# Celebration of the New Translation of the Swahili New Testament – Meetings with Translators

**From an Original Report by Dave Mowery**

**8-18-26**
**Swahili translators.**
The translators in the meeting have 1 1/2 years experience.
Those in the meeting are:

Edger Achoka. Nephew of pastor Olo
Livingstone Asira. (This was the first man that met Brother Mickey in Nakuru.)
Danston Milymu
Pastor Olo

Dr. Zeinner opened with remarks of encouragement. They have translated a rough draft of the Old Testament to Joshua 8. They are still communicating with Nathaniel Steinbart. They were asked if they have been able to assist other translations? Their answer was, no. They discussed cultural issues affecting the translation ministry. There is possibly a fear of separation for taking a stand, but probably pride. A missionary from First Bible in Uganda. Is now using the Swahili NT as a resource.

**Ekegusii translators Meeting.**
**August 19, 2026**

Welcome and open in prayer by Pastor Olo
Team members below from left to right are:

John Mogeni
Samuel Nyakundi
Stanley Mogaka
Richard Gesanda
Matthew Mogire

Introductions were made. The translators were given encouragement to keep going and not to be discouraged. The issue of bringing opinions together, which can be difficult because of the importance of the project, was discussed. Dr. Zeinner assured them that they are prayed for you daily.

They were asked if there are any difficulties? John thanked the team for the teaching last year. They said there are lots of problems. Charles is in contact with brother Combs about them. There are major challenges in meeting. Brother Mickey has helped the difficulties in transportation. Difficulty with transportation causes issues in how and when to meet? Where do they address the problems? They have been informing Brother Combs. (He has taken these to the rest of the team.) Also, they have no computer equipment. Only Charles Okari has a smart phone. They made a request for a computer.

Dr. Zeinner responded to their request. He said that if they did not have the person that could help in typing, it should be prayed about. Suggestions were made of how to get the Bible in a cloud from. Suggestions were made for doing it on the phone. It was discussed whether the issues of the need were for money. Matthew asked for more prayer. Dr. Zeinner assured them God is for them. Romans is started, but they have done it on their own and not come together to compile it. (Note from Steve Combs: They will meet to finish Romans beginning in September, 2026.) Finally, Dr. Zeinner encouraged them to keep in contact with the Swahili team.

**8/20/2026**
**Translation team Dholuo/Luo**
**Pastor Olo prayer**

Spoken by the Luo people of Kenya and Tanzania
Second largest tribe in Kenya
Obama's tribe
4-5 million speakers.

From Wikipedia: "Dholuo (pronounced [ɖ̱ólúô])[2] or Nilotic Kavirondo, is a dialect of the Luo group of Nilotic languages, spoken by about 4.2 million Luo people of Kenya and Tanzania, who occupy parts of the eastern shore of Nam Lolwe (Lake Victoria) and areas to the south. It is used in broadcasts on Ramogi TV and KBC (Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, formerly the Voice of Kenya).

Dholuo is mutually intelligible with the Acholi, Alur and Adhola languages of Uganda. Dholuo and the aforementioned Uganda languages are all linguistically related to Dholuo of South Sudan and Anuak of Ethiopia due to common ethnic origins of the larger Luo peoples who speak Luo languages.

Four primary Dholuo dialects exist. These do not have their own names but are purely geographical; northwestern, south-central, east-central, and south. All dialects are highly mutually intelligible, and mainly differ in lexis." (Lexis=vocabulary)

Team members in order from left to right:

Alexander Otieno Omollo
Lawrence Sekho.
George Sekho - came to ask about starting a translation
Moses Akoko
Joseph Opiyo
Jack Otieno Ochieng

They translators are aware that there are so many problems in the current Luo Bible. They are using it but keep finding problems. They were Grace Bible Baptist Church in Nakuru for the 2025 translation Conference. They have gone to the Rift Valley Bible College in Nakuru. They came forward last year to start but did not and have been getting more burdened over this past year to get started.

Doing the translation on a phone was discussed. There are more individuals who were not at the current conference who want to be involved. We need to get a WhatsApp group. They were encouraged to communicate through Edgah Achoka. Go to the notes from last year to do an assessment on translation. If they are going to translate do it revise the old work. They asked for prayer as this work is heavy for them. Jim Taylor's church has been praying for them since last conference. Giving them a copy of the Swahili bilingual translation. Who is the head translator? Not yet.
Dr. Zeinner closed in prayer.

**Bukusu translators.**
Six members of the Bukusu Team attended the conference.
Left to right they are:

Eliud Wanyama
David Misiko
Kevin Juma
Peter Wekesa
Abel Nyomgesa
Leonard Valendino

They are currently working on Acts, 2 Corinthians. 1 Corinthians and Galatians are done along with John and Romans. Some improvements were needed on the John and Romans. They have been done for the second edition. They were asked if they have contacted the Swahili translators with any issues? The answer was no. They were admonished to get the help of the team at Grace Bible Baptist Church on any questions they have. They were encouraged to call Edgah Achoka first because he knows Swahili. They were also asked to write the Global Bible Translators team with periodic updates. They were asked how we can pray for you? They said the teams are reduced from the lack of money. They were encouraged that not everyone is called, and not everyone is willing to put in the sacrifice. Utilize those that can only do a little like readers or checkers or typers. The group talked about hard work, honesty, integrity, morality and our walk with the Lord and that we must guard our lives to live for Him. Keep going even when everything else quits. The GBT team confirmed their love for the team.
Closed in prayer by Steve Z