

MOTHER TONGUE

NEWS FROM GILLBT

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2021



GOD SPEAKS MY LANGUAGE



www.gillbt.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE **Director**

SYLVESTER KWAME NKRUMAH



GOD SHOWED UP!

GILLBT as an organization operates on the tenets of partnerships, both internally and externally, with the latter being the dominant form of partnership. However, over the past few years we began the journey to achieve a certain level of autonomy.

To achieve this level of autonomy, we needed to put in place strategic measures to enable us become visible and viable at the national level. This also meant that we needed to employ measures to stay in touch with our local partners – the churches, individuals and other stakeholders – to make sure they understand the ministry of GILLBT.

We believe that when we achieve the above-mentioned national objective, it would improve and increase our local funding sources which would have a rippling effect on making GILLBT an effective player at the international level.

The Advancement Directorate with support from the Executive Leadership Team put a comprehensive plan in place last year to have personal and face-to-face engagements with local partners, i.e. churches and individuals who are willing to support the work of GILLBT.

Leadership also initiated the Young Professionals Campaign where the goal is to get a team in place which would be under the Advancement Directorate. The team's mandate would be to identify one thousand young Christian professionals who would pledge to give one thousand Ghana cedis every year to support Bible translation.

After we had put all these strategies and plans together and were ready to set sail, the world was hit with a storm that

this generation had not experienced before – the Covid-19 pandemic. This pandemic brought almost the entire world to a standstill.

We are all aware of the devastating effect of the pandemic. When Ghana recorded its first case, I was away in the US. I returned quickly to avoid getting stuck in case of any restrictions. Lo and behold, a week after I returned, our borders were closed. I had my own two weeks of mandatory quarantine and then the national one. For seven weeks I was home until our samples were taken for testing. It was not a pleasant experience at all. This period was a time of prayer and listening to what God was telling us.

Due to the pandemic, most GILLBT Staff came to the office on a rotational basis. This was to allow for the social distancing protocol to fight the virus. Staff worked from home when they were not on the roster for the day.

Staring us in the face was “difficult times”. We did not know what to do or where to look except to look up to God. We looked up to him to see us through these hard times and he showed up.

Frankly, no one understood what was going on and our trust was solely in the Lord, encouraged by what His word says in Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”

Worldwide and in Ghana, due to the pandemic and lockdowns, organizations and companies were laying off staff in order to cut down expenses and be able to stay in business but to the glory of God no GILLBT staff was laid off, neither were salaries delayed throughout the peak of the pandemic.

Leadership decided to contact some friends about the situation and God being so good, they responded positively. With the amount provided, we were able to settle our indebtedness and take care of administrative expenses up to the end of the year. We are very grateful to the Lord for his provision because in that period, we cried out to him and the good God heard us. This doing of the Lord is a clear testimony of God showing up in difficult times. We will keep working hard and we will continue to call on him (Psalm 50:15).

The dedicated short code *887*2# which is active on MTN, Vodafone and AirtelTigo have been introduced to primarily create a convenient, quick and effective channel to give and support mother tongue Bible translation and literacy in Ghana.

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN GIVE TO SUPPORT:

Dial *887*2# on all networks

Select “Donate”

Enter “GILLBT”

Enter Amount

Select Frequency

Select Duration (Weekly or Monthly)

Authorise payment

This initiative is powered by an indigenous company, IT Consortium, one of Africa’s leading financial services technology solutions provider.



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(If Weekly /Monthly is selected)
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**THESE TRANSLATIONS
WILL BE DONE WITHIN
A FRAMEWORK OF
PARTNERSHIPS WITH
THE LOCAL CHURCH.
THIS LEADS TO LOCAL
OWNERSHIP OF THE
WORK AND USAGE OF
THE SCRIPTURES —
WHICH IN TURN LEADS
TO TRANSFORMATIONAL
IMPACT.**

OLUGBÙ NYANYÄ VOVÖ
THE NEW COVENANT





REV. WILLIAM
KWASI BANSAH

Serving with Passion

After retiring as a teacher and a reverend minister of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Rev. Bansah willingly accepted the call to serve as one of the translators tasked to translate the Bible into his mother tongue – Tutrugbu (Nyagbo). He had hoped and waited for many years to see this day. The threat of ill-health and fatigue that accompanied old age paled in comparison to the joy of reading the Bible in his mother tongue and most importantly making it available to his language group, soon. “I think if I died bringing God’s word to my people, it would be better for me” he said. “I had a good cause for my death,” his beaming face said it all.

