

Wycliffe®
BibleTranslators

2018

THE
FINISH LINE







PRAYING FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION
PROJECTS AS THEY CROSS

THE **FINISH LINE**





DEAR FRIENDS,

Having trusted in the Good News message of Christ, we're part of God's family — we've been adopted and received all the rights and privileges of his children. Now Christ calls each of us by name — we're his friend.

I heard the voice of Christ many years ago, but there are still millions of people around the world who are waiting to hear that invitation to relationship in a language and form they relate to best, most often the language of their birth. They're still waiting to know the God who loves them and longs for them to be a part of his family.

In this booklet, you'll find 30 Bible translation projects that are within three years of completion. These final years are often filled with hardships and obstacles that translation teams must overcome in order for the communities they serve to hear God's Word — his invitation — in their heart language. As we join together in covering these projects, teams and communities in prayer, we're playing a role in seeing God's global family expand.

Thank you for praying for these translation projects as they near the finish line. May God be glorified as more and more people are invited into his family in a language that speaks directly to their heart.

Warmly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Creson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Bob Creson
President/CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators, USA

ABOUT THE FINISH LINE

Prayer is an important part of Bible translation, and it is 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. These projects and teams need prayer, and you can be a part of the team that supports them. But these 30 projects aren't the only ones in need; they represent more than 300 similar translation projects worldwide waiting to cross the finish line. A complete list of all projects, sorted by area of the world, can be downloaded anytime from wycliffe.org/finishline. Sign up to receive prayer email updates, which include a 30-day Finish Line prayer guide for each month, our e-newsletter and more at wycliffe.org/joinprayer. The requests can easily be printed and used in your personal prayer time, with your family, in your small group or at a prayer meeting. Additionally, you can reach us at **1-800-WYCLIFFE** (1-800-992-5433 ext. 3870) or by email at prayer_usa@wycliffe.org to request a printed copy by mail.





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 PEOPLE

Translation teams and their families are vulnerable at this time. Pray for their stamina and health. Pray that their focus will remain on Jesus, despite the challenges that will come. Pray for their hearts to be encouraged by one another.

PRAY FOR THE PROCESS

Pray for trained consultants who check the work. Pray for the involvement and consensus of church denominations on the wording, formatting and printing of the translation. Pray for the final proofreading process, asking God to show them any errors that would mar the translation. Pray for the technology involved in every project and that nothing would hinder the finished product.

PRAY FOR PROTECTION

Pray for the safety of those involved with translation projects operating in sensitive areas. Pray for peace in areas affected by turmoil and unrest. Pray for provision in the event of hurricanes, cyclones, floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Pray for the courage and strength of mother-tongue speakers in the event of persecution.

PRAY FOR THE PRINTING

Pray for the typesetters, who often work in a language they do not understand, that they will be accurate and maintain the integrity of the translation. Pray for availability of paper. Pray for the printers as they work to ensure that inking, pagination and binding result in clear and durable books. Pray that the published books will be delivered in God's perfect power and timing.

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 advisor meets with the translation team to discuss the wording of the translation, verse by verse. The advisor 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.

A CELEBRATION 115 YEARS IN THE MAKING

On May 23, 1902, Reverend John Goldie led a party of missionaries to bring the gospel to the Roviana people on New Georgia Island. These missionaries included many Pacific Islanders from places like Tonga, Fiji and Samoa. About a century before they traveled to the Solomon Islands, the gospel had come to those countries. As a result of hearing the Good News, people passionately went out to spread its message — including to the Roviana people. Exactly 115 years later, descendants of those who received the gospel in 1902 were in attendance for the dedication of the complete Roviana Bible!

The United Church held a two-and-a-half-day celebration, because there was much to rejoice about! Not only were the people celebrating the 115th year of the gospel arriving to their island and the complete Roviana Bible, but they were also rejoicing over the launch of the audio New Testament in their language.

Wycliffe USA Chief Operations Officer Russ Hersman attended the celebration and was in awe of the sheer amount of collaboration that took place between different organizations to bring God's Word to the Roviana people. The Bible Society of the South Pacific was the publisher of the New Testament. SIL International and the Solomon Islands Translation Advisory Group (SITAG) were advisors on the project. Wycliffe USA and Seed Company contributed to the funding of the project at different points. Faith Comes By Hearing recorded the New Testament. Youth With A Mission (YWAM) was also present for the dedication. Their team of eight, including four Roviana speakers, were at the dedication to help sell Bibles. And they helped to take the Bibles and audio recording from village to village to distribute them.

