

THE 2022

# FINISH LINE





Over the last year, I've been encouraged to see God at work in the world through the transforming power of his Word. Communities have celebrated the completion of decades-long translation projects, while others have excitedly begun work on Scripture in their language for the very first time.

But even in light of these incredible milestones, I am reminded that there are still millions of people without access to God's Word in a language and format that speaks to their hearts. This work can only be accomplished through the power of prayer, and I'm grateful for the role you play in helping ensure that every man, woman and child knows God through his Word.

In this booklet you'll read about 31 Bible translation projects that are within three years of completion. Many of these projects experience trials and setbacks as they reach their finish line, and the teams and communities they represent need your prayers more than ever before.

We are grateful for your committed prayers and are encouraged by the way God is moving around the world. Thank you for being part of this incredible work!

Until all the nations worship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Chesnut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Chesnut  
President/CEO

Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

# ABOUT THE FINISH LINE

Prayer is an important part of Bible translation, and it's especially critical during the final stages before completion. Often this is when spiritual attacks happen and troubles arise. The translations are so close to being done, but it can be difficult to persevere.

That's why The Finish Line exists. This booklet is a quick-access resource to help you pray more effectively for translations that are within three years of publication or arrival to a language group. These projects and teams need prayer, and you can be a part of the team that supports them.

But these 31 projects aren't the only ones in need; they represent more than 300 similar translation projects worldwide waiting to cross the finish line. Check out the additional resources below to stay up-to-date on the prayer needs of translation projects around the world.

## WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

### WYCLIFFE.ORG/FINISHLINE

A complete list of all projects sorted by area of the world.

### WYCLIFFE.ORG/PRAYER

Prayer email updates and an updated Finish Line guide for each month.

### PRINTED COPY

To receive a printed copy of The Finish Line by mail, call **1-800-WYCLIFFE** (1-800-992-5433 ext. 3752) or email **prayer\_usa@wycliffe.org**.

# HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Each entry in The Finish Line is packed with useful information. For most projects, you'll find the country and population of the language group. If a translation project is handled by a partner organization, their name is included at the end of the entry.

Here's an example explaining what each section of the entry means.

LANGUAGE NAME

LOCATION

POPULATION

## **DAY 7: KABA; Central African Republic (83,000)**

A dream became a reality when the Kaba dedicated their New Testament in January 2022. The community is thankful to have both the written Word and an audio version produced by Faith Comes by Hearing. Churches composed worship songs with Kaba Scriptures and are using them in their services.

### **Prayer points:**

- » Peace in the Kaba region.
- » Wide distribution of the New Testament. May the Lord use the translated Scriptures to bring lasting, life-giving hope to all who hear his Word.
- » That the eyes of the Kaba will be opened as they listen to and read his Word in their language: "Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions" (Psalm 119:18, NLT).

**CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY; SIL**

**PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)**

# PRAYING THROUGH THE STAGES OF A TRANSLATION PROJECT

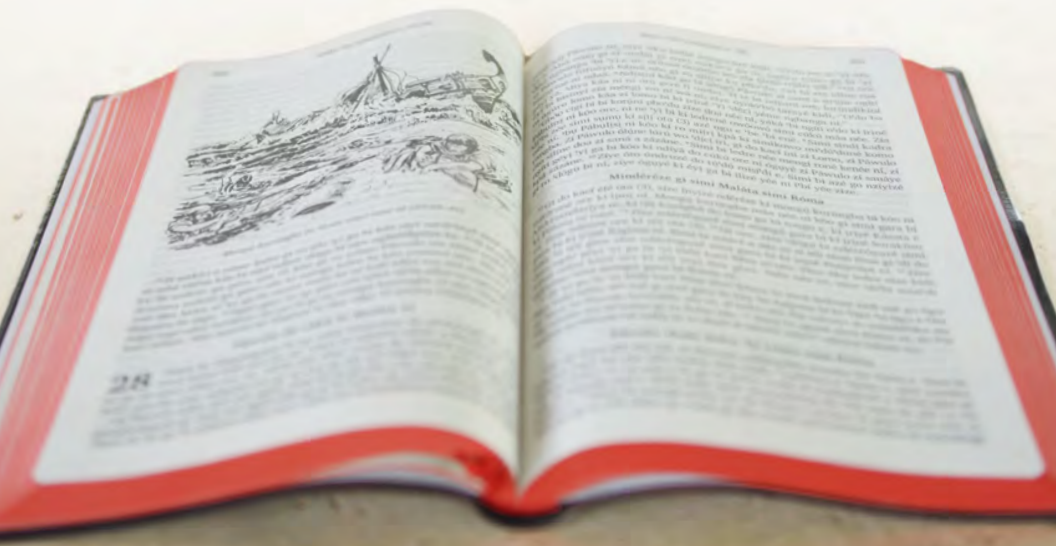
**FIRST DRAFT:** A preliminary, tentative translation that will be tested and improved. Revisions continue throughout successive drafts.

