

LATEST NEWS # 385, December 22, 2006

The following news concerns Côte d'Ivoire.

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Radio-based Bible set to attract large audience

CÔTE D'IVOIRE — January 1 will see the beginning of the next stage of an ambitious project designed to bring God's Word into the homes and workplaces of many residents of Côte d'Ivoire who have little knowledge of the Bible. On this date, three radio stations will begin broadcasting *La Bible sur les ondes* ('The Bible on the airwaves'), a series of programmes that will take listeners through the whole Bible in a year.

"We are making good progress with this project," says Dr Lynell Zogbo, the UBS Translation Consultant who is overseeing the writing of the scripts by an interconfessional team. "We have now prepared more than 200 scripts ready for production. It's not always easy, though, and we would greatly welcome prayer support. Our greatest challenge is to keep the language as simple as possible, bearing in mind that our target audience is people who have little or no Bible knowledge. We have done our best to provide a solid Old Testament foundation which could lead anyone, regardless of their background, into the Gospel and further into the teachings of the Epistles."

There is considerable potential for the 15-minute programmes, which consist of Bible texts recorded by Hosanna and comments on the texts, to have a broad impact, Dr Zogbo believes.

"We have not avoided addressing issues such as leadership, family values and morality," she explains. "We are trying to address West African issues, not just Ivorian issues."

"I didn't know that this project would become so comprehensive and time-consuming, but it has been a huge joy to work on it. The whole team is focused on making it a great success. We hope that, one day, *La Bible sur les ondes* will have an impact not only in Côte d'Ivoire but also in several other francophone countries in Africa."

Dr Zogbo's enthusiasm is shared by the Rev Pierre Seu, Marketing and Communications Manager at the Bible Society of Côte d'Ivoire, which is undertaking this project in partnership with Trans World Radio and Hosanna.

"We are under pressure to get everything ready on time," he says, "but we are praying that these programmes will reach many people, helping them to interact with the Word of God and to



change their lives. We will need to encourage churches, especially the pastors and priests, to promote the programmes and to become involved in the follow-up process.”

An earlier report about this project can be found in World Report 399/25. (378 words – CÔTE D'IVOIRE.22.12.06)

Photos (United Bible Societies/Francois Sieberhagen):

CTI06DJ-5: FLTR: Luc Botti, Jacques Kouacou, Serge Oualia and UBS Translation Consultant Dr Lynell Zogbo working on scripts for La Bible sur les ondes, the French version of the Radio Bible. Nearly 200 of the 365 scripts are finished and broadcasts will start January 1, 2007, on three radio stations in Abidjan.

CTI06DJ-7: Discussion behind the scenes during the recording of the first test sample of La Bible sur les ondes, the French version of the Radio Bible, in Abidjan. UBS Translation Consultant Dr Lynell Zogbo (left) talks to the Rev Abdoulaye, Director of Trans World Radio, while the Rev Pierre Seu, Marketing and Communications Manager at the Bible Society of Côte d'Ivoire (right) checks what technician Aboua Omer Liacet is doing.

CTI06DJ-8: A young man sewing in the market in Abidjan. It is people like him who are the target audience for La Bible sur les ondes, the French version of the Radio Bible. Côte d'Ivoire.

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