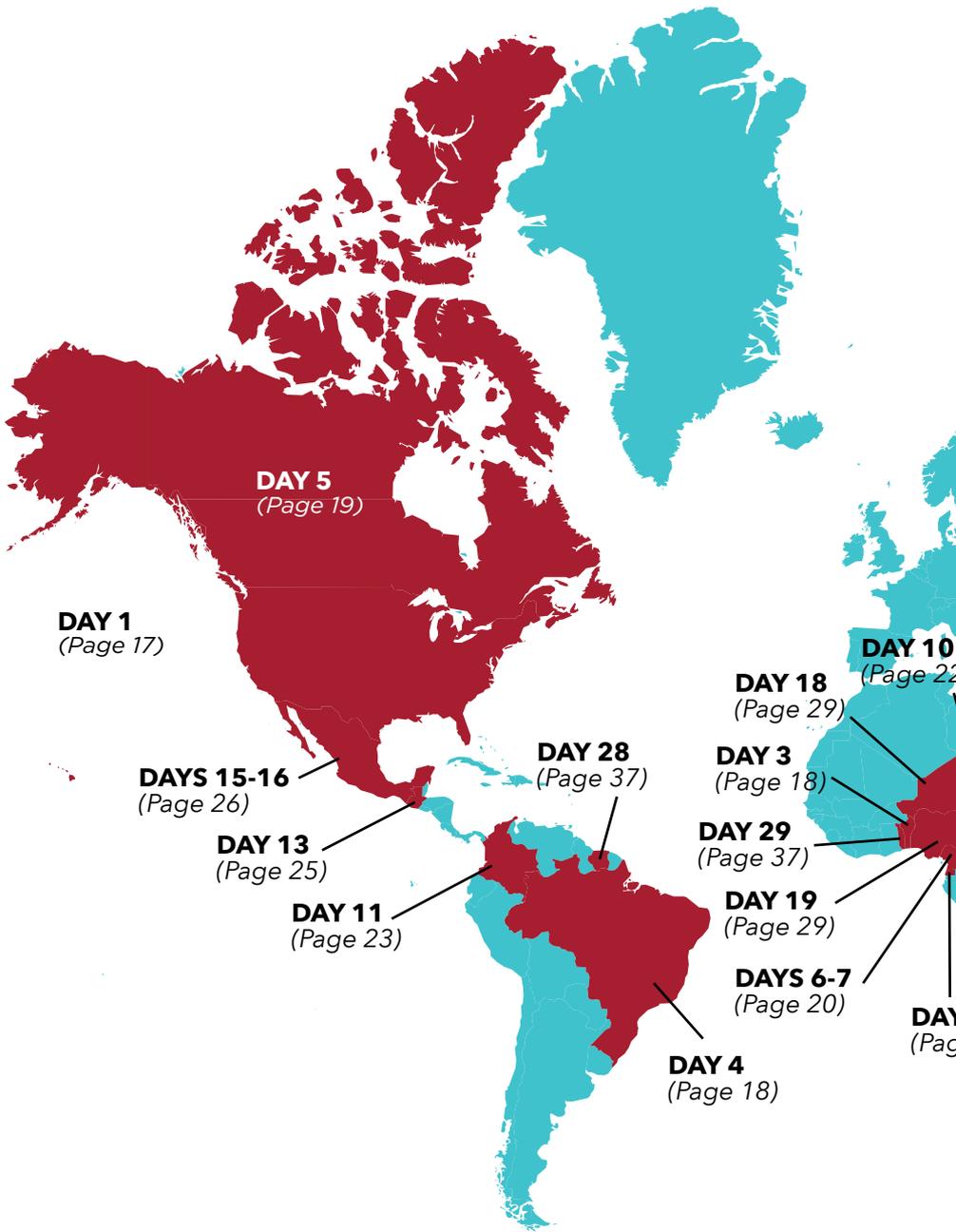
Later this year, the Jesus Film Project — in partnership with YWAM — will be in the Solomon Islands to record the “JESUS” film into Roviana. “It’s such an awesome collaboration,” Russ said. “All these agencies have come together to help translate, distribute and promote the use of the Bible in Roviana.”