**REVIEWER CHECK:** Speakers of the target language read through the translation to make corrections and suggest improvements.

**BACK TRANSLATION:** Rendering a translation back into a language of wider use, usually in a word-by-word or phrase-by-phrase format. The back translation enables consultants who do not know the target language to evaluate the accuracy and adequacy of the translation.

**CONSULTANT CHECK:** A skilled and experienced adviser meets with the translation team to discuss the wording of the translation, verse-by-verse. The adviser may share how known problem passages have been handled by others and also give advice on broader and more general aspects of the program.

**EXEGETICAL CHECK:** Ensuring accuracy in translation and faithfulness to the source text by comparing the translation to the original Greek or Hebrew.



**CONSISTENCY CHECK:** Ensuring consistent translation of key biblical terms, important theological concepts, Bible names and parallel passages throughout the entire text. Reasons for necessary variations are clarified.

**REVISION:** Changes made to the translation to improve accuracy and readability, making it more faithful to the original meaning and more natural in expression in the target language. Every translation goes through many revisions. Revisions require follow-through, entering corrections and further rechecking.

**FORMAT AND STYLE CHECK:** Ensuring that supplemental material is prepared and checked, including a preface, footnotes, glossaries, maps, pictures, captions and introductions to the books. Verses and chapters are numbered, and spelling, punctuation and paragraphing are checked.

**PROOFREADING:** The long, intense and demanding task of checking all the details of an entire manuscript, including those listed under “Format and Style Check.”

**TYPESETTING:** Once final decisions are made on the aesthetic presentation of the book (size and style of print, overall layout and design, etc.), the edition is ready for print.

# HOW DO I PRAY FOR TRANSLATION PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION?

*Every translation project is unique, but many face similar challenges and obstacles. You are welcome to use this list of prayer points to help you begin and focus.*

## **PRAY FOR THE TRANSLATORS**

Translation teams and their families are vulnerable at this time. Pray the Holy Spirit will encourage the translators and keep their focus on Jesus in every circumstance. Ask God to provide for them financially and for the health and stamina of them and their families during the process. Pray for healthy relationships with local denominations and that they will agree on wording and writing style of the translation.





## **PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE**

As a project nears completion, it is important to prepare those who will be receiving and engaging with the translated Word. Pray for the local church to incorporate the translated Word into their services. Pray that local communities will be excited for the completion and publication of the Scriptures and that they will be transformed by them.

