

## **SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2009:**

Bible-less People Group: Abon language (Ba'ban people); population 1,000, one of the 231 Bible-less people groups.

New Testament Nearing Completion: Nigerian Pidgin; population 1,000,000. The translation team for this project will produce reliable audio recordings of the New Testament and the Psalms, equipping the many speakers of Nigerian Pidgin with God's Word.

**Request #1** – Students enrolled in a Bible translation degree program at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN) recently moved out of a garage, where they had been meeting temporarily, and into a newly completed building. Praise God for providing all the finances needed to complete the building. Also praise God for the Starwalts, a couple that is preparing to come to Nigeria to take up staff positions at TCNN. Pray that they will meet their financial support quota in time to arrive by January of 2010. Pray that the six students who finished their courses in May will play strategic roles in the progress of Bible translation in Nigeria.

**Request #2** – Every morning Richard Young arrives at the office a little after 6 a.m. so he can have a few hours to work before the internet slows to a crawl around mid-morning. He is researching various possibilities for a better internet connection at the office. It is often hard for the office staff to send or receive emails in the afternoons, which hampers their communication with people overseas. Pray that God will give Richard wisdom about which solution to pursue.

**Request #3** - In July, the Heaths were able to visit the Dukawa people, among whom they used to live and work. Among other things, they were able to have significant talks about marriage issues. Pray that this will serve as a starting point for developing materials regarding biblical marriage principles, as Dukawa move from traditional fear-based marriages to loved-based marriages. Pray that Bible translation will help Nigerians to have a better understanding of God's desire for marriage.



## **CHURCH OF THE PALMS BECOMES A PRAYER ANCHOR FOR NIGERIA**

There are over 500 different people groups in Nigeria and 231 of those language groups have no scripture available in their “heart” language. That means that over 7 million people in Nigeria do not have access to God’s Word in their language. You and I can help them get access to God’s Word by praying regularly that God will clear the way for missionaries such as Wycliffe Bible Translators to come and translate their verbal “heart” language into a written language and then translate the scripture into each of their 231 remaining language groups in Nigeria without Bibles.

Church of the Palms has partnered with Wycliffe Bible Translators as the Prayer Anchor Church for Nigeria. That means that we will regularly pray for the translation work in Nigeria by:

1. Making a commitment to pray for Nigeria at least weekly during your prayer time individually or as a family.
2. Lifting up the bimonthly specific prayer requests individually and as a family unit for the work in Nigeria.
3. Making a deeper commitment by adopting one or more of the 231 Bible-less people groups in Nigeria as your own specific prayer partner and praying specifically for them. (Contact the church office or email Reyn Kamphuis, [rakamphuis@aol.com](mailto:rakamphuis@aol.com), to make that commitment.)

### **ABOUT NIGERIA:**

**Geography:** Nigeria is a West African nation nearly twice the size of California. Climate: Nigeria’s climate is tropical. December through March is dry, and the skies are often dusty and windy.

**People:** The population of Nigeria is approximately 130 million, divided into more than 250 ethnic groups which speak more than 500 languages.

**History:** More than 500 years since it began, the rift between Islamic government in the north and Christianized Yoruba tribes in the south has never healed. Over the years, intertribal fighting and civil wars have worsened.

**Government:** Independent Nigeria was supposed to be a republic, but a schism between north and south fostered the formation of military governments in the latter half of the nineteenth century. A booming oil market in the 1970s temporarily rendered Nigeria wealthy until the 1980s when debt, inflation, unemployment and corruption prevailed.

**Economy:** Nigeria is a country rich in oil reserves. Unfortunately, that particular resource has come to be viewed as the country’s proverbial golden goose. Other resources, such as food production, have been neglected as a result. Once a strong food exporter, Nigeria must now import food to feed its own population. Problems: Disputes over Nigeria’s land and maritime boundaries with Cameroon and Benin are still not completely resolved. Approximately 200,000-250,000 persons were displaced by communal violence between Christians and Muslims after President Obasanjo was elected in 1999. Nigeria is a transit point for heroin and cocaine being transported to Europe, East Asia and North America. It is also a safe haven for drug traffickers and is home to a major money-laundering center with which the government is dealing. Massive corruption and criminal activity take place in Nigeria.

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**Religions:** Half of the Nigerian population claims to be Muslim while 40 percent claim Christianity. The remaining 10 percent practice the traditional animistic religions of their ancestors. As is true for many other West African countries, Muslims live primarily in the north while Christians are concentrated in the south.

**Languages:** Nigeria has 512 languages with English being recognized as its official language due to the fact that it was formerly a British colony. Major national languages are Yoruba and Igbo (Ibo) in the south and Hausa and Fulfulde in the north. Approximately half of the country’s population is literate in at least one language.

