



Language: Gbari

Speakers: 350,000



Dates: 2018-2022

Project Goal: New Testament completion

GBARI (GBAH-ree)

AFRICA — NIGERIA

THE PEOPLE

“A man is not a man unless he is a farmer.”

This Gbari proverb reflects the importance of agriculture to the Agbari people who live in northern Nigeria and speak the Gbari language. In Agbari communities, daily activity revolves around the cycle of preparing fields and planting, tending and harvesting crops such as maize, rice, peanuts and yams.

About 80% of the Agbari follow either traditional religion or another world religion that is prevalent in the region. Christians are a minority, making up only 20% of the population. As a result, they sometimes face marginalization and even persecution.

Agbari Christians are eager for their people to gain access to God’s Word in a language and form they clearly understand. Believers know that Scripture will equip the Agbari to address social issues in their communities.

God’s Word will help Christians stand firm in their faith and share the gospel message with their neighbors.

THE PLAN

We’re working in partnership with a local team to complete the translation of the New Testament in the Gbari language!

By the end of this four-year project, the Agbari people will have the entire New Testament in a language they clearly understand. Several books will be published as they are completed.

Scripture will be printed, recorded in audio format and also distributed on a phone app. In addition, team members will produce videos of the Gospel of John and the book of Acts.

Scripture engagement strategies are important for reaching the Agbari people with the transforming truth of God’s Word.

The team will form listening groups using audio recordings so people can hear and discuss the Bible in their language. They plan to provide training for pastors to help them effectively use Gbari Scripture. Songs will be produced as well.

THE IMPACT

“There is a great desire among the Agbari for more Scripture booklets to use in homes and in small groups,” a project adviser said.

Translated portions of Scripture are already making an impact. Local believers are sharing the gospel message with others, using published Scripture booklets to communicate God’s truth!

“It’s clear to all involved that hearing a message or reading the Scripture in Gbari helps it to be understood in discipleship and evangelism contexts,” the adviser said. As people understand Scripture, they are growing in their faith.

The team also sees God’s Word as instrumental in addressing social issues such as syncretism, polygamy and substance abuse.

To promote literacy, staff will develop a Scripture app that highlights the text as the audio plays.

Your prayers and gifts will help Agbari people access more of God’s Word in a language that speaks to their hearts!

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