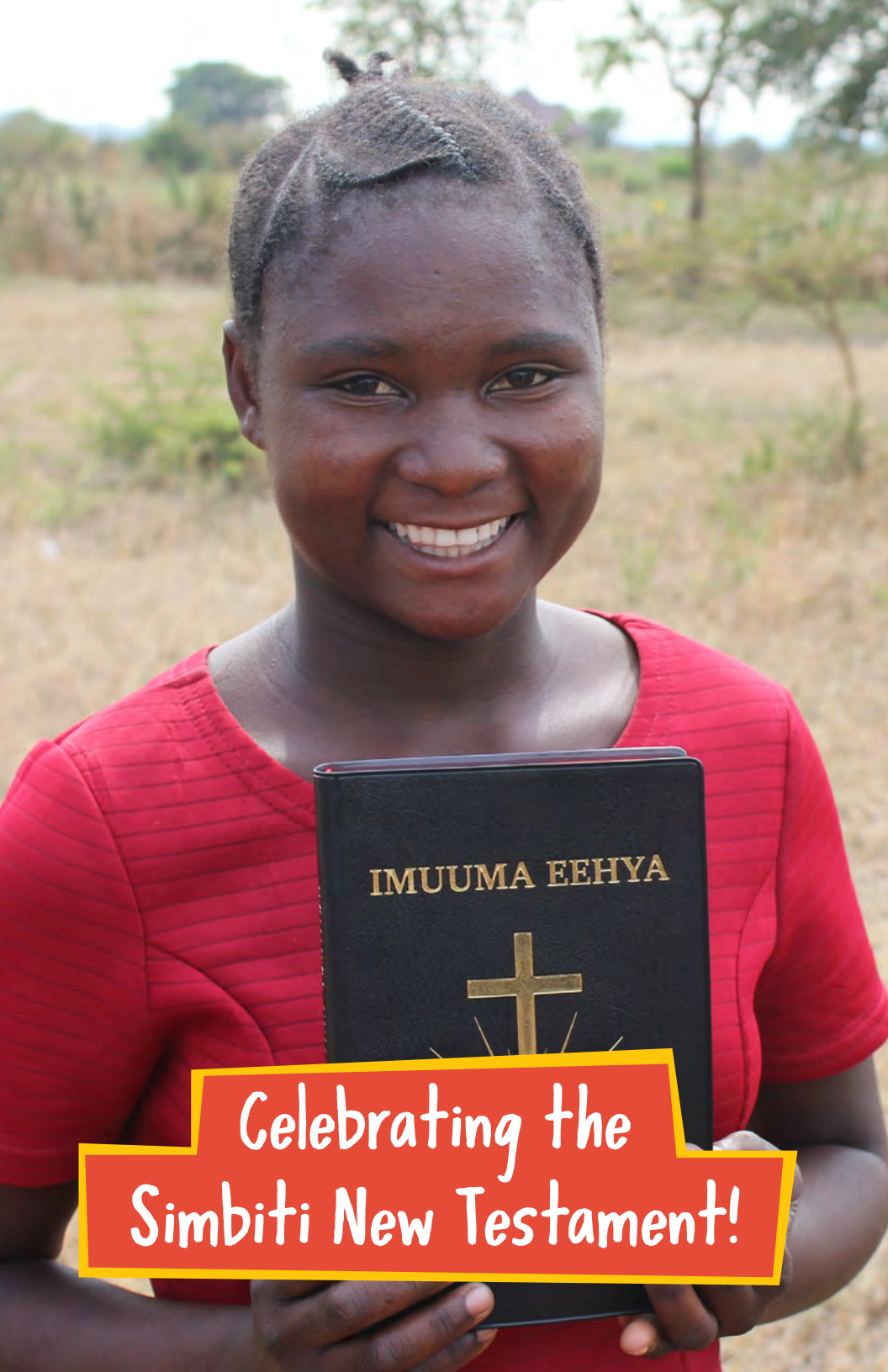
## **PRAY FOR PROTECTION**

Many translators are living and working in sensitive areas. Pray that God will grant safety for those working in translation around the world — especially those working in secret. Also ask God to cover those who may experience sickness or natural disasters.

## **PRAY FOR PROGRESS**

Pray for the finalization of the text. Lift up accuracy for the typesetters who are often working in a language they don't understand. Pray for local readers to participate in a community check of the acceptability of the translation. Ask for God's favor in the printing process, that he will provide the resources needed to publish and that he will guard the delivery of finished products.





IMUUMA EEHYA



Celebrating the  
Simbiti New Testament!

The Mara-Bantu Cluster project in Tanzania is made up of seven language communities working together to complete their New Testament translations. One of these language communities, the Simbiti, recently celebrated their published New Testament!

Simbiti has approximately 113,000 speakers who can now experience God's Word in a language and format they clearly understand. They live primarily in northern Tanzania, close to Lake Victoria and the Kenyan border.

After 12 years of language development and translation work, the Simbiti people and the translation team gathered for a joyous event hosted at a church in Nyanchabakenye Village to celebrate the Simbiti New Testament.

The celebration included a parade of the freshly printed New Testaments, music, readings from Scripture in Simbiti, and passionate speeches. The Simbiti translators reflected on how the Lord guided them throughout the translation and how working on the project transformed their lives — and how they know it will transform the rest of the community too. Since they had the gift of Scripture in Simbiti, the community was encouraged to actively use it and put it to work in their lives.

After the ceremony, the festivities continued outside with a traditional feast. Attendees gathered around the team to purchase their very own copies of the Simbiti New Testament.

Robert Mago, one of the translators, said: "I want to say thank you to everyone who has helped make this possible. I know the Word of God will bring a big change in the Simbiti community."

Praise God for the completion and celebration of the Simbiti New Testament! This translation project has been featured in *The Finish Line*, and your prayers helped bring this New Testament to the Simbiti community. Please continue to pray for the Simbiti as they engage with Scripture, and pray for the other six translation projects within the Mara-Bantu Cluster as they prepare to publish their New Testaments too!

# 31 DAYS OF PRAYER

*Note: The following section is comprised of a list of 31 projects and how to pray for them. Unless otherwise noted, each project is for a complete translation of the New Testament. We are so grateful for your prayers and partnership in Bible translation.*

## **DAY 1: RUNBU\*; Africa (48,000)**

Praise the Lord that consultant checks of the entire New Testament were completed last year! The Runbu team also led literacy activities in towns and refugee camps. They are working on their final review with plans to begin typesetting this year. Faith Comes by Hearing will produce an audio recording of the New Testament, which will be a vital tool for reaching the Runbu.

### **Prayer points:**

- » Wisdom and unity for the translation team as they prepare the final text, maps, glossary of terms, footnotes, illustrations and cross references for typesetting.
- » Clear minds and physical strength for the typesetters as they complete their task. Also pray for the provision of funds to print the New Testament.
- » For the Runbu, who primarily follow another major religion, to know Christ. "... And he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge" (Isaiah 33:6a, ESV).

