

Okun speakers joyfully welcome New Testament in their language

OKUN NT BSN's fastest translation project



The Okun NT being brought forward for dedication.

The Okun language speakers came out in their hundreds to receive the New Testament in the Okun Language, the fastest translation project of The Bible Society of Nigeria, which was dedicated at Ayetoro-Gbede in Kogi State on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

It took the BSN only four years and three months to complete the translation of the Okun NT. The Old Testament is already at an advanced stage of completion.



Evangelist Omolara Theophilus

The programme, which was interspersed with singing and dancing, brought a big relief to the speakers of the language who had been expecting the Okun New Testament since 2016.

One of the recipients of the Okun New Testament, Evangelist Omolara Theophilus, said that it will make the presentation of the gospel effortless in Okunland. "We have been preaching and singing in the language, so reading the Bible now in the Okun Language will enhance and revolutionise the presentation of the gospel. I am very excited about it," he noted. He said further, "When you present the gospel in the language of the people you are preaching to, it is more impactful. It will bring about a total transformation and make a monumental difference in terms of the impact it will have on the lives of the people."

Chief Olorunshiye Kolade, who served as one of the reviewers of the NT, expressed joy seeing the Okun New Testament. He said that there are many people in the Church who do not understand the English Language, but with the NT in their language, they will easily understand the Word of God. He added that the New Testament in the Okun Language will serve as a unifying factor among the Okun speaking

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communities.

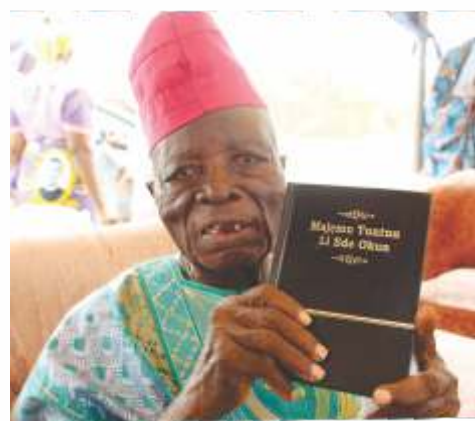
Corroborating this, the Chairman of Okun Translation committee, Overseer F. O. Aguda, said the Okun NT has become a unifying factor for



Chief Olorunshiye Kolade

the Okun speaking people. According to him, the turn out of the people and the number of copies distributed during the dedication ceremony was a confirmation of his position.

The Obaro of Kabba, His Royal Majesty, Oba Solomon Owoniye,



Overseer F. O. Aguda

said he never knew it would be possible to translate the Word of God into the Okun Language because of the dialectal variations among the Okun speaking communities. He lauded The Bible Society of Nigeria for making the Okun NT a reality, adding that he

was looking forward to reading it.

The elated Chairman of the Okun NT dedication, Engineer Paul Ajisafe, stated that there was a time those who made efforts to translate the Word of God were humiliated and killed. He thanked the BSN for its translation efforts. He said that praising God in the Okun Language evokes a special feeling in him. Mr Ajisafe appealed to the Okun Language speakers to use the Bible for worship and meditation and not as souvenirs.

Also, the Obasaju of Kabba, Chief



Oba Solomon Owoniye

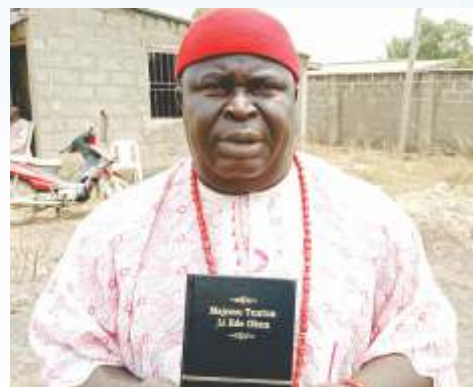
Olarenwaju Kehinde, said it is important to have the Word of God in the Okun Language because people understand their mother tongues better than any other language, adding that it makes it easier for them to take to heart



Engineer Paul Ajisafe

whatever they hear or read.

Earlier, the President of the BSN, Dr Timothy Banwo, said that the translation and dedication of the



Chief Olarenwaju Kehinde

Okun NT was in fulfilment of the BSN mandate to make the Word of God available. He thanked the translators for their efforts and said that the translation of Okun NT would help to preserve the language and culture of the Okun people.



Dr Timothy Banwo

There was a shout of joy when 2 Timothy 3:16-17 was read in the Okun Language by Rev. Ibisagba Isaiah.

Okun is a language spoken in Kogi, Kwara and Ekiti States.

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