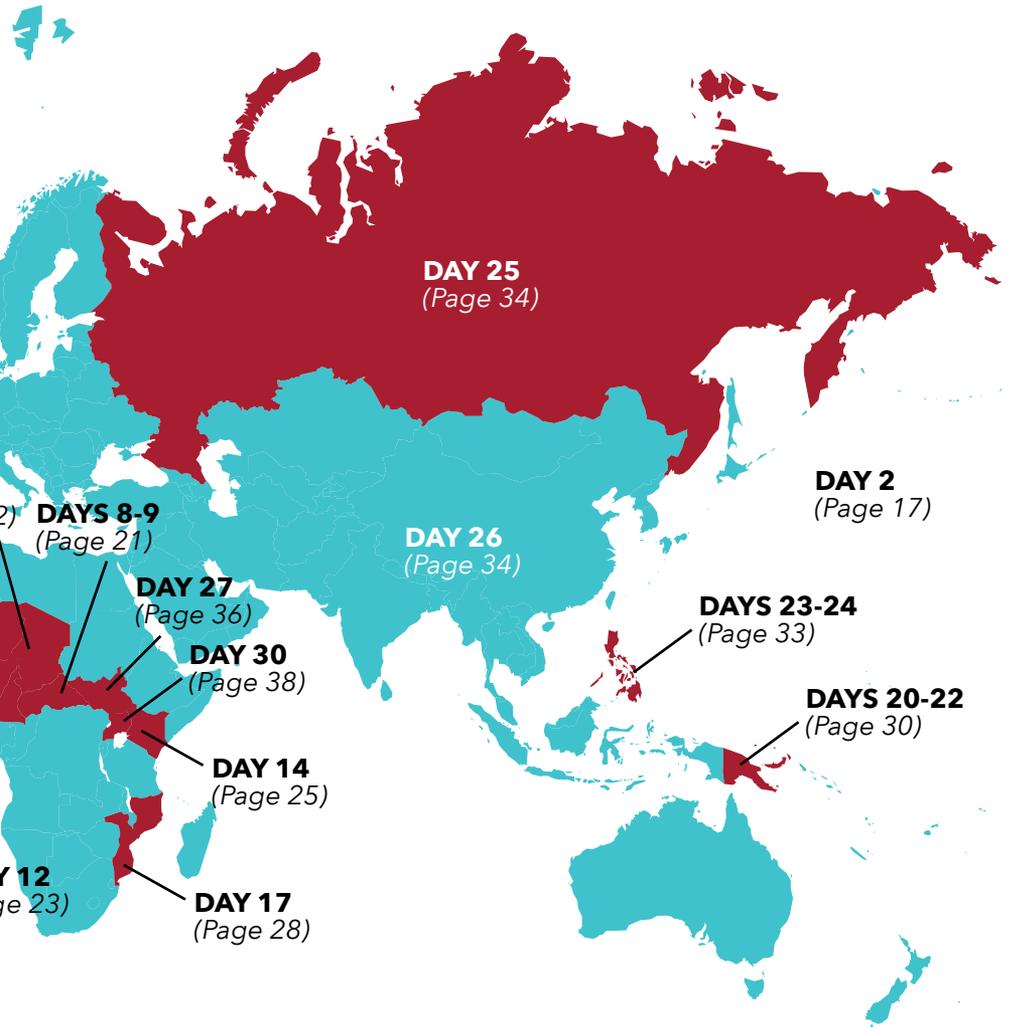
For many years, Roviana was the language of the United Church in the Solomon Islands. So not only will the Bible be put to use, but it will also be used as the source text for other translations in the region!

“It’s cool to see the way this project has massive ripple effects,” Russ affirmed. The Roviana project is truly an example of what it looks like to be a part of the global Church.

The Roviana project has been featured in The Finish Line for several years. People have prayed this New Testament through to completion! Your prayers can help do the same for more projects around the world.









30 DAYS OF PRAYER

Note: The Finish Line 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. This is one of the many times in the course of a translation project when spiritual attacks seem to be felt more acutely. For deeper prayer points and updated information, websites are listed under some language groups. In the following prayer requests, an organization name listed at the end of the entry indicates a translation project handled by a partner organization. Unless otherwise noted, each project is for a complete translation of the New Testament. For most projects, the population is included after the country or area name.

Day 1: **MODLA***; AMERICAS (14,300)

Praise the Lord! After some delays the New Testament was sent to South Korea for printing in June 2017. When it arrives back in country, a dedication will be held in 2018.

- » **Pray** for unity among the churches in the Modla area and that they will come together to use and promote the New Testament.
- » **Ask the Lord** to anoint plans for a dedication and that this might be a unifying force among the believers.
- » **Thank the Lord** that the Modla already have a multivoice audio recording of the New Testament on Proclaimers, solar-powered digital players. Because they are an oral society, they will gladly listen to a recording of the Scriptures.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to touch and transform many lives as they listen to and read the Word of God in their heart language.

Day 2: **ASHAK***; ASIA (25,000,000)

Praise God! The Bible was presented to government dignitaries in the capital city of this country last summer. After receiving their Bible for the first time, responses included: “When I got this Bible in my hand I almost cry. We were waiting for this moment for a long time!” “I’m delighted the day has come that believers have awaited for years.”