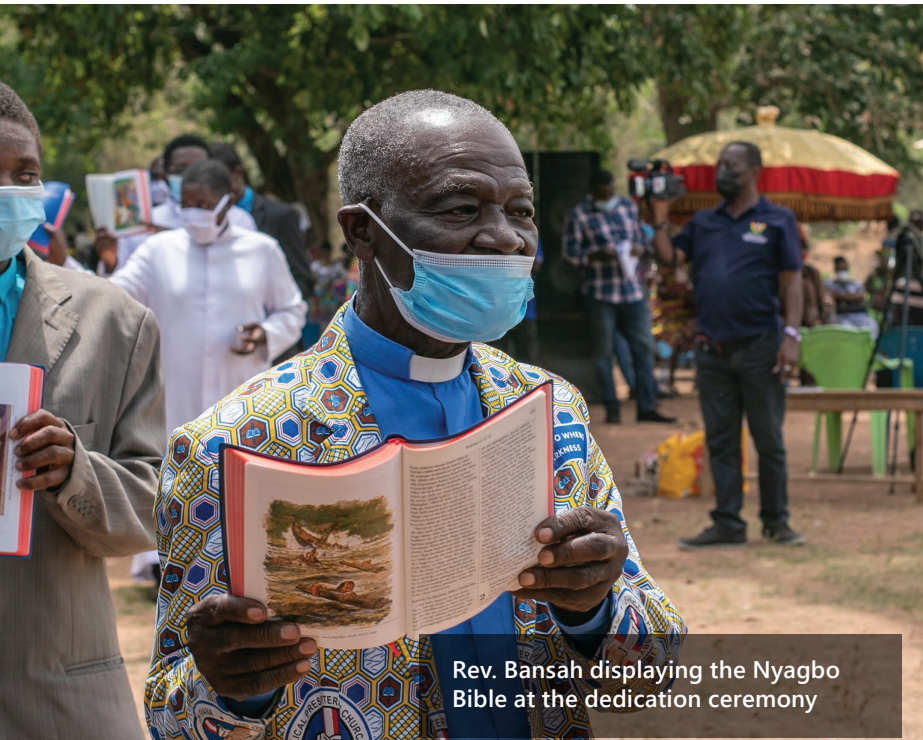
Among his many hurdles to make this dream a reality was understanding and using the computer-based translation software. He had very little computer knowledge but was determined to learn.

At age 81, Rev Bansah and his team have completed the translation of the New Testament into Tutrugbu (Nyagbo). He is excited to see his people have the Bible in their language and can’t wait to complete the full Bible within the shortest possible time.

Prayer needs

- Pray for Rev. Bansah and his team for godly wisdom and good health as they work on the translation of the Old Testament into Tutrugbu.

The Nyangbo people live in southeastern Ghana. They speak a language called Nyangbo and are part of the Guinean people cluster. Some people can also understand Ewe. An alternate name for this people group is Tutrugbo. The people primarily practice ethnic religions with a veneer of Christian beliefs. Only about 11.25% of the population are evangelical Christians. There is a questionable translation need. The Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings exist.



