



October 2023

Sampson has an amazing story.

I first met Sampson during a translation workshop in Nigeria, some years ago. The room was filled with translators from different teams and different languages who were all working on a project to get the Bible translated into their language. Sampson was very quiet and sat in the back. However, I noticed when it got quite warm (actually hot) he would get up and adjust the fans around the room. Then, when some translators would struggle with how to do something on their computer, Sampson would get up, lean over, and offer to help. He did that on his own. He kept surprising me.

At the end of the event, I told the Bible Society that this young man was showing great potential. Sampson was not only able to do the complicated and technical work in Bible translation, he was very aware of others' needs and able to help. I recommended that he be given an opportunity for advanced training.

A year later that happened.

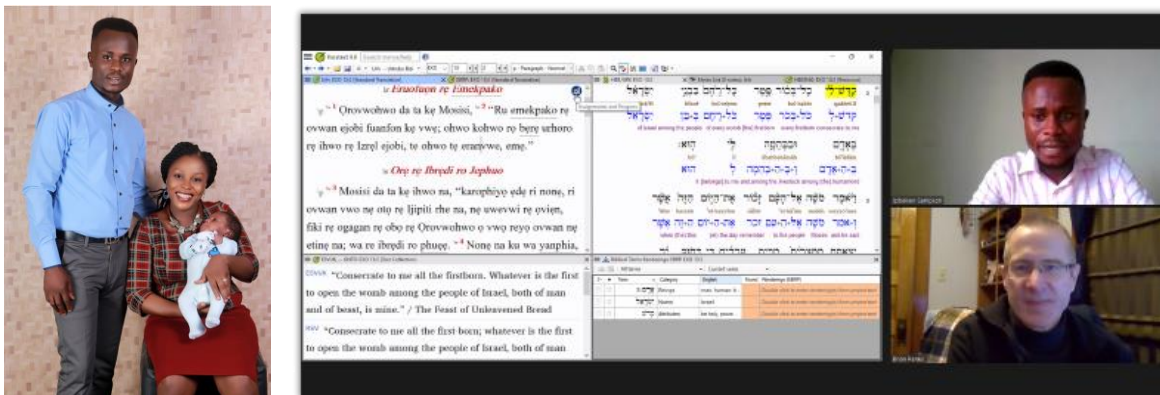


Above left: Brian and Sampson in 2016; Above right: Sampson and the translation team.

In that training event, Sampson and I were with translation supporters for the entire African continent. Again, like in Nigeria, Sampson was likely the youngest and least experienced person in the room. Instead of being with co-translators from his area and his own country, he was one of over fifty supporters and consultants from dozens of different countries. He interacted and engaged completely. I asked him to do a presentation to the entire group and he took it on and did very well. It was a bit of a test to see if he could rise to the challenge. He did so with "flying colors."

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These past three or four years I have spent more time (via Zoom) with Sampson than any other person involved in Bible translation. Nigeria has hundreds of languages and a lot of work to do. I believe the investment of time has and will continue to bear fruit. Sampson is now married. He and Blessing have a son named, Excellent. He has committed to serving others not only in Nigeria but around the world.



Above left: Sampson, Blessing, and Excellent; Above right: Zoom call with Sampson.

His amazing story began earlier.

In school, Sampson studied to become a science teacher. After graduating from university, he got a job in a local high school and taught for two years. During the second year, his uncle told him about the need for a Bible translator in their language, Epie. Bible translation into Epie had never been done. Not one verse of Scripture was in their language. Even though Sampson was a Christian, he was surprised that his uncle would suggest he apply for the job of being a Bible translator. He was a teacher. In addition to that, even though Sampson had spoken Epie since childhood, he could neither read nor write his language. Needless to say, respecting his uncle's advice, Sampson applied for the job.

He was hired.

Not only did Sampson learn how to read and write Epie, but as the translation progressed he became the language and technology expert on the team. Their New Testament was published recently and they are well on their way to finishing the entire Bible.

Praise God.

I am thankful for the opportunity to share his story. Pray for Sampson. Support Bible translation or other efforts that help the global church grow and prosper. There are many like him around the world who are called and gifted to serve. Supporting them is our opportunity to make a difference.

Thank you for partnering with us.

Brian and Donna Renes