**name changed*

“We got our book! We are reading parts for the first time and learning many things we didn’t know. We now recognize where we haven’t been walking in God’s ways.”

- » **Pray** for ongoing efforts to develop Bible-related media products and for effective distribution of items that have been released.
- » **Ask God** to bring together everything needed to record these Scriptures in audio — plans, finances, equipment, personnel and government permission. **Pray** that the recording process will go smoothly.
- » **Pray** for widespread interest in the Scriptures, and that those who are spiritually hungry will be able to access them.
- » **Lift up** the need to find suitable partners and establish networks so that printed copies of the Bible will be available to Ashak speakers around the world.

Day 3: YOM; BENIN (300,000)

The Yom translation team is focused on the details of preparing the whole Bible for publication.

- » **Pray** they will finish revising the New Testament, published in 1986, by the end of June in order to send the complete manuscript for page layout.
- » **Ask the Lord** to give each person on the team stamina and wisdom. **Pray** also for stable internet and electricity.
- » **Praise God** for MiDi Bible in Switzerland, a nonprofit organization that publishes Bibles for minority peoples. They will publish the Bible and are paying for half the costs. **Thank the Lord** for another generous donor who is covering the other half.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint each Bible and draw people into an intimate relationship with Christ as they read the Scriptures.

SIM INTERNATIONAL — SIM.ORG

Day 4: JAMAMADÍ; BRAZIL (300)

The Jamamadí translation project was a challenge from the start. Bob and Barb, a couple from the U.S., began to work there in 1963 but for the

first 27 years, no one in the community would repeat phrases to them. The Jamamadí believed that spirits could gain control of them through capturing their words, so learning the language was extremely difficult and slow. Another time someone attempted to kill Bob, but his revolver would not fire.

» **Praise God** that after 27 years, the community was impacted by the story of Noah and the ark and 41 people made a decision to follow Christ. As a result, they dropped their fear of repeating words and the Jamamadí church was born!

» **Thank the Lord** that on August 2, 2017, the Jamamadí New Testament was presented to the people. Of the 400 copies that were printed, over 200 were purchased! The celebration included a festive meal, eight choral groups and impromptu testimonies. The time concluded with everyone present singing praise to the Lord and hugging each other.

» **Pray** that God's Word will produce abundant fruit in the hearts of the Jamamadí and also help them to distinguish truth from false doctrines in the area.

SIL

Day 5: **NORTHERN EAST CREE; CANADA (8,000)**

This project began in 2006 and faced unique challenges, including the deaths of two gifted mother-tongue translators — one in a snowmobile accident and the other to cancer.

» **Praise God** for providing other translators and for enabling the team, together with the Canadian Bible Society, to typeset and publish the New Testament. Copies arrived in the community of Whapmagoostui (Great Whale River) on the Hudson Bay last year!

» **Thank the Lord** that initial distribution started during the inauguration of a newly elected grand chief who is leader of all Northern East Cree communities. The adult children of the first Cree translator presented New Testaments to the grand chief and other dignitaries, which added prestige to the book. Boxes of New Testaments were then taken by representatives back to their communities.

» **Pray** that the New Testaments' availability will become widely known and accessed in all forms.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in people's lives so that they may be transformed as they read and listen to God's Word in Northern East Cree.

Day 6: **BABANKI; CAMEROON (15,286)**

Several New Testament translation projects in Cameroon are almost at the finish line, including the Babanki. Praise the Lord!

» As the team awaits the arrival of the books from the overseas printing firm, they have strategically mobilized numerous literacy workshops to train 1,000 more Babanki to read and write the language. **Pray** that the new readers will be some of the first to buy New Testaments and share them with their families.

» **Ask God** to anoint other activities to teach the people how to engage with Scripture in practical ways that impact their lives and culture.

» **Pray** that many Babanki will attend the dedication — those in surrounding communities, government leaders, church officials and young people too. **Lift up** the Babanki people to the Lord, asking him to draw each one into a transforming relationship with Christ.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

Day 7: **NDOP CLUSTER PROJECT — Bambalang and Bamunka languages; CAMEROON (60,000)**

The Bambalang New Testament will be dedicated and delivered to Bambalang communities in 2018! Thank the Lord for this great milestone.

» **Pray** that the dedication will glorify God and motivate people to buy and use God's life-giving Word. **Lift up** ongoing Scripture engagement activities, asking the Lord to use them to draw many into the Scriptures.

» **Thank the Lord** for all of the partners who have worked on and supported the translation of the New Testament since 1997.

