

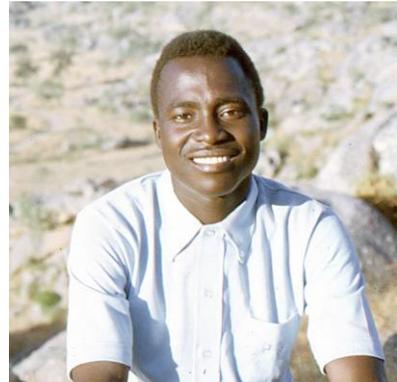
**On the occasion of the dedication of the Bibles in Izii, Ikwo and Ezaa  
Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Nigeria  
January 31, 2015**

Today is an occasion that warms the heart and brings great hope for the future of the Izii, Ikwo and Ezaa nations! The Word of God has been described as "the most precious thing that this world affords". Today the Izii, Ikwo and Ezaa peoples have both the Old Testament and the New Testament in their own languages!

Praise God for His faithfulness over many years! By His grace, the work has been completed! I have had the privilege of seeing these projects begin back in the 1960s. The task looked enormous. When Paul and Inge Meier and their family first came to the area, they were told it was impossible to write the Izii language. But with the team of dedicated translators that developed, it proved not only possible to write and read the language, but to translate God's message.



Chief Echiagu of Izii stands out as the one who had a vision for the development of his people. He welcomed the work and encouraged Izii speakers to try to do the impossible. Soon the Ikwo and Ezaa people saw what was happening and wanted to be included. It is impossible to mention all those who were involved but the name of Samuel Iyoku



stands out from that time, along with Thomas Uzim, Justin Ogado, John Ovuoba, Daniel Eze, Simon Itumo, Paul, Joseph Itumo, and many others. Rev. Samuel, the forerunner, is now rejoicing with the Lord. Others have gone on to eminent positions in government or in Christian ministries. The Scriptures were already

bearing fruit in their lives even from the beginning of the translation process. It is a special joy that John Ovuoba and Joseph Itumo have continued with their training and are now approved Bible translation consultants, now training



translators for other languages and helping to check other translations. Others in training to continue to contribute in Bible translation are Jonathan Nwoji and David Oken - pray for them. I pray the Lord will call others too!

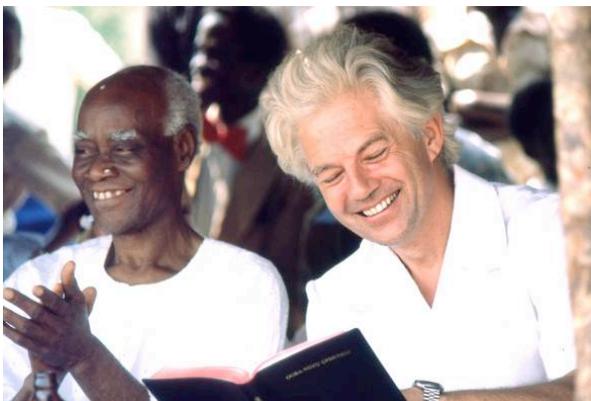


Today I want to share special greetings from Paul and Inge Meier -they are thinking of you today and would love to have been here. I think also of Dr. Reinier de Blois who was so much involved in helping to check the translation of the Old Testament in all three languages - he will also be remembering you today.

I think of all the challenges there have been over the years. The time of the civil war, other difficult times when it seems the work almost stopped. But God has been faithful! What seemed impossible has been achieved, by His grace and strength, by His faithfulness to those who continued to commit themselves to the work.

Today we see the three Bibles - beautifully prepared, a gift that cannot be over estimated - a message from God, "the most precious thing that this world affords", revealing God's way of saving us, revealing God's plan for our lives, sharing the history of those who have followed in this way before us. I challenge every Izii, Ikwo and Ezaa speaker to take and treasure their copy - to treasure it in their hearts and minds, to read it, and live it, and share it. There can be no greater blessing.

Katy Barnwell  
January 31, 2015



Dr. Francis Ibiem with Paul Meier  
at the NT dedication in 1980



The four Meier children & John Ovuoba

*Bible Translation. Life Transformation.*