

# MiDi BIBLE

Ministry for the Diffusion of the Bible in Minority Languages

*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Psalm 119:105

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## *A personal thought*

*It's high time I gave you some news about Midi Bible's activities.*

*Effectively, time is passing by and we have been very busy with the edition work for a few Bibles and New Testaments in minority languages.*

## *Midi Bible's Mission*

*By His grace, the Lord has reassured us about stepping forward in to our work, whose mission is to:*

- *promote literacy among minority populations through the publication of God's Word;*
- *teach them in this way that «the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles» (Acts 26:23);*
- *to help in the final stage of their work, those who have translated the Bible through many years of consecration, by offering them to typeset, format, define the book specifications,*

*look for a printer and a bookbinder, follow up the publishing process and finally oversee transport up to destination!*

- *and to participate in the funding for the edition of the Bible so that these very poor and isolated people groups are able to acquire it for one or two dollars only!*

*Paul-André Eicher, President*



*The Church "Word of Life" is waiting for the New Testament with much hope*

## Where are we ?

The Bible, in its totality or in part, is currently being translated into 480 minority languages throughout the

world! As a modest part, Midi Bible is in the process of publishing four of them that have required the translators between 15 and 35 years of diligent and hard work:

- the Wallisian language is spoken in one of the Pacific islands some 3'000 kilometers north-east of Australia;
- the Wolaitta, of a people group in south-eastern Ethiopia;
- the Shuar, a language spoken in Amazonia (Equator and Peru);
- and the Boo (or Boko), a language spoken in Benin, on the border with Nigeria and Niger.

We have just received for a final control two samples of the New Testament in Wolaitta, printed but not yet bound. You will, therefore, be able to discover hereafter our latest accomplishment.

## The Wolaittas, who are they ?

The Wolaittas, consisting of about 1,760,000 people, are natives of Ethiopia who have their own language, culture, tradition, political heritage and kingdom. They are divided into two tribes that represent about 200 clans! They live in the south-western region of Ethiopia, 400 kilometers away from Addis Ababa, the capital city. They survive thanks to cattle rearing and farming, and they still use traditional hand tools. Their cultivable land being degraded through natural and human factors, 45% of the Wolaittas suffer malnutrition and live below the poverty line. The annual average income per inhabit-



ant is 98 US dollars. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Ethiopia annexed the Wolaitta and imposed the Orthodox religion, which is now strongly influenced by animism. Today, the Wolaittas are open to the Gospel, but they need to fight against the invasion of the drifts of a worldly mindset on the one hand, and of Islam on the other hand.

About ten percent of the population is of evangelical protestant confession. Portions of the Bible have been translated since 1934 and the New Testament is complete since 1981.

Source: [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

## The translation team

With the Wolaitta churches called “Word of Life”, Dr Bruce and Mrs Betty Adams have analyzed and created an alphabetical system using Ethiopic characters “ግትዮሰ”, in 1973, and also Latin ones, “a, b, c”, in the year 1995.



Dr Bruce and Mrs Betty Adams



The Wolaitta translators team with Dr Adams

Together with a team of three Wolaitta translators, they have translated and formatted two New Testaments, one in Ethiopic characters (1981), the other in Latin characters (1997).

*«For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.»*

Romans 1:16

It has taken time to prepare again two new editions with cross references, and images illustrating elements that do not exist in the culture, and some corrections.

Prior to Bruce and Betty's arrival, the Wolaitta language did not have a written form! The language analysis and the creation of words using 175 letters of the Ethiopic script have taken years of hard work! In view of the results, the Ethiopian government, supporting literacy promotion among the Wolaittas, stopped using the Amharic language in the schools and chose to employ Wolaitta in Latin characters, which are far simpler and international.

### The local churches' expectations

In Wolaitta, there are 1,050 churches "Word of Life" and hundreds of thousands of believers who await the New Testament in their everyday language. The first edition of the New Testament ran out about three years ago!

### How to take part in this offensive?

The two editions of the New Testament with the Amharic and Latin writings are already printed and are in the process of being bound!

Thank you for praying for the Lord to make it possible for them to be sent in time and to meet the expectations of our brothers and sisters in



The Wolaitta New Testament in Ethiopic script

**Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you... 2 Thessalonians 3:1**

Wolaitta, but above all that they may be used to lead many lost souls to Christ!

You, as well, can seize this beautiful partnership opportunity in participating in the funding for the 25,000 New Testaments that will soon be sent (15,000 in Latin characters and 10,000 in Amharic characters). The production and transport costs amount to \$60,320, that makes only \$2.40 per New Testament printed on white Bible paper, with sewed binding and a special polyester cover, and also including transport to Djibouti!



*A Christian wolaitta family who would like so much to receive a New Testament*

mitment, we are hoping to be able to cover the balance, \$11,244, thanks to our donors' support!

We take the liberty to mention this to you as there are three other editions of the Bible reaching the final stages of the process and

they will need a much more important financial support! Yes we have received the conviction that these partnerships toward helping the transmission of God's Word to people groups that need it so much are being led by God and for His glory.

### Where are we?

The local and missionary team has already paid more than its part, that is \$49,076. They still need to cover the custom clearance costs and transport costs from Djibouti to the borders of Ethiopia!

Faced with this formidable com-

### Word of thanks

Thank you for your prayers, your help and your gifts. Without this precious support, our mission would be impossible. May the Lord richly bless you.

To Him be all the glory.

### MiDi BIBLE: who are we ?

**Our non-profit making charity aims to publish the Bible in minority languages. Its goal is to offer to these people groups the Good News of Jesus Christ and to help them in their literacy efforts.**

Croix-de-Rive 32  
1028 Prévèrènges, Switzerland  
Email: pa.eicher@bible.ch

Banque Cantonale Vaudoise (BCV) – BIC BCVLCH2LXXX  
\$ - Association Midi Bible – IBAN CH63 0076 7000 L524 9008 0  
CHF – Association Midi Bible – IBAN CH37 0076 7000 A524 9008 1