## **DAY 2: HENAHl\*; Americas (2,000)**

The Henahi have only a few Scripture portions and the "JESUS" film in their language, but in late 2022, the translation team hopes to deliver the New Testament to Henahi communities! Last year the team carefully checked the spelling of all words and ensured that key biblical terms are consistently translated throughout the text before sending it to the typesetter.

### **Prayer points:**

- » Good, functioning equipment and excellent readers to record the New Testament in Henahi.
- » A seamless printing process at a national printing establishment.
- » God's guidance for the team and local believers as they plan a celebration when the New Testaments arrive. May many Henahi attend and be drawn to the Lord.

» Transformation of the Henahi as they use God's Word and apply it to their lives. May they proclaim with the psalmist, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105, NLT).

### **DAY 3: UMBUNDU; Angola (6,000,000)**

Umbundu, a language spoken by one-third of the population of Angola, was originally used for slave and ivory trade between Ovimbundu people and Portuguese settlers in the 1700s. In 1874, Umbundu also became a church language. Now it's the most widely spoken local language in Angola! The Bible Society of Angola launched the Umbundu New Testament in November 2017, and the translation team is working hard to bring Umbundu speakers the entire Bible in their language by 2023.

#### ***Prayer points:***

- » Stamina for the translation team as they add finishing details, including cross references, subtitles, glossaries, maps, footnotes and an introduction to each book.
- » For the team to achieve their goals in God's perfect timing.
- » That the Holy Spirit will stir people's hearts to long for the entire Bible and produce lasting spiritual fruit as God's full Word becomes available to Umbundu speakers.

#### **BIBLE SOCIETY OF ANGOLA**

### **DAY 4: DUGARI\*; Asia**

COVID-19 challenged the Dugari translation team last year when they couldn't meet face-to-face to work on the Bible, but they pressed on via email and Zoom to typeset the Bible and send it for printing. Praise God that the pandemic didn't stop the team's work and that local churches actively participated in preparing the text for publishing. Rejoice that the New Testament and provisional versions of all Old Testament books are available on the internet, and some Scriptures are available in other digital formats and apps.

#### ***Prayer points:***

- » Timely printing of the Bible.
- » Governmental permission in the host country for the team to distribute the Bible.
- » For thousands of Dugari speakers to read and use the Dugari Bible daily.
- » Transformation among Dugari churches and communities as they apply the Word of God to their lives.

## **DAY 5: BWAMU LAA; Burkina Faso (69,200)**

The Bwamu Laa people are invested in learning to read and write in their language as they prepare for their New Testament to arrive. One attendee of a literacy class in Pâ village put it this way: “We are determined to read the Word of God in our mother tongue. That is the reason why we are here every day. We are convinced that the real treasure is in the Word of God. For this reason, we have suspended all our activities to commit ourselves to learning our mother tongue in order to be able to meditate personally on the Word of God and consequently improve our understanding of the Holy Scriptures.”

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Smooth completion of the community proofreading for the Bwamu Laa New Testament.
- » Diligence and attention to detail for the translation team as they carefully check the Scriptures to make sure they are clear and accurate.
- » Typesetting is a lengthy process; pray for good preparation and that the team would make wise decisions about formatting and pictures.

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY**

## **DAY 6: ESIMBI; Cameroon (20,000)**

The Esimbi people live in 10 isolated villages scattered across hills and valleys. True Christians are few; most Esimbi follow a traditional African religion, and churchgoers hesitate to talk to God, believing he is far away. Access to Scripture in Esimbi will draw people to their loving Father. The Esimbi translation team worked diligently to complete the typesetting of the New Testament last year during a time of severe civil unrest. Printers finished two preliminary copies which were presented to the translators at a pre-dedication ceremony on July 2, 2021.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » A smooth printing process in South Korea, safe shipment and effective distribution of the New Testament to all Esimbi communities.
- » Lasting peace in the language area and displaced people to be able to return to their homeland.
- » For Esimbi people to clearly understand the gospel as they engage with Scripture for the first time in their language.

### **CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY**

## **DAY 7: KABA; Central African Republic (83,000)**

A dream became a reality when the Kaba dedicated their New Testament in January 2022. The community is thankful to have both the written Word and an audio version produced by Faith Comes by Hearing. Churches composed worship songs with Kaba Scriptures and are using them in their services.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Peace in the Kaba region.
- » Wide distribution of the New Testament. May the Lord use the translated Scriptures to bring lasting, life-giving hope to all who hear his Word.
- » That the eyes of the Kaba will be opened as they listen to and read his Word in their language: “Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions” (Psalm 119:18, NLT).

