

*Yézō à kpō sīō kpālē té lò* 'If he agrees (admits) to the bad things, Jesus will wash his sins'.

### Love

Two terms exist for "love," namely, *yēngō* and *sōngō*. *Yēngō* also means 'to desire, want, agree'.

*Sōngō* implies 'friendship', and when modified by the adjective *nzō* 'good', it becomes *nzō sōngō* 'beautiful or good friendship'. This is about the deepest relationship possible. Speaking of Jesus, one may say, *Yézō wà nzō sōngō* 'Jesus is a person of beautiful friendship'.

All three expressions can be used of the love of wife and husband.

### Faith

Ngbandi seems poverty-stricken when it comes to expressing faith. There is one word, *yēngō*, that means 'to believe'. But this also means 'to agree, to want, to desire, to wish, to love'. Inadequate as the lingua franca, Lingala, may be, it has two terms, *kolinga* and *kondima*, to express what must be expressed by the one Mgbandi term *yēngō*. How can one adequately express the depth of meaning involved in a real commitment to Christ?

### Conclusion

These nine terms by no means exhaust the study, but serve perhaps to give an introduction to the problem. They show us the lurking pitfalls and some of the difficulties in translating Christian ideas into the tribal tongues, but also show us in some instances the force and meaningfulness of Christian doctrines when they must be expressed in simple and living terms.

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## Free Offer of Customs and Cultures

by Eugene A. Nida

*Customs and Cultures* by Eugene A. Nida, Secretary for Translations of the American Bible Society, has proven to be of increasing interest to missionaries, translators, and students of anthropology, for it attempts to introduce people to the field of anthropology from the standpoint of missionary experience and problems. Its special relevance to the Bible translator is the fact that its primary orientation is the position of the missionary or evangelist as one who must communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ in cultures which are quite different from those with which he is likely to be acquainted. The books *Bible Translating* and *God's Word in Man's Language* (both of which are available free of charge to Bible translators) were aimed at the task of producing the message of the Bible in the different languages of men. *Customs and Cultures* goes on from there and attempts to indicate how this message as framed in a strange language may then be communicated within the living context of a people's culture.

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