

# HOWE THINGS ARE... by Sheryl Nelson

August 2023

## A modern day king in west Africa encounters the King of Kings as told by Prosper Nongnidé.

*Prosper is from the Republic of Benin in West Africa where he works with Wycliffe Benin as a Bible translation consultant and coordinator. In 2020, he and his team completed the translation of the New Testament in the Idaasha language — his mother tongue. Prosper holds a Master of Divinity degree in Translation Studies from Africa International University in Kenya. He is married to Cathérine and has three children.*

I will tell you about a (West African) king. This king, he decided to learn to read and write in his own language. When he had learned to read and write in his own language, he secretly requested a copy of the New Testament in his own language. That New Testament had just been published. So when that king got the New Testament, he went through the whole New Testament secretly. He read the New Testament whenever he could, at midnight, whenever he could.



Then one day, he called his whole court; he called his family, his advisors and he said, “I have good news to share”. And the people were all excited what the good news could be. And so he gathered them all together and he stood up and he said, “Today, I want to tell you that I have met another King. And that King is the King of Kings. And today I have decided to surrender my life to that King from now on”

Can you believe it? That only by reading Scriptures in his own palace.

That shows us how important we need to get quickly — as quickly as possible— scripture translated in people’s language. We don’t have any idea how God can use the seed in His mysterious way to change a life.

It’s just a powerful Word; it’s an active Word; it’s a life transforming Word; changing darkness to light and worshipping the true God.

And is that not amazing, wonderful, exciting to be part of that kind of ministry: that is actually changing the world through Bible Translation.

### DID YOU KNOW? (Facts about Benin)

1. There are **55 languages** spoken in Benin. 20 of those do not have any Scripture available yet.
2. The official language of Benin is **French**.
3. Benin is home to Ganvie: Africa’s largest **lake village**. The town was erected on stilts in Lake Nokoue by people evading being captured and sold into slavery.

4. With a **median age of just 17**, Benin has one of the youngest populations in the world. 65% are under the age of 25. Women in Benin have 5 children on average!
5. From the 17th century until the late 19th century, Benin (then known as Dahomey) had the only **all female army** in modern history.
6. Three African nations are monarchies (Morocco, Lesotho, and Eswatini) but there are many **non-sovereign kings** who reign over a dominion within a sovereign state, like Benin. In Benin, some kings double as heads of Vodun (voodoo) religion and are believed to have spiritual powers.

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## Travel

At the end of September, I will attend meetings with colleagues working in Asia in **Bangkok, Thailand**. I'm planning a long layover in **Qatar** on the way there. This means I can use all two words I know in Arabic and Thai (Hello and Thank You): Hello: Merhabah (Arabic) and Swa-dee-kha (Thai) and Thank you: Sukrah (Arabic) and Khop Khun-kha (Thai). BTW, the -kha on the end of those words is because I'm a girl; guys end with -khan.

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## Prayer

- **PEOPLE:** Pray that God will bring more IT skilled people into missions. Also, If you feel God is calling you to kingdom work in technology, especially project managers and developers (back end developers in particular), call me right now!
  - **TRAVEL SAFETY:** Pray for uneventful and health during travel 24 September - 3 October (Atlanta - Doha - Bangkok). Pray also for good connections with colleagues.
  - **PRAISE:** Thank you for praying for my ministry need: an additional \$250 per month. God provided more than I needed!
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### Contributions:

Wycliffe Bible Translators

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*"Preferred for the Wycliffe ministry of Sheryl Nelson"*



We took some Howe nephews with us to Mobile, AL for my mom's orchestra concert.