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY; SIL

## **DAY 8: KERA; Chad (98,900)**

Since the Kera New Testament dedication in February 2006, the church has tripled! Enthusiasm is high for literacy and Scripture engagement activities. The Old Testament team, two Kera exegetes/translators (who ensure that the translation is faithful to the biblical texts) and another Kera translator began their work in 2008. Praise God for the good progress they made last year; the Old Testament was consultant checked despite COVID-19 restrictions and severe famine in the area.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Wisdom for the team as they set up the final phase of the project, which is a collaborative effort between the Kera Translation Committee, the Chadian Bible Society, Seed Company and SIL.
- » Patience and perseverance for the translation team as they work through many details to prepare the Old Testament manuscript for typesetting.
- » Provision of the necessary funds to print the whole Bible.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF CHAD; SEED COMPANY; SIL

## **DAY 9: CHOCÓ CLUSTER PROJECT — *Headwater\** and *Mountain\** languages; Colombia (47,300)**

The Headwater and Mountain translation teams face several challenges, including the threat of COVID-19 and ongoing political unrest. Despite these difficult circumstances, the team formatted the New Testaments in both languages and sent them for printing. Both groups anticipate the arrival of God's Word in their communities!

### ***Prayer points:***

- » That the New Testaments would encourage people. Pray also for increased interest and support for literacy in the languages.
- » Wide distribution of the Scriptures. Pray that those who are traveling to distribute them would be safe and wise in the midst of civil and social unrest.
- » For the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of community members as God's Word is shared.

FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALIZED PEOPLE GROUPS; SIL

## **DAY 10: PALAKA; Côte d'Ivoire (9,000)**

Praise God that listeners came from more than 10 villages for a public read-through of the New Testament last year! A majority of the listeners were chiefs of those villages, and one is the chief over the whole Palaka region. As the Palaka say, listeners have “grabbed [Scripture] with two hands, wrestling with the application of God's Word to their own lives.” They are eager to share it with others! “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17, ESV).

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Unity and stability in the country, and for it to remain open to the gospel.
- » That people of all ages will continue to show a strong interest in learning to read, resulting in many fluent readers across the Palaka region. Pray for the team to develop post-literacy books, libraries and reading practice for all ages.
- » Wisdom for the team to make the right decisions about Palaka orthography and tone. This is necessary to create a spellchecker for the New Testament and is also necessary so the language is easy to read.
- » Stamina and wisdom as the team handles a myriad of details to prepare the New Testament for printing this year.

ETHNOS360



## **DAY 11: LIKA; Democratic Republic of the Congo (80,000)**

The Lika postponed their New Testament dedication three times last year due to COVID-19, but praise God that they celebrated in November 2021! The community shared a feast and began distributing the Scriptures. May God's Word penetrate the hearts of the Lika so they can proclaim with the psalmist, "Oh, how I love your instructions! I think about them all day long" (Psalm 119:97, NLT).

### ***Prayer points:***

- » A new and effective distribution strategy for the New Testaments in light of COVID-19.
- » For the community to remain thirsty for the Scriptures.
- » For God to prepare the hearts of people to integrate the use and study of Scripture into their daily lives and their churches.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

## **DAY 12: DIZIN; Ethiopia (52,000)**

The Dizin team rejoices in the consultant check progress that was made last year despite COVID-19 restrictions. While they await their New Testament, Dizin churches are actively using translated Scriptures each Sunday! Last year, a marginalized man with leprosy visited a church after listening to God's Word in Dizin on a MegaVoice, a digital audio player preloaded with Scripture. He received Christ, became a dedicated disciple and has started to share the Good News with others.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Lasting peace for Ethiopia which has endured much political unrest. Pray also for COVID-19 to dissipate.
- » Clear communication and attention to detail as the team works with an adviser on the tedious task of consistency checking for spelling and key terms.
- » Stamina for the translation team as they press toward the publication of the Dizin New Testament. "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up" (Galatians 6:9, NLT).

ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTHWEST BETHEL SYNOD; SEED COMPANY

## **DAY 13: SAHO; Ethiopia (230,000)**

Rejoice that the Saho team typeset their New Testament and sent it for printing last year! The translation team immediately began work on the Old Testament. While virtually all Ethiopia's Saho people claim to be Christians, the Saho who live across the border in another country follow a different world religion. Church and denominational leaders believe that having the Scriptures in Saho will inspire discipleship and evangelism.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Wide distribution of the Saho New Testament. May it be used in churches, in families and by individuals. Pray also for spiritual insight and diligence for the translation team as they translate the Old Testament.
- » Growth and transformation for believers as they study Scripture in their language and become stronger lights to Saho unbelievers in their communities. "No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house" (Matthew 5:15, NLT).