» The Bamunka New Testament team has several steps still to complete. **Ask God** to fill them with energy, strength and wisdom as they move the final books through a consultant check. They also need to finalize the tone orthography and some checks and read-throughs by members of the community.

» **Ask the Lord** to guide both teams as they consider starting Old Testament translation.

» **Pray** for God's Word to effectively permeate these communities and cultures for God's glory.

INTERCHURCH COMMITTEES OF BAMBALANG AND BAMUNKA; SIL; WYCLIFFE CANADA; WYCLIFFE UK

Day 8: **GBEYA; CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** (200,000)

The translation team is based in the capital city due to unrest in their language area. They have not been able to travel to the Gbeya community, which slows down the work.

» **Pray** for peace so that the team can return to live in their homeland. **Lift up** the 70 literacy teachers who have discontinued classes due to the unrest; **pray** that classes might begin again.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to use Scripture portions in the lives of church leaders as they await the arrival of the full New Testament. Their positive support is key to acceptance and use of the Gbeya Scriptures.

» **Pray** that some team members might be able to participate in two workshops: one to work on a Gbeya dictionary (this gives prestige to the language and enhances its use), and one on "Healing the Wounds of Trauma," which addresses their experiences in the last four years of violence.

» **Lift up** the translation team as they prepare the New Testament for printing. They are thoroughly checking the text, writing book introductions, and choosing and inserting illustrations. They would like to hold a dedication next year.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

Day 9: **MPYEMO; CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** (29,000)

Twenty-eight individuals took a literacy course to become fluent readers in their mother tongue. The first time a Mypemo pastor preached in his own language, a great number of women came up after worship to thank him. The team rejoices over this positive feedback and is encouraged to keep working.

- » **Give thanks** to God for the consultant's checks of the books of Acts and Galatians and for the drafting of Romans. **Pray** that the message of these books will draw Mpyemo people to the Lord.
- » The team is experiencing several challenges: the condition of the roads isn't good, travel costs have increased and the security situation is difficult. **Ask the Lord** to use these challenges for the good of Bible translation and to protect them, as well as all Mpyemo speakers.
- » **Ask God** to deliver the Mpyemo area from witchcraft, which has long had a hold on their culture. **Pray** that Jesus will deliver many people from the consequences of this practice and lead them to trust God instead.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

Day 10: **MIGAAMA; CHAD** (20,000)

Rejoice that in spite of team members living in three different locations in Chad, they have made good progress in the translation.

- » **Ask the Lord** to continue to give them excellent progress so they can complete consultant checks of the last books: Colossians, 1-2 Peter, Hebrews and Revelation.
- » **Lift up** the main exegete, who ensures faithfulness of the translation to the biblical text. She needs wisdom in balancing work with the Migaama project and other responsibilities in Chad.
- » **Pray** for the team as they begin to check through all the New Testament books to standardize key terms and parallel passages. Ideally they would like all members of the translation team to be involved. This is a challenge when they live in three different places.

» **Pray** for peace in Chad so nothing hinders the completion of the Migaama New Testament.

SIL

Day 11: **WOUNAAN MEU; COLOMBIA (4,000)**

A New Testament for the Wounaan ethnic group in Panama was completed in 1988. However, the Wounaan Meu in Colombia use a different alphabet, and believers and pastors there have been asking for the Scriptures in a version that they can understand.

» **Thank the Lord** that the Wounaan in Colombia are not satisfied with Scriptures that look strange to them but want them in their own language that reaches their hearts!

» **Praise God** that the needed alphabet changes were made last year from the Panama version and typesetting was initiated. **Ask God** to enable the typesetting team to finish soon so that the New Testament can be printed.

» **Pray** for God to raise up personnel to work with the Wounaan to prepare them to receive the Scriptures in their language. There is a great need for literacy and Scripture engagement activities.

» **Pray** for effective distribution of the New Testament and that the people's spiritual hunger will be satisfied as they read it.

SIL

Day 12: **FA D'AMBU; EQUATORIAL GUINEA (9,500)**

The Fa d'Ambu team has made good progress. They met all their goals last year and keep working arduously. Pastor Norberto continues to shepherd the flock of Fa d'Ambu Christians on Annobón Island.

» **Praise the Lord**, nearly every person on the island who owns a cellphone has downloaded the audiovisual Scripture app of the book of Jonah.

» The translator checked Matthew for accuracy, the final New Testament book drafted in Fa d'Ambu. **Pray** for the Lord's guidance as he works his way through other books.



