

Burunge booklets dedicated

Earlier this year I typeset three booklets in the **Burunge** language of Tanzania: the books of Acts, James and Revelation. Right now I am finalising the book of Genesis. It was a great joy to hear recently of the dedication service the Burunge team held to celebrate the publication of the books I had done, plus four others that had appeared previously: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.

The dedication took place in the village of Goima in northern Tanzania. It was held on the football field, which was right next to the weekly market location, so throughout the day many people passing by came over to find out what was happening.

There were representatives from various Christian denominations, government officials, and even an honoured guest from the Muslim community. After the introductions, the choirs began to perform. Local church choirs had been asked to prepare new songs from the texts of the newly translated Scripture portions. Their joy was contagious as they danced and sang, accompanied by calabash and friction drums.



Johanna and I were struck by how similar the people look to the Rendille in Kenya. Both are Cushitic groups, and the picture of the women singing—their features and their bead decorations—could easily have been taken of their Rendille counterparts!

Later one of the Burunge pastors preached a message from the newly-published book of 1 Timothy. It was obvious that he had the crowd's complete attention. One older man sat listening with tears rolling down his cheeks. Pastor Doe clearly explained the Gospel and told of God's great love for all people. The sermon was also translated into Swahili for non-Burunge speakers.



Two men examining the Burunge book of Acts, which Steve typeset

To close the event, portions of the new books were read aloud by members of the community. All the church leaders then gathered together, prayed over the books, and dedicated them to Lord. After the dedication, people were able to purchase their own copies from a book table.

Paul Hefft, the leader of the Burunge translation team, concludes: "Praise the Lord for a fantastic celebration and an opportunity to thank our Lord for His work among the Burunge people! Pray that the Lord would use these Scriptures mightily to strengthen Burunge Christians. Pray also that, in turn, they would boldly proclaim what God has done in their lives so others would come to

know Him."

For a fuller description of the event and further information about the Burunge translation project, follow [this link](#).