



BALI-MBA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

SPRING 2021 UPDATE



STORIES OF IMPACT

Desire to use Bali language is growing

Literacy classes have made such an impact that we are being asked to organize a permanent Bali literacy school.

Also, most of those who've attended the literacy classes and bought the books, now have the desire to teach their families at home! They say that before this, they hadn't thought about or even had the time to teach their children how to read the Bali language, but this literacy tool encourages them to do so.

More pastors are using Bali

Thanks to the translation, some native Bali pastors now use certain key biblical terms in the Bali language. In the past, they used Swahili because they didn't know how to express the concepts in their own language. This led to conflicting messages between churches, which caused some confusion among Christians.

Covid-19 creates cancellations, yet translation and literacy training continues!

As elsewhere in the world, the pandemic interfered with activities such as the ALPHA Christian introduction classes, and fundraising in local Congolese churches, since gatherings were prohibited. The lack of a radio station throughout the Bali territory halted Scripture promotion.

However, workers pressed on with Bible translation, and with some literacy classes! Drafting is progressing well in both Bali and Mba language. Though many literacy classes had to be postponed, 45 Bali and 175 Mba were trained to read and write their languages!



Recent Highlights (In The Past Six Months)

- Matthew and Mark have been fully drafted in Mba and are being community-tested, reviewed by the church and revised in preparation for consultant-checking.
- Galatians, Ephesians and Colossians have been fully drafted in Bali and 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus have been approved for publication.
- Literacy classes were severely curtailed in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, 45 Bali and 175 Mba were trained to read and write their languages!
- A wealthy member of the Mba community contributed 500 mandarin seedlings (worth about \$2,000) to the language committee to plant on land they've received. This land is used to produce revenue that is reinvested into their Scripture translation efforts.
- The Bali translation office, currently housed in a Catholic compound, received a solar panel, providing electricity for lighting and charging laptops.



Upcoming Goals

- A satellite Internet system has been purchased to install in the Bali translation office. This will save the translator in Bafwasende from having to make difficult and dangerous trips to another town to send and receive messages, as well as translated texts and revisions.
- The Mba intend to see the Gospel of Matthew published this year and the book of Acts fully drafted and consultant-checked through chapter 17.
- Publish Luke in Bali.



Pray with us

Father God, we praise you that the literacy program is starting to revive the Bali language.

Bless the ongoing translation work and dedication ceremony for the Gospel of Luke and the Pastoral Epistles in early 2021. Thank you for your provision.

In all these things, we ask for your peace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