Surat Ralan na'a Vaidida



» **Thank God** that the team was able to publish and record a Bible-based AIDS educational book. AIDS is a problem that needs to be addressed in the Fa d'Ambu society, and the team is hopeful that Scripture contained in this booklet will be a good start in dealing with this topic.

» **Give thanks** for the immediate positive response from viewers as the AIDS cellphone app began spreading to many hundreds of mother-tongue speakers.

PROMOTORA ESPAÑOLA DE LINGÜÍSTICA; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

Day 13: **ACHI DE CUBULCO; GUATEMALA (48,250)**

The Achi speakers of Cubulco have had the New Testament since 1984 but the alphabet has since been revised. The books of Genesis and Mark have been published in a new alphabet and believers are eager to have the rest of the Bible completed. To accomplish this, the Lord has provided a strong, committed team. Give thanks to the Lord! The team finished reviewing the Old Testament last year and now is concentrating on consultant checking.

» **Pray** that they will entirely depend on God's help to overcome obstacles and will have the Old Testament ready to print this year.

» **Lift up** the community, as literacy work is being done using the books of John and Acts.

» Many Achi people practice traditional Spiritism. **Ask God** to protect the translation team as they face spiritual warfare every day.

» **Pray** for a continuous, smooth interaction among all the partners of this project as it moves toward the finish line.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY; BIBLE SOCIETIES OF GUATEMALA AND MEXICO; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

Day 14: **ILCHAMUS; KENYA (30,000)**

The recording and editing of the "JESUS" film was completed last year. Now the Ilchamus community is able to watch it in their mother tongue! The team has completed drafting all the New Testament books and has

also drafted Bible study materials based on Luke's Gospel. This year, the translators will focus on the remaining processes for the completion of the New Testament.

- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to make Jesus' words and deeds come alive in a fresh way for people when they see him portrayed on the screen speaking their own Ilchamus language.
- » **Pray** for the consultants to complete the remaining consultant checking work, Lord willing, by the end of 2018.
- » **Pray that God** will help congregations grow in spiritual maturity as Christians become more firmly grounded in their faith. **Ask him** to anoint church leaders to use translated Scripture in winning the lost and discipling believers.

[BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY – BTLKENYA.ORG](http://BTLKENYA.ORG); [SEED COMPANY - THESEDCOMPANY.ORG](http://THESEDCOMPANY.ORG)

Day 15: **NORTHERN TEPEHUAN; MEXICO** (6,200)

The goal of the translation team is to have the New Testament printed and ready to deliver to the Northern Tepehua people in May.

- » **Thank the Lord** for enabling the team last year to make great progress! By God's grace, the final consultant check on the manuscript was completed in April and the team began to immediately prepare it for publication.
- » **Pray** for creative ideas and open doors to get the Scriptures into every corner of the Tepehuan community. **Ask God** to use his Word to mightily change lives and bring many into his kingdom.
- » **Lift up** the recording team as they produce an audio version of the New Testament. **Pray** for safety in their travels and for strong, clear voices as they read the text.
- » **Pray** for the Tepehuan church to stand strong in the face of great opposition. **Join** the apostle Paul as he said, "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he [God] will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit" (Eph. 3:16, NLT).

[ETHNOS360 – ETHNOS360.ORG](http://ETHNOS360)



Day 16: *NORTHERN ISTHMUS ZAPOTEC**; MEXICO (5,720)

The finish line is getting closer for the Northern Isthmus Zapotec translation team. They submitted the New Testament for typesetting in June last year, after completing much of a dramatized audio recording.

- » **Ask God** to give the team keen eyes, physical strength and wisdom as they make decisions about formatting and proofread the manuscript multiple times.
- » **Pray that God** would guide every aspect for the printing of the New Testament — for functional printers, a smooth bookbinding process and secure packing and shipping of the New Testaments back to Mexico from South Korea.
- » **Lift up** those planning for distribution of the New Testament and audio recording, along with scheduling a dedication at a time of year when people could travel and rains don't make the roads impassable.
- » **Pray** that Christians in the main town will come together to develop a strategy for distributing the Scriptures to remote, difficult-to-access communities.

SIL

Day 17: *AKOTI*; MOZAMBIQUE (97,000)

In recent years about 1,400 Akoti people and neighboring groups have committed their lives to Jesus, been baptized and currently participate in local fellowships.

- » **Pray for God** to grant them strength and encouragement as they get to know more of Jesus and build a relationship with him.
- » **Praise the Lord!** The community responded well to a Scripture radio broadcast. This encourages the team to continue working persistently in the completion of the New Testament and Old Testament portions.
- » **Lift up** the team as they work toward recording the “JESUS” film. They lack an editor and a trained recordist. **Ask the Lord** to provide personnel so it can be completed.