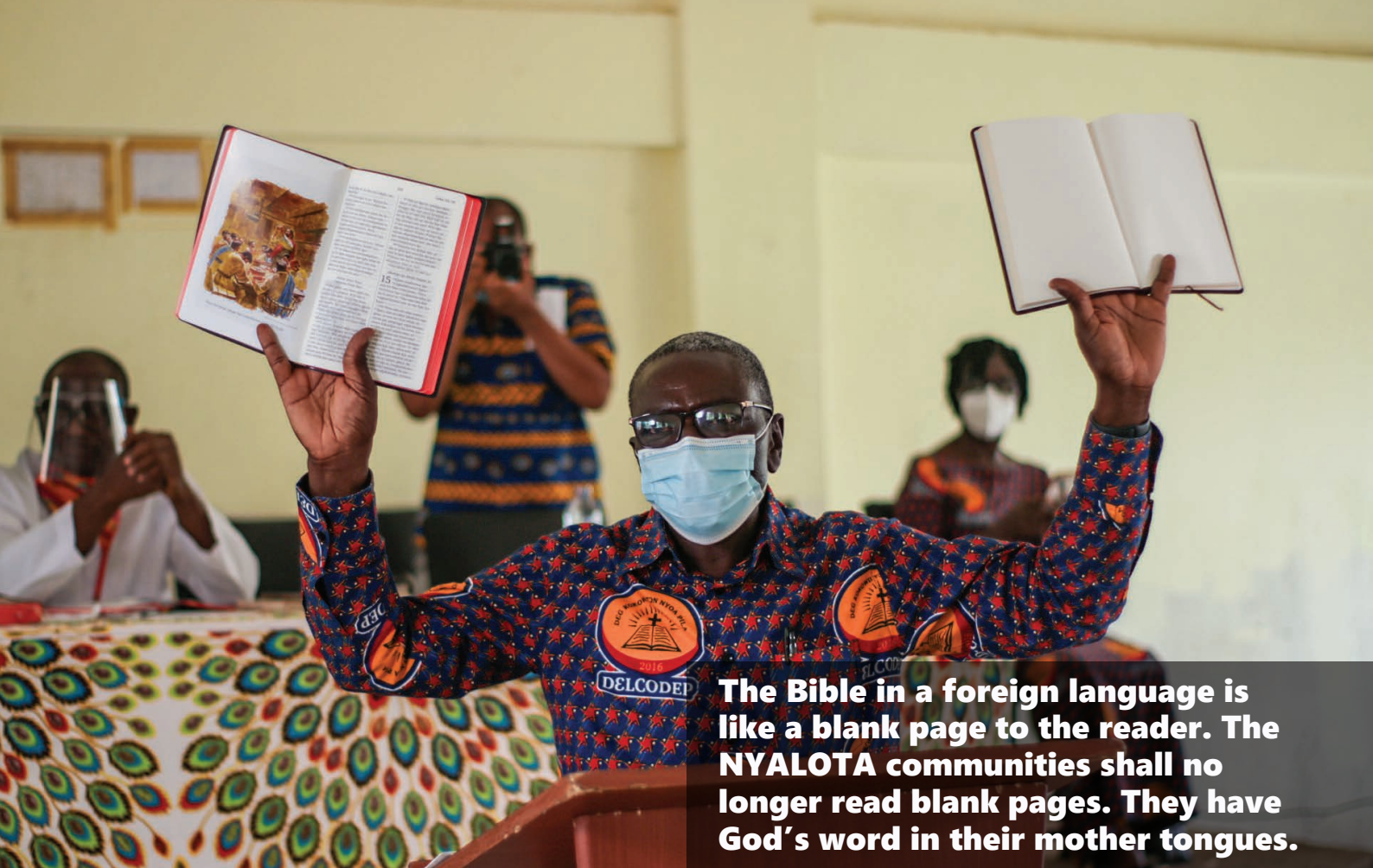
Rev. Bansah displaying the Nyagbo Bible at the dedication ceremony

“

I think if I died bringing God's word to my people, it would be better for me ... I had a good cause for my death.



Working on the New Testament in Nyagbo



The Bible in a foreign language is like a blank page to the reader. The NYALOTA communities shall no longer read blank pages. They have God's word in their mother tongues.

