible

At the mention of the Tharaka Bible, Japhet Nthiga's face lights up. There is a special bond between him and a special FRIEND he has found in the Bible. Japhet is blind and the only way he can hear about the good news of Jesus Christ, is to listen to the Tharaka Audio Bible recorded from the New Testament, and when his daughter is reading it out for him.



Japhet Nthiga with his audio Bible

In July 2019, a month later after the dedication of the Tharaka Bible, Japhet walked into the Tharaka Offices, 25 KM away from his home to get his Bible. At the time, all the 3,000 printed Bibles had all been sold out with only four copies left in the office which Onesmus Kamwara, Tharaka Project Officer had secured for his family. "I did not inform him that we had run out of the Bibles. I picked one of my copies and the audio Bible and packed them for him." During a recent visit to his home, Japhet gladly shared how it has been since he received the Bible.

"I am privileged to have the Tharaka Bible. The Bible speaks to me. It is close to my heart, every time I am listening to it being read to me, or listening to the audio Bible, I feel like I am in a conversation; I likened the conversation to that of a FRIEND."

Tharaka Bible at one Year

The month of June 2020 marked exactly one year since the Bible Translation and Literacy (BTL) launched the Tharaka Bible for the Tharaka people. Onesmus Kamwara, Tharaka Project Officer and Consultant in Training reflects over the past year:

"A lot has changed since the launch of our Bible. The Tharaka people are now able to read a complete Bible, unlike before when we would have a number of Old Testament Versions and the Tharaka New Testament in our congregations. The Bible is also a great solace and mostly during this period of COVID-19 Pandemic, 'reading the Tharaka Bible encourages me that God will protect me from all harm, Psalm 121:1-3.'



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