NEGOTIATIONS

Posted on December 8, 2006 by Eddie

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I've mentioned this before once or twice; when we lived in Ivory Coast, I was involved in the initial negotiations to set up a Bible translation degree programme at a theological seminary in Abidjan. Over the last year or so, I've met a number of people who have gained their masters degrees in translation at the seminary and it has been incredibly encouraging to see how well they are doing and how useful their training has been.

So, it was a great pleasure to spend yesterday back at Fateac (the seminary) with my colleague Myles Leitch who has been the translation department head for four years negotiating the renewal of the initial contract. The discussions were very cordial and I think that we are in a place not just to renew the contract but to significantly improve the working relationships which is great.

It was fun, too, to have Adjo, the dean's secretary taking notes of the meeting. Previously she had worked for SIL and was my secretary for three years or so - it was good to see her again. The dean took us out for lunch and I had a rather nice agouti kedjenou. Kedjenou is a spicy Ivorian stew and agouti, not to put too fine a point on it, is a big rodent. Great stuff.