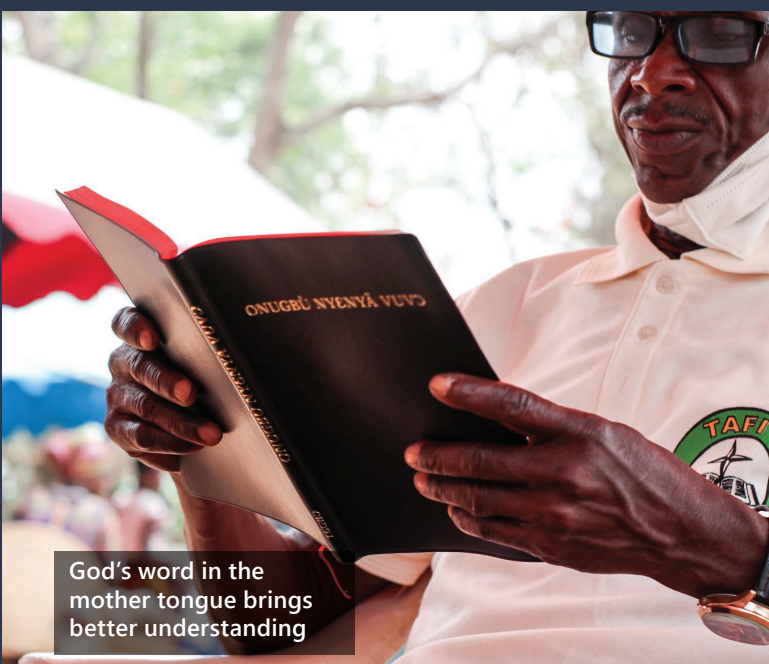
Seven years ago, GILLBT, with support from our partners, launched an innovative Bible translation project model known as the Cluster Project model. Unlike the traditional model of Bible translation projects which had one expatriate missionary translator initiating and sustaining one lifelong project, the Cluster Project model would have two or more language translations ongoing simultaneously. The idea was to identify languages that are similar in various aspects and geographically close to each other, promote the concept of community ownership which includes recruiting and training natives to become translators and raise significant amounts of resources locally to support each project. A translation consultant would be assigned to provide technical support to these projects. The supervision and coordination for the cluster project would be assigned to a project manager.

The NYALOTA Story

Our first experiment was in the Volta region. Nyagbo, Logba and Tafi were put together under the NYALOTA cluster to commence the translation of the New Testament into these three languages. Each translation project had a local management committee primarily responsible for ensuring community ownership, two native fulltime translators and a team of reviewers evaluating quality and progress of the translation work. Dr. Fabian Dapila an astute Ghanaian Bible translation consultant was assigned to the project. Work progressed steadily under the supervision of Michael Serchie.



A section of Church leaders from Tafi speaking communities at the dedication of the New Testament in Tafi



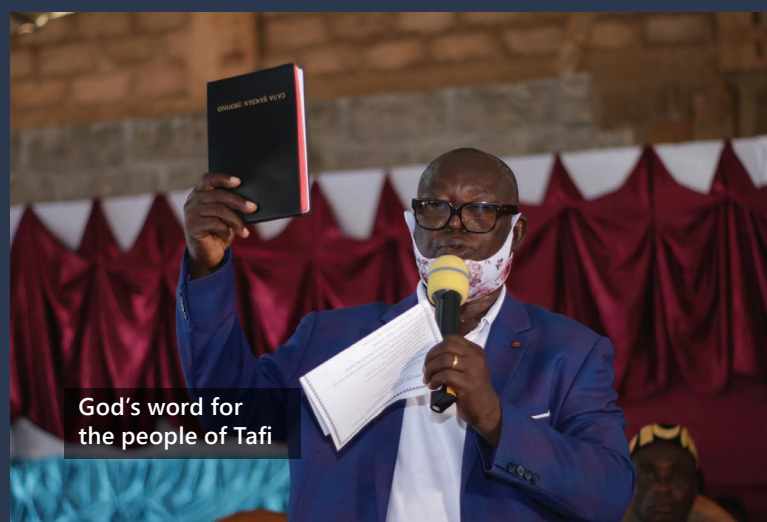
God's word in the mother tongue brings better understanding



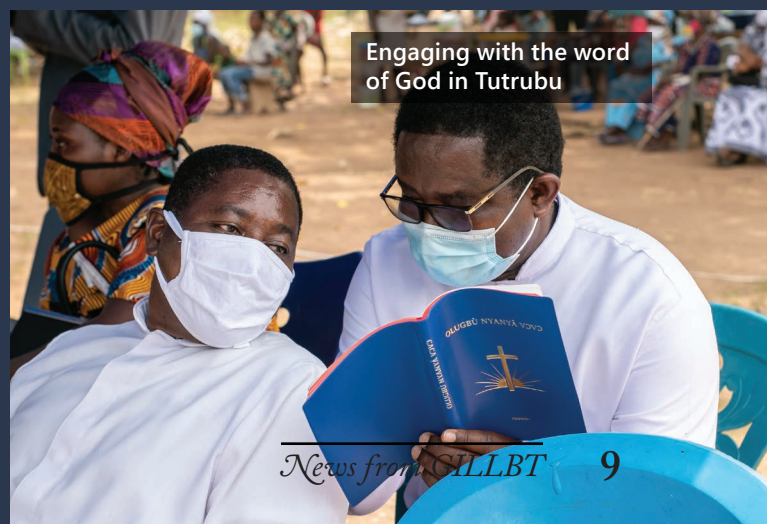
The New Testament in Ikpanya - the language of the Logba people dedicated and ready for use