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; SEED COMPANY**

## **DAY 14: DOBEL; Indonesia (10,000)**

The Dobel people live in the Aru Islands Regency, a group of about 95 low-lying islands in the Maluku province of eastern Indonesia. Praise God that the project is progressing smoothly despite COVID-19 health risks for many of the people involved in the work. Translators encounter poor internet service often, but they have found ways to communicate with others on the team.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » That the team will be able to coordinate with the consultant for the final check of 2 Corinthians, 1-2 Peter and Hebrews despite travel restrictions.
- » Insightful team review of the book of Matthew so it will be ready for consultant checks.
- » Understanding and dedication as church leaders and members learn to incorporate Scripture into their daily lives.

**ARU DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

## **DAY 15: POKOMO; Kenya (95,000)**

The Pokomo, who have a keen interest in and love for their language, received the New Testament in 2005. This year, the translation team held community read-throughs for the Old Testament. Shortly after a read-through, one pastor carried the Pokomo Scriptures to his church and made a rule that whenever the congregation reads Scripture in Kiswahili, they will also read it in Pokomo!

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Creative ideas for the Pokomo church and community to raise funds to cover 50% of the printing costs for the New Testament.
- » Vision for the project advisory committee as they plan for the dedication.
- » Health, safety and comfort for the Pokomo translation team and their families.
- » Peace in the Tana River area. May the Pokomo New Testament dedication bring an increased excitement to believers and draw many unbelievers to learn about God.

**BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY; SEED COMPANY**

## **DAY 16: MALAGASY HIGHLANDS CLUSTER — *Betsileo, Sihanaka and Tsimihety languages; Madagascar (7,372,000)***

The goal of this project is to provide New Testaments for the Betsileo, Sihanaka and Tsimihety language communities, large communities who have strong ties to their homelands, cultures and languages. The translation team members are all volunteers who have remained motivated to complete the New Testament in their languages although they also work or study full time. Praise the Lord that despite many challenges due to COVID-19, the team moved forward with remote consultant checking via the internet last year.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Good communication and strong internet connection as the team works remotely with a consultant to check the New Testament.
- » Motivation for the volunteer translators as they continue to sacrifice their time and energy for this important work over a prolonged period.
- » Transformation among the communities as people read about Jesus Christ in their languages. “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12, NLT).

**FJKM-AMBOHIPO CHURCH; SIL**

## **DAY 17: GUERRERO AMUZGO; Mexico (50,000)**

The Guerrero Amuzgo, known for weaving colorful garments featuring flora and fauna in their region, now know that God is stronger than any other power! Rejoice that many who formerly lived in fear of spirits and curses have found peace through Scripture in their language. They have also learned that God is not distant or foreign, but he sees them and is approachable.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Health as well as spiritual and emotional strength for the team to complete the Bible. In late 2019, Barcimeo, the main translator and coordinator of the project, died. The two remaining team members, Erica and Sylvia (Barcimeo's daughter), deeply miss him and his vast translation knowledge, experience and wise advice. But the two ladies are committed: "We walk trusting only in God who will help us complete this project."
- » Completion of all final consultant checks and revisions needed before preparing the manuscript for publication.
- » For God to provide all the resources needed to print the Bible.
- » Steadfastness and spiritual protection for local church leaders as they support the project even as they face challenges.

SEED COMPANY; UNIÓN NACIONAL DE TRADUCTORES INDÍGENAS

## **DAY 18: MEETTO; Mozambique (1,200,000)**

During the read-through of the Meetto New Testament draft, Jacob — who worked on the translation for 20 years — joyfully reflected on the team's work. "It's time," he said. "The people need this book." Thank the Lord for his faithfulness to the Meetto. The team printed and dedicated 19,000 copies of the New Testament in late 2021! Audio Scripture Ministries is also helping distribute an audio version.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Wide use of the Meetto New Testament among churches and believers. May the translated Scriptures reach the farthest corners of the language region.
- » Lasting fruit from ongoing literacy initiatives and audio distribution of God's Word.
- » The Lord's peace in the midst of insurgency in the region. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7, ESV).

SEED COMPANY; SIL

## **DAY 19: AOKHO; Nigeria (5,000)**

“The Aokho are taking the lead and are the owners and leaders of their Bible translation,” a project coordinator said. “They feel responsible for the project and know that God will send others to provide help where it’s needed.” The team, who published the Gospel of Luke and produced the “JESUS” film last year, plans to complete the New Testament in both print and audio format by the end of 2023.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Unity and deepening faith for the translation team as they grow in their mastery of the translation process.
- » Grace for the project adviser as he combines responsibilities at project and organizational levels.
- » For churches, communities and homes to widely use the existing Scriptures, leading to hope, eternal life and freedom from fear and bondage to false beliefs. “And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32, NLT).

