

When I saw the creature's long black leg sticking out, I wondered if this was the daddy or the baby. It's never a dull moment when traveling abroad, but regardless of the situation, we are called by God to proclaim the Gospel through the world.

Recently, I traveled to Africa with Philip Hopkins of *Trinitarian Bible Society*. Our goal was to visit four translation projects in Kenya and one in Liberia. It was an honor to sit and listen to the translators discuss both their joys and trials in the ever-challenging work of Bible translation. They shared how they spent hours laboring over one verse or even a single word. They also communicated several enlightening moments as they discovered the exact word in their heart language.

In Liberia, we began in the coastal city of Monrovia, then traveled six hours inland to the border of Guinea to the jungle area where we stayed among the Dan tribe. Upon our arrival, the people erupted into song, waving palm fronds in the air. It was an incredible experience and a privilege to be there. Once the celebration ended, they escorted us to our lodging which was vastly different from other places we stayed on this trip. One descriptive word will suffice, "primitive." No electricity, no bars on the door, no screens on the windows, no furnishings, simply a mattress on the floor with a mosquito net hanging from the ceiling. It did have a western toilet, but no water lines attached. This is where we found that long black leg. Yep, you guessed it, it was a big black spider hiding under the rim of the toilet! Knowing there were seven other long legs and a body attached, something had to be done. After several minutes of deliberation, we disposed of him, hopefully for good!

That night, we sat outside in the dark talking to the local Dan pastors. They expressed their concerns for their people. It had been over 32 years since a missionary had been there preaching, educating, and building a work among their people. Although *TBS* is close to completing the translation of the New Testament, the pastors long to have an entire Bible in their language. These people were the exact picture of sheep having no Shepherd.

This is where *firstBible* enters the scene. *Trinitarian* has a small team of national men who have begun work on the Old Testament. *firstBible* has been raising money to fund this part of the translation. Due to some end-of-year donations, we were able to meet our commitment for this past quarter. Though the total cost per year is about \$52,000, it is a necessary part of the equation in order to meet the needs of the team and progress forward on the translation. Over a reasonably short amount of time, the team has translated from Genesis to I Samuel. We desperately need your help to continue this great work. We need committed Christians to pray and to give toward this project; we simply cannot accomplish the task without you. I'll leave you with this statement I heard several times during this trip, **"The English Bible is good, but we don't understand it very well. We need God's Word in our language."**