On February 25th, 27th, and 28th three separate Bible dedication ceremonies came off in Tafi-Mador, Logba-Adzakoe and Nyagbo-Gagbefe respectively, to officially present the translated New Testament to the people. At each of these dedications, the chiefs, clergy and natives both home and abroad were excited to finally hear God speak to them in their heart language. However, COVID-19 protocols restricted many partners who wanted to join in these celebrations from attending physically. All three dedications were broadcast live and are still available on the GILLBT Facebook page, <https://web.facebook.com/GILLBT.org>.

Going forward, GILLBT envisions that the cluster project model will be replicated in other communities to expedite the translation of the Old Testament into all the languages that have only the New Testament.



God's word for the people of Tafi



Engaging with the word of God in Tutrubu



Strict COVID-19 protocols were observed during the ceremonies



The joy of having of the Bible in one's mother tongue is mmeasurable

A glorious day for the people of Nyagbo, Logba and Tafi to have the Word of God in their mother tongues



Public reading of the New Testament in Logba



Ushering in the Logba New Testament



Church leaders from all Tafi speaking communities were involved in the dedication



Church leaders from all Logba speaking communities were involved in the dedication



Selected passages of the Bible expressed in pictorial form



Nyagbo Chiefs and Elders at the dedication



Ushering in the New Testament in Nyagbo



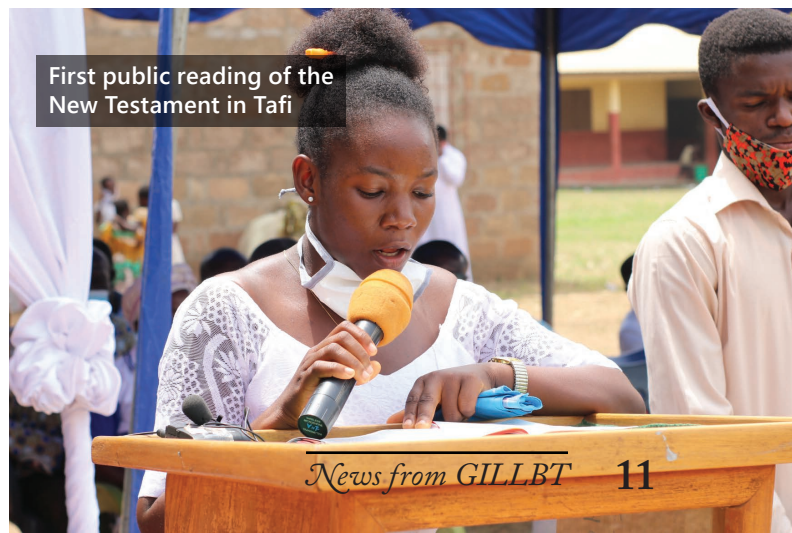
The joy of having the Bible in one's mother tongue is immeasurable



Handing over translated scriptures ceremonially to the Chiefs



To have the Bible in their own language is a dream come true



First public reading of the New Testament in Tafi

Extending Partnerships to Bono Ahafo



As part of plans to expand and deepen our partnership with churches in Ghana, members of an interim GILLBT Sunyani Chapter Executive Committee were commissioned on 23rd August, 2021 at St. Anselm's Anglican Cathedral, Sunyani. The executive committee, made up of heads and representatives from churches in Sunyani, is to work towards the establishment of a permanent GILLBT Chapter that will mobilize churches in the Bono region to support mother tongue Bible translation. Members of the executive committee include:

Chairman: Rt. Rev. Dr. Festus Yeboah Asuamah Sunyani
Anglican Diocesan Bishop/Chairman of the Sunyani Local Council of Churches

Vice Chairman: Rev. Dr. Joseph Awuni
Senior Pastor, Glad Tidings Assemblies of God, Ghana

