

the priest, who were his laborers, and why people would gather together in a place where coffee beans were usually spread to dry.

Bread

The word 'bread' in Scripture primarily occurs as either a specific term for bread (including the Lord's Supper), or as a generic term for food. It is not surprising, however, that some aboriginal groups use something other than bread as the staff of life. The Chols, with their cultural focus on the cultivation of corn, use *waj*, a type of thin corn cake. Since a meal is not complete without this main item of food, the term has been extended to include any other foods which may be served along with *waj*. While bread is known to them, its use is limited to a few occasions during the year when it functions as a dessert. In translating this term in the Chol New Testament, consistent use has been made of the word *waj* wherever the function of bread as a basic food was in focus, John 6:35, "I am the bread of life," was thus translated with this word. If the word for bread had been used, it was feared that the Chol would compare Christ to the desirable, but not absolutely necessary, dessert.

THE QUALITY OF MEEKNESS

Every day, all morning, the search for words continues as, with Kopta my informant, I work on the Birifor language and especially on translating the Scriptures.

Some words come by the accidents God provides. For a long while we had searched in vain for a word adequate to express "meekness". Then we gave up (temporarily), and took a walk outside for a break. The grain-stalks left after harvesting were beginning to sprout again, so I said, "Look, Kopta, they're sprouting". "No," he said, "they're *iolo*". "*Iolo*? What does that mean?" "That is the word we use for new leaves when they are big enough and strong enough to bend and not to break. We use it for people too, who are so strong inside that they don't need or want to fight you. But if a person is hard and brittle like a dead leaf it means that he is not really strong".

And that is surely a better word for Bible meekness than anything we can say in English!

(Extract from a letter from Mr. David B. Woodford, W.E.C. missionary among the Birifors in Haute Volta, W.Africa. We have since heard that Kopta, gifted Birifor informant, has gone to be with his Lord, while still quite young.)