**name changed*

» **Ask God** to give the team the endurance they need — physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually — to see their work completed.

» **Pray** for several new translators who will have the calling to serve in this project.

SEED COMPANY - THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

Day 18: **WESTERN NIGER FULFULDE; NIGER** (500,000)

Last year was a productive year for the translation team. They finished the final consultant checks of the New Testament and used a computer software program to make sure that spelling, punctuation and similar passages in different Gospels were accurate and consistent.

» **Thank the Lord** that typesetting was also completed with team members communicating much of the time between two different countries by Skype. God enabled them to conquer the challenges of preparing the manuscript in two different scripts — Roman and Ajami. This will reach a broader audience with the Scriptures.

» **Lift up** the dedication in prayer, that the day and everything leading up to it will be “all for the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31b, NLT).

» **Intercede** for the translation team. They would like to immediately start working on the Old Testament. They have a good start as they have already translated Genesis and Proverbs. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to renew their strength and fill them with a continuing passion for giving the whole Bible to their language community.

SIL; [SIMINTERNATIONAL – SIM.ORG](http://SIMINTERNATIONAL-SIM.ORG)

Day 19: **EHUGBO; NIGERIA** (40,000)

Team checks and back translation of all New Testament books are finished. The Ehugbo translators are motivated to finish the consultant checking of the remaining New Testament books as soon as possible. The translation has resulted in the Ehugbo people’s deep appreciation and better understanding of God’s Word. A local non-denominational organization of women is a strong partner in Bible translation, but

they face serious and disturbing persecution from some men in the community that hindered them from meeting to worship and generate help for the team.

- » **Pray** for the women as they face all the attacks of the enemy.
- » **Thank God** for the association of local pastors reaching various congregations with the gospel.
- » **Praise God** that the team checks and back translation of the New Testament are complete. Availability of consultants to approve books for publication is a crucial need. **Ask God** to send consultants to check the remaining books.
- » **Give glory to God** for providing a power generator so the distribution of the “JESUS” film will not be affected by power issues anymore.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

Day 20: **BARUGA; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (2,230)**

God answered prayers! He sustained the translation team through many challenges as they completed typesetting and finished the audio recording of the New Testament. It is now in South Korea at a printing firm.

- » **Pray** for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books and **ask God** to protect them as they are shipped back to Papua New Guinea.
- » A dedication is planned for June 8-10 this year. Because the dedication will be a large and complicated event, **pray** that everyone will keep their focus on glorifying God in everything.
- » **Ask God** to provide resources so that audio Bibles can be dedicated and distributed with the New Testament.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to guide the Baruga team as they take on the translation of the Old Testament.

SIL

Day 21: **BWAIDOKA; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (6,500)**

The Bwaidoka project has made good progress and the consultant check of five New Testament books went well last year. The team has three new translation trainees: Randy, Crispin and Aaron. They completed an introductory course in translation techniques in Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea in May last year.

- » **Pray** for the new trainees as they translate the books of Ruth and Esther. **Lift up** their need for clear understanding of the text, wise time management and good community support.
- » **Ask God** for strength and stamina for the translators so they can make good progress on the remaining 25 percent of the New Testament.
- » **Ask the Lord** for guidance as the team distributes 1,360 copies of Genesis.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL; UNITED CHURCH

Day 22: **WARAN; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (3,000)**

Praise the Lord, the final consultant check on the Waran New Testament was completed last year and the translators and a design specialist began typesetting it in late 2017.

- » **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with perseverance, clear minds and wisdom as they spend countless hours scrutinizing the text, looking for errors, making corrections and then adding page formatting, pictures and footnotes. The document goes between the translators and the typesetter multiple times to make sure the best copy is ready for printing.
- » **Pray** that the project advisor and the mother-tongue translators will be strong and healthy.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill them so they will stand firm against any spiritual hindrance or opposition to God's Word being published. **Pray** for the team to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Eph. 6:10, NLT).



» **Pray** for successful literacy and Scripture engagement activities so that the Waran people will be well-equipped to read and use the New Testament.

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS PAPUA NEW GUINEA — PBTPNG.ORG

Day 23: **IBALOI; PHILIPPINES** (186,000)

There has been good progress in the Ibaloi project and only 22 chapters in Leviticus need to be consultant-checked before the Old Testament is completed. The community waits for it anxiously, and many are now asking for teaching materials and the complete Bible. Young people look forward to the project's completion as well. They're interested in praise songs, dance, drama and other art forms translated into Ibaloi. Church workers are encouraged to teach from Scripture using stories from creation to Christ.

