



Julia and Vincent Leiyoole

Fall News

September 2023

"...Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (NIV)

Autumn is in the air in some parts of the world. It is a reminder of harvest time, and here in Samburu God's harvest work is in full swing. Each day the number of new disciples multiplies at a pace we can hardly keep up with. The desire to hear and study the New Testament has reached at least 50,000 new listeners since the inception of the ministry in 2019.

One of the reasons for this explosion has been the introduction of the New Testament in the Samburu language utilizing audio listening devices. Listeners do not think of it as a recording; they hear Jesus speak to them directly and it becomes a serious matter. They are asking questions and have a deep hunger to learn.

The translators of the New Testament, *Bible Translators and Literacy (BTL East Africa)*, are in full swing to complete the Old Testament translation, with only about 40% left to translate. They hope to soon have the book of Genesis in audio format. Pray for this!

It is by no coincidence; we have encountered an interest in OT stories; God is paving the way. One cool morning Vincent met with three men who dropped by to discuss scripture. Over hot tea and warm biscuits, they talked for well over three hours about the story of Cain and Abel. They wanted to understand the story from a cultural aspect. How could a brother kill a brother? How could it have an impact on current social issues among the Samburu? The Word is coming alive in their hearts and minds, and is not merely something the pastor teaches.

Another day, a most passion-filled disciple spent an entire day sharing about his travels around Samburu sharing the Gospel. When Lopedes speaks, his face lights up as he recalls discussions he has had. What pours out next is the seemingly endless questions. It is difficult to imagine anyone with a more profound hunger to learn and understand God's Word. During his travels, he met a man with knowledge of the OT. The man spoke of the Creation story, (Lopedes has watched this in The JESUS Film) and explained how God created Eve from Adam's rib. This became a focal point for Lopedes, who relayed the encounter to Vincent exclaiming:

"Woman came from man! We must respect her, protect her, and care for her. She is part of a man, just like his arm or his leg."

This is how God speaks to His people and brings them into relationship using His Word. It is the very beginning of cultural changes among the Samburu as they incorporate the truth of God's Word into their lives. It is humbling to be part of this discipleship ministry and watch the Gospel bring transformation.

The Harvest season is upon us; let us not slow down, falter or grow weary.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for your love, prayer, and financial support in this Harvest! Julia and Vincent

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1. Pray for the MDT workers. Pray for safety, provision, and health.
- 2. Pray for the rains to come on time in Samburu without destructive flooding.
- 3. Pray for all the new disciples who are hearing the Word. Pray for times of fellowship.
- 4. Pray for the stewardship ministry that includes climate change, ecology and agriculture work.



MDT leader, Ltapukan, sharing bible stories



A new disciple receiving a new audio device



Praying for rains in a parched land



Another day.....another disciple receives his audio device

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