

David and Lynn Frank

May 2009

Recently I returned from a month-long trip abroad, including a two-week trip to Guinea-Bissau. This was my first time in Africa, and I expect now to stay involved and return regularly to help with a Portuguese Creole translation project there. Creole languages and Bible translation are my two specialties, and it was a pleasure to be able to combine them again.



Nobody on the Creole translation team in Guinea-Bissau has had experience in Bible translation, and my job as a consultant is to guide them in the work and act as a resource. They do love God, though, and are enthusiastic about translating the scriptures into their language. Creole is the most widely spoken language in Guinea-Bissau – more than Portuguese, which is the official language. A handful of mother-tongue translators is on the team. They aren't actually starting from scratch on this translation. Their starting point is an entire Portuguese Creole Bible that is already in draft, translated by an expatriate missionary. The problem is that the translation needs a mother-tongue speaker's touch, to make it clear and sound like good Creole. While I was in Guinea-Bissau, I worked with the team to revise about a third of the Gospel of Mark, and after I left they continued with it. Later this year I should be making a second trip, and by then they should have Mark completed and be working on the next book.



Guinea-Bissau is a small country on the western tip of Africa



for more pictures from Guinea-Bissau, go to www.linguafranka.net/guinea-bissau/

I like the approach being taken in Guinea-Bissau. There are about nine different languages needing a Bible translation, including the most widely spoken language in the country, Portuguese Creole. The strategy is to get the Creole translation done well and then use that as a “front translation” for the other translation projects to use as input. This cluster approach to translation has been developed and implemented in other parts of the world. As each book of the Creole Bible is completed, it can then in turn be used as a front translation for the other languages.

Lynn has been working on a large editing job these days. She is editing a textbook on discourse analysis that will be used in the courses taught at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, where people come from around the world to study for service in Bible translation.

Our three children are all in transition. Mark has spent a year in graduate school at Columbia University on Far Eastern Studies. He will be spending the fall semester in China doing research and improving his fluency in Chinese, and when he returns to the States at the end of the year he will be getting married to Maria Shendrick and plans to resume his graduate studies. We will write more about his wedding plans when the time gets closer.

Kimberly is graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill with honors, with a double major in Political Science and French. She has a wonderful scholarship to continue in graduate school at UNC next year, where her master's degree will be in Political Science with a concentration in Trans-Atlantic studies. Michael is finishing up his freshman year at UNC-Wilmington, but he wants to take off time from school now and refocus his attention. He would love to be able to serve overseas somehow and is looking for his niche.



Kimberly graduated from UNC

We appreciate your prayers and your interest, and we thank all of you who contribute financially in support of our ministry. We certainly could not be training the translation team in Guinea Bissau or editing a book for future Bible translators without you!

Please pray for:

- Lynn's editing: that she will be able to complete her editing assignment well and in good time.
- David's consulting work: especially his involvement with the Guinea-Bissau Portuguese Creole Bible translation project.
- Our children: that God would lead and provide for them.

Wycliffe 

PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200
1-800-WYCLIFF
www.wycliffe.org

David and Lynn Frank
6908 Legacy Lane
Waxhaw, NC 28173
(704)243-3654

dlfrank@wbt.org
www.thefrankfamily.org
www.seaislandcreole.org
www.gullahbible.com

for contributions sent to Wycliffe, please enclose a note saying,
"for the ministry of David and Lynn Frank"