

# David and Lynn Frank

November 2011



Dear Friends and Family,

David and I arrived on a rainy night in August in Guinea-Bissau. Friends and colleagues met us at the airport and drove us to Lendem, a little over an hour away. We were given a comfortable apartment that was formerly part of a leprosarium, now converted into apartments. We fell asleep quickly at 4 a.m. Later that morning we learned more about our apartment—that the walls had been freshly painted and there was electricity to power a fan and lights from solar panels during daylight hours and from a generator in the evenings.

We had been invited to consult with two language teams on their translation of Mark and Acts. We quickly picked up a daily routine: we usually woke up early and studied the portions of Scripture we were to discuss with our language teams, brewed a cup of coffee and fixed breakfast, and then walked over to a separate building to work. Our team members were appreciative that we were there, and we were able to get to work promptly each day. David checked the translation of Acts in Portuguese Creole, and I went for the first time as a “preconsultant” to check Mark 1–9 with the Jola-Bayote team. The facilitator of the Bayote team, John Manga, spoke English as well as Bayote and Portuguese Creole, so he interpreted for me and the rest of the team. Another consultant, Roger Reeck, overlapped with me, and we reviewed the work I had done. He remained in Guinea-Bissau to complete the consultant check of Mark.



We stayed in apartments on the left; the cookhouse is on the right.

David worked with his team in the evenings as well as during the day to be able to check the entire book of Acts. I was able to spend evenings studying the Scriptures and the back translation of Mark in English from Bayote for the next day. Terms in Mark that were challenging to translate into Bayote included “Holy Spirit,” “angels,” “Lake Galilee,” “sinner,” and “righteous.” Some portions of Scripture called for considerable discussion, including an Old Testament quote in Mark 4:12. For “Lake Galilee” in Mark 1:16, the Bayote team initially chose to substitute the word ‘river’ for ‘lake,’ since in their experience, a lake is very small, and a river is large. When I described Lake Galilee as a huge, fresh-water lake, they said they would have to change it from ‘river’ in their translation, since their rivers have salty water. The ‘Lake of Galilee’ would be described in a footnote as a very large lake in the region of Galilee, in Israel.

Shortly after we arrived, the person who was to have accompanied me in my meetings and interpreted for me became quite ill, and she was flown to Brazil for treatment for malaria and typhoid. She has recovered now, is



The Jola-Bayote team

regaining strength, and has just returned to Guinea-Bissau. Fortunately, John Manga was able to interpret well for me. It would be good for David and me to learn Portuguese Creole, the language of wider communication in Guinea-Bissau. David has already made good progress in learning the language and was able to engage in discussions with his team. I was happy this time to be able to greet people in Portuguese Creole, ask them how they were, offer our pots and pans, the key to our apartment, and say good bye. But I need to learn much, much more!



The Portuguese Creole team

Thanksgiving is a time to remember all the ways God has blessed us and met our needs. We are also grateful to you for sending us with your prayers and support to help others translate the Scriptures into their own language, both in Guinea-Bissau and from Waxhaw, North Carolina.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- **David:** continued communication with the Portuguese Creole team about changes in Acts and future translation. He is also selecting articles for the next issue of the *Journal of Translation*.
- **Lynn:** continued communication with Bayote team about changes in Mark and future translation. I am also editing a dictionary of the Pacoh language in Vietnam. Please pray that both David and I will continue to study and learn Portuguese Creole.
- **Guinea-Bissau:** complete recovery of SIL member Liz Nicoleti. Please pray that she will regain strength and stay well now that she has just returned to Guinea-Bissau. Also pray for the mother-tongue translators and their translation work.

Praise:

- **David:** submitted an issue of the *Journal of Translation*, which has been published online at [www.journaloftranslation.org](http://www.journaloftranslation.org). David was also able to present a paper in October at the Bible Translation 2011 conference in Dallas.
- **Kimberly (our daughter):** has a new job in Washington, D.C., with Westlaw Court Express!

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Lynn and David*

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