### **MISSION FOR LANGUAGE TRANSLATION**

## **DAY 20: MAGI; Papua New Guinea (10,000)**

The Mailu people, who speak Magi, have a New Testament in their language. They wanted more of God’s Word so they are pushing to translate the Old Testament. When it’s completed, the Magi Bible will be the first full Bible produced by the Bible Society of Papua New Guinea since 2001. Rejoice that the team received funding to hold workshops to review the translated Scripture. A consultant in New Zealand was also able to continue checking the translation via the internet using Paratext software to evaluate the accuracy and consistency of the draft.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » A face-to-face meeting between the team and the consultant as they translate the Bible into the Magi language.
- » Swift completion of consultant checks on the remaining books.
- » Timely and productive preparation to format the complete Bible in Magi.

### **BIBLE SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

## **DAY 21: NUMANGGANG; Papua New Guinea (3,000)**

The Numanggang translation team is diligently pressing forward to translate the Old Testament and revise the New Testament. COVID-19, however, has slowed them down. The consultant in the U.S. has been unable to travel to Papua New Guinea to check translation drafts, but he prepared questions for five previously drafted books. Praise the Lord that team members in both countries were able to connect via Zoom and that the team in the community continued to revise the New Testament for recording.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Reliable communication options and for people to successfully use Zoom to check the last 10 Old Testament books.
- » Protection for the Numanggang people from COVID-19; they do not have access to medical facilities.
- » Timely completion of the audio version of the New Testament so it can be included in the version already available for smartphones and MP3 players. Pray also that the audio version will reach many Numanggang.
- » Perseverance and faith for the team members as they press forward amid multiple challenges.

SIL

## **DAY 22: PASIL GUINA-ANG KALINGA; Philippines (10,577)**

Many Guina-ang people fear the spirit world. They don't want to anger the spirits and be punished by sickness or death. Early in the translation project, one of the Guina-ang translators dreamed of a dead relative — a bad omen in her culture that would cause a family member to be sick or die. But when she talked with a translator from another language group, she learned that Jesus is the answer to all her fears. She trusted Christ and is growing in her faith as she translates the New Testament!

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Stable internet so the team can continue to work together while living in different locations.
- » For the team to finalize details of the five remaining books (Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Hebrews and Revelation) so they can submit them for consultant checking.
- » Wisdom, strength, provision and protection as the team reviews all 27 books of the New Testament to prepare it for typesetting. They hope to launch the New Testament in mid-2023!

- » That the Holy Spirit prepares the Guina-ang people to accept his Word and be transformed. “Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth” (John 17:17, NLT).

TRANSLATION ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

## **DAY 23: VILI; Republic of Congo (50,000)**

The Vili New Testament moved on to typesetting in March 2020 and the printed books arrived in Pointe-Noire in January 2021, but the Scripture dedication was postponed for nine months due to COVID-19. The New Testament was dedicated on Sept. 11, 2021 and is now in the hands of the people! In April 2021, a long-term translator and member of the Vili team went to be with the Lord. He was able to hold a copy of the Vili New Testament before passing.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » That the Vili New Testament will be embraced in churches and used in services, Bible studies and homes. May the people “hunger and thirst for righteousness” so they can be filled (Matthew 5:6, NIV).
- » The formation of an Old Testament translation team; the Vili want the entire Bible.
- » Vili speakers in Gabon and Angola to be open to using these Scriptures, and various church communities to organize themselves for future language development activities.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF CONGO

## **DAY 24: SOUTHERN ALTAI; Russia (57,400)**

The Southern Altai received the New Testament in 2003. Praise God that the team working on the Old Testament completed their translation work despite not meeting face-to-face because of COVID-19! After the Old Testament is approved and tested, the Bible Society of Russia will partner with the Institute of Bible Translation, who translated the New Testament, to produce a complete Bible.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Wisdom for the team to know how to test the Old Testament translation with speakers so it sounds natural and is easy to understand. COVID-19 also makes this challenging.
- » Successful plans as the team merges the existing New Testament with the newly translated Old Testament to produce a full Bible. They need to carefully review and align key terms, quotes and passages that appear in both. The merger project is tentatively scheduled to begin this year.



- » Encouragement and unity for the teams who will be involved in the merger project.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF RUSSIA; INSTITUTE OF BIBLE TRANSLATION (RUSSIA/CIS)

## **DAY 25: CHEKE HOLO; Solomon Islands (10,800)**

The Cheke Holo New Testament was published in 1993, but the people were not satisfied; they wanted the complete Bible in their language! Despite his absence from the Solomon Islands due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, a translation consultant working remotely with the Cheke Holo team was amazed by the translation progress the team made last year. Translators reviewed Numbers, Ezekiel, Job, Exodus and Leviticus. They continue to update the Cheke Holo New Testament while also pushing toward a translated Old Testament.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Continued health for the team as they translate the Old Testament and revise the New Testament. The senior translator is 87 years old!
- » Travel restrictions to lift in the Solomon Islands so the entire team can be together again.
- » Joyful acceptance of the Old Testament in the Cheke Holo community.

BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY PARTNERSHIP; SIL

## **DAY 26: TALAPATRA CLUSTER PROJECT – *Ormid\** language; South Asia (519,000)**

The translation team longs for all Ormid people to know the truth and accept the Lord Jesus, but COVID-19 has slowed their progress in providing the Scriptures for the people. Give thanks that, although the team has faced many obstacles, God protected them and kept them healthy as they worked.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Protection for the health of the team as they face COVID-19 and safety as they are persecuted because of their faith.
- » For successful consultant checks that will be completed this year.
- » Wisdom for the team to identify priorities as they work through the final steps necessary to publish the New Testament this year. “The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives” (Psalm 37:23, NLT).

## **DAY 27: TAZIG\*, South Asia (8,000)**

The Tazig now have access to most of the Tazig New Testament, which has been checked by a consultant and published on a Bible app. Only four books and portions of Genesis need to be checked. Praise God for increased interest in the Tazig Scriptures and Bible app, which has been downloaded more than 500 times! Rejoice that although Tazig villages are difficult to reach from the capital city where some of the translators live, the translation team has been able to visit communities and distribute food to some people impacted by COVID-19.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Growth in numbers and maturity among the Tazig church as people read their Bible app.
- » Good health for the translation team.
- » Completed consultant checks for the final four books and portions of Genesis.
- » That the team meeting the practical needs of Tazig people suffering from COVID-19 will demonstrate God's love to them. "... Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father" (Matthew 5:16, NLT).

## **DAY 28: HARUM\*; Southeast Asia (300,000)**

As team members translate the New Testament into the language of the Harum people, a national church planting organization is using the Scriptures to evangelize and disciple members of the community. Translation efforts have been going well despite the team working remotely. Although most of the Harum population practices another major religion, a few have helped review some of the Scriptures.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Stable internet as consultants check the translated Scriptures from remote locations.
- » Suitable local speakers from the majority religion to help in further reviews.
- » Good health for the Harum people as they practice social distancing. Many hospitals are struggling to help COVID-19 patients during this difficult time.
- » A new team member to focus on Scripture use activities to reach the language group.

## **DAY 29: SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CLUSTER PROJECT** – *Matengo, Mpoto and Ndendeule languages; Tanzania* (910,000)

The translation team for this cluster, which is made up of three language groups, is currently working on a New Testament for each group with the goal of completing the full Bible. Praise the Lord for the heart cry of the local people who are asking when the New Testaments will be available. One Mpoto man shared, “I got this light [understanding] through the Word of God written in my local language so that I can enlighten other people to know the Word of God. I am [eager] to see the young children get a chance to read [these Scriptures] so that they can learn through their childhood language and know the Word of God.”

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Completion of the detailed typesetting process which has slowed due to COVID-19.
- » Open doors for the printing of the Matengo, Mpoto and Ndendeule New Testaments.
- » God’s protection over the translators and their families from COVID-19.

SEED COMPANY; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

## **DAY 30: LAMEN; Vanuatu (850)**

The Lamén people are located on Epi Island, which is among the 80 islands comprising Vanuatu in the South Pacific Ocean. Although COVID-19 has made the translation process more challenging, the team is persevering to finish the final edits of the New Testament.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Perseverance and time for the team to complete final edits, proofreading and typesetting so they can send the New Testament for printing this year.
- » Safety, health and strength for the translators and their families.
- » Receptive hearts among the Lamén. May they testify with the prophet Jeremiah: “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight” (Jeremiah 15:16a, NIV).

## DAY 31: MAKORI\*; West Africa (1,000,000)

The Makori are mostly farmers, craftsmen and merchants. Farmers raise millet, sorghum, corn and peanuts, and some also keep sheep, goats and horses. Most Makori follow another major religion. Christians are few, and insurgents threaten their way of life. Praise God that the team is finishing the final consultant check of the last books of the New Testament in early 2022. Many Makori people are participating in literacy classes, and additional literacy books are needed so that members of the community can become more proficient readers.

### Prayer points:

- » Successful recording of the New Testament after consultant checking is finished.
- » God's help with the typesetting process, which begins when the consultant checking is completed.
- » The Holy Spirit's guidance as the team responds to multiple opportunities to hold additional trauma healing classes. These classes have brought incredible help and hope to the area.
- » For the team to be satisfied with the end result of the translation.
- » God's protection over those who are fleeing from insurgents in the Makori language area.

*\*Name changed.*

Thank you for praying for these 31 translation projects.

# DON'T STOP NOW!

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Be joyful in hope, patient in  
affliction, faithful in prayer.

– Romans 12:12 (NIV)



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