

# The Chumburung Bible

## Ghana, West Africa — Keir and Gillian Hansford



Between **March and August 2009** I worked with long-time Wycliffe members **Keir and Gillian Hansford** on the **Chumburung Bible**. Keir and Gillian are both past retirement age, and have spent most of their working lives bringing God's message of love to the approx. 70,000 Chumburung people of northern Ghana.

In 1989 the Chumburung New Testament was dedicated. At that time there were 72 congregations, belonging to 13 denominations. Since then the number of congregations has doubled. In 1999 Keir and Gillian and a team of 6 Chumburung translators began work on the translation of the Old Testament. This was finished in 2008, and in 2009 Keir and Gillian worked with me to typeset the whole Bible.

Over 60 people in listening groups were converted when the New Testament on tape was played. The *Jesus film* was shown in preparation for the eagerly awaited complete printed Bible. The

dedication is planned for September 2010.

A particular challenge for me during the typesetting was the many and varied maps, charts, and diagrams the Hansfords had prepared. If anything in the Old Testament is hard to visualise, the Hansfords have a labelled picture or diagram of it! Like the description of Ezekiel's temple in Ezk. 40-46. Finalising the pictures and adding labels (in Chumburung) was time-consuming but fascinating.

In our original schedule we'd planned to finish the final layout by the end of June, but that had to be extended to the end of August due to back problems that kept me in bed for three months. Praise God, despite both illness and computer glitches, we managed to meet the August deadline.

*The dedication of the Chumburung Bible is tentatively planned for **September 2010**.* We look forward to the day when the Chumburung people will be able to read the whole of God's Word in the only language that speaks to their hearts.