Secretary: Pastor Emmanuel Kyere Diabour
Love Leads International/Youth Preparation for a Better Future

Ass. Secretary: Bishop Dr. Ellen Duah-Agyemang Akoto
Kings Universal Chapel, Sunyani

Treasurer: Pastor Bright Kwame Ashong
District Pastor, Church of Pentecost

Member: Rev Dr. William Kwabena Ofosu Addo
Brong Ahafo Presbytery Chairperson

Member: Apostle Dr. Richard Ohene Kessie
Dunamis World Mission, Sunyani

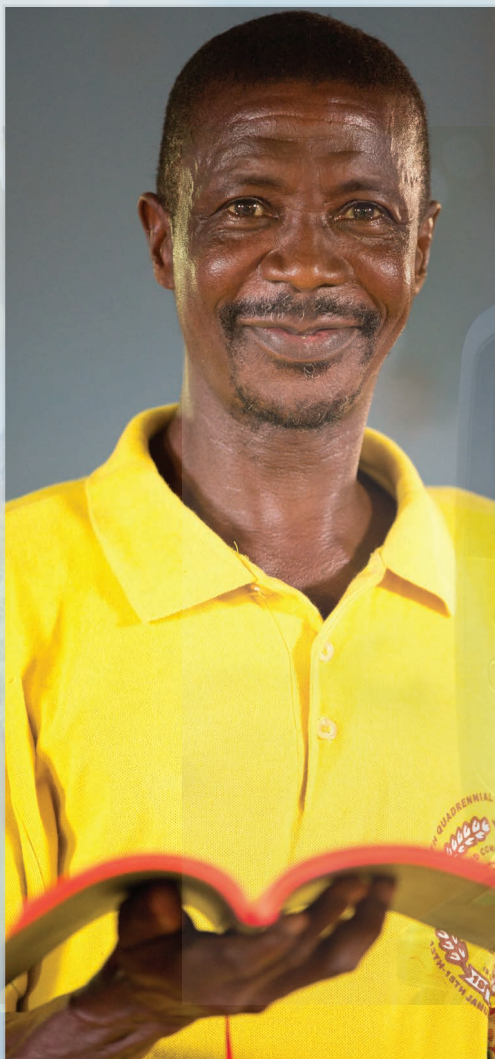
Member: Rev. Fr. Adomah,
Roman Catholic Church, Sunyani



GILLBT
WORKS IN

40 LANGUAGES INCLUDING SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION

"We believe mother tongue literacy and the word of God in our mother tongue is the most effective way to build vibrant churches and transform our societies."



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Desk Donation



Pupils of Jang and Bidma primary schools have new desks

With support from our partners – Pat Herbert and Geoffrey Hunt – 40 dual desks were donated on July 13-14 2021 to three primary schools in the East Gonja district of the Savannah region.

These schools: Jang primary, and Bidima primary, were noticed after our monitoring visits to the Hanga and Vagla translation projects revealed the unavailability of furniture in some newly-built schools. Pupils sat on the floor to learn. In this environment, no meaningful teaching and learning can take place.

As an organization that has been at the forefront of some of the most significant changes to occur in Ghanaian history, we are not only actively involved in Bible translation but developing Ghanaian languages and mother tongue literacy programmes. The long-term impact of our triple heritage continues to influence the infrastructure that will shape the future of Ghana.

Grab a copy of God's word in your mother tongue

Talk to us NOW!

FULL BIBLES

Konkomba
Tampulma
Bimoba
Farefare
Chumburung
Sisaali
Lelemi
Deg
Kasem
Kusaal
Nafaanra
Gonja
Buli
Vagla

NEW TESTAMENT

Hanga
Adele
Mampruli
Paasaal
Koma
Anufo
Birifor
Delo
Gikyode
Ahanta
Selee
Sekpele
Siwu
Tuwuli
Nkonya
Nawuri
Avatime
Nyagbo
Logba
Tafi

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From Makeshift Classroom to Modern School Block

A beneficiary community of the Complementary Basic Education (CBE) programme run by GILLBT, Kuchualim, now has a new classroom block. Hitherto, learners studied under makeshift structures with no furniture.

The modern 6-unit classroom block was provided by the Mamprugu Moaduri District Assembly in response to the growing number of learners and significant success chalked by the introduction of CBE.

CBE targets out-of-school children and assists them acquire basic competencies in literacy and numeracy before integration into primary school, often at upper primary level. GILLBT, in collaboration with the Mamprugu Moaduri District Education Office, have been supporting five cycles of CBE since 2016.

So far over 2,900 children in 30 communities have benefited from the CBE programme under the sponsorship of UKaid (2016-2018) and Wycliffe Bible Translators, Netherlands (2019 to date). They have attained, among many skills, proficiency in literacy and numeracy and have successfully transitioned into formal school.



The Kuchualim makeshift classroom



Teaching and learning in the new classroom



Brand new school block



ROSE NTEMENASO

Back from Israel with a Gift for Delo

Rose Ntemenaso was part of 12 mother tongue Bible translators selected to study Biblical and Modern Hebrew in Israel. She was a member of the January to June 2019 cohort.

Upon her successful completion and return to Ghana, Rose has been working with the Delo translation team. So far, she has worked with her team on the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses) in Delo. Typesetting, proofreading and printing of these books were her first tasks when she rejoined her team.

“Proofreading was the first thing I did with the translation team after my return from Israel. This was done after the consultant checking to see if there are spelling mistakes. The books were also read to some of our elders in the community to



see if the translation is natural, accurate and clear in the Delo language.”

At church, Rose reads and explains the Bible in Delo. As a Presbytery Women’s Leader, she has become an inspiration to both old and young women to take seriously the Delo literacy programmes.

Currently, she is connecting via the internet with about 170 Delo natives in the diaspora teaching them to read and write in their mother tongue. Rose is determined to become a fully certified translation consultant. She is studying for a Masters in Linguistics at the University of Education, Winneba (UEW), Ajumako campus.



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- Stand-by plant/generator

Catering

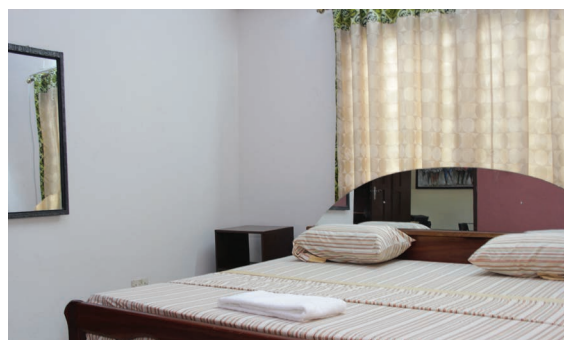
For meetings, conferences, special occasions, events for up to 35 people - on or off-site.

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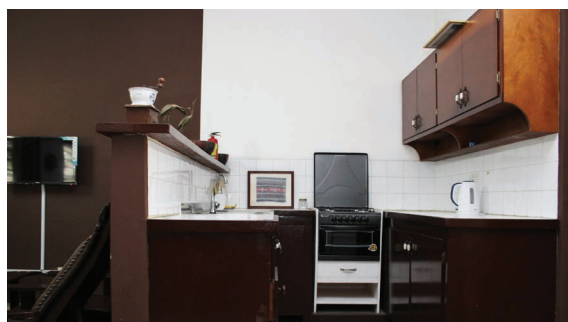




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- Air conditioned rooms
- Stand-by plant/generator

Catering

Special occasions and functions: weddings, parties and receptions for up to 200 people - on or off-site

Conference

Three halls for meetings, training, seminars and events for groups of 10-300 people. Wi-fi internet, presentation equipment.



Now I know God
speaks Nyagbo

Your Response

THE VISION

GILLBT is committed to finishing the Mother Tongue Bible Translation task in Ghana and proposes to do so through a campaign dubbed

‘Operation Cover the Land’

Specifically this campaign seeks to ensure that by 2025, translation work would start in all language groups in Ghana where there are no scriptures.

You can help
make it Happen

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Tel./Mobile: _____
Church/Branch: _____

☐ I want to receive GILLBT’s 31-day Prayer Bulletin
☐ I want to join GILLBT’s Prayer Network
☐ I wish to receive news from GILLBT
☐ I want to be a volunteer (Please specify) _____

☐ I want to be an advocate for GILLBT
☐ I wish to donate:
in kind _____
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Kindly send your response to the address or call:
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Fill out form, snap &
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GILLBT

Thanks You

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