» **Ask the Lord** to guide the Ibaloi believers as they produce evangelistic and discipleship materials from the Scriptures. The Lord has put in their hearts the desire to develop a strong Ibaloi church that can reach the neighboring people groups.

» **Pray** for the team as they check the final 22 chapters from Leviticus.

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Day 24: **MATIGSALUG; PHILIPPINES** (50,000)

Over the last year, two Old Testament books were approved for publication and six were submitted for consultant checking. They are rapidly being finished. The Matigsalug Literacy Department of Education initiated a simple literacy program which uses the Scriptures as part of their materials, so old and young generations now read in their heart language daily.

» **Thank the Lord** for the team's good progress as they continue revising and polishing the remaining Old Testament books. **Pray** that they will stay healthy and able to continue their work.

» **Ask God** for more consultants to check the Old Testament books.

» **Pray** that the translation would be accurate and easy to understand for the Matigsalug readers so they would come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- » Over the years, there have been attempts to break into the team's office. **Ask God** to keep all the equipment (including the server) safe, and that the laptops will continue to work well.
- » Please **pray** for continued peace in the Matigsalug area, which has some rebel activity.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL; SINUDA UNITED MATIGSALUG LANGUAGE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Day 25: **LEZGI; RUSSIA (670,000)**

The translation team has been working hard to prepare the Lezgi New Testament for the publishing department. It is an intense time for each person involved.

- » A critical need is to find a second exegetical advisor. An exegete is someone who ensures faithfulness of the translation to the biblical text. **Ask God** to provide an additional person and to fill both with wisdom and endurance.
- » **Intercede** for the consultant who, in addition to her consulting role, has helped with exegetical checks. She needs good health and extra strength.
- » A few Scripture books are already published; **pray** for effective channels of distribution. This is a difficult task in an area dominated by another major religion.
- » **Pray** for leaders of the local churches to understand the importance of Bible translation into people's mother tongue and come to value and use it themselves.

INSTITUTE FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION — IBT.ORG.RU

Day 26: **HIRANG*; SOUTH ASIA**

Thank the Lord that translation progress is not limited by geography. Members of the Hirang translation team live in South Asia and the U.S., and the member in the U.S. makes occasional trips to work onsite with the others.

**name changed*



» **Pray** for the team as they have high goals for this year: to finish translating and finalizing 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-3 John, 1-2 Peter, Jude and Philemon. They can then begin a review of the entire New Testament.

» **Lift up** their plans to create an Android app with the New Testament, as well as an audio recording. These tools will greatly facilitate Hirang speakers who are not accustomed to reading their own language. The team would like to get at least the Gospels and Acts into these formats this year.

» **Ask God** to lead the way as the team works toward publishing the New Testament with the text in three languages: Hirang, a national language and English.

» The mother-tongue Hirang translators would like to start literacy classes in their villages. **Pray** for God to open doors and for interest to be high.

Day 27: **KELIKO; SOUTH SUDAN (70,000)**

Due to war in the language area, many Keliko have fled to northern Uganda and live in refugee camps. The translation team has worked in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, removed from both the language area and the Keliko in Uganda. Through all the challenges, with the grace of God, translation work continued.

» **Thank the Lord** for these courageous men and women who pressed on in spite of inconvenience and life-threatening circumstances. One team member said, “Praise God for keeping us alive.”

» Miraculously, God allowed the team to complete the typesetting of the New Testament last year and it was sent for printing. **Pray** for a speedy and smooth printing process and for safe shipment of the books back to a location free from danger.

» **Lift up** those planning for a dedication and distribution under challenging circumstances.

» **Pray** for the team as they record the “JESUS” film in Keliko and make an audio recording of the New Testament. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint these projects and draw many people to the Lord, giving them eternal hope.

» **Pray** for success as the team seeks to launch a website and use social media to share God's love and Word with Keliko speakers.

SIL

Day 28: **SURINAME JAVANESE; SURINAME (60,000)**

Praise God, this project to adapt the Indonesian Javanese Old and New Testaments into Suriname Javanese is nearing the finish line!

» **Lift up** the Korean Bible Society as they complete the detailed process of typesetting the Bible. **Pray** for the Lord to lead the team to a layout that will be easy for people to read and use, and for the printing process to move forward seamlessly.

» **Ask God** to guide the team and local pastors as they plan a big celebration in the local community to mark the arrival of God's Word in their language. Most Javanese people living in Suriname have struggled to understand the Indonesian Javanese Bible and church leaders enthusiastically anticipate having the Bible in their own heart language.

» **Pray** for Faith Comes by Hearing and the Suriname Bible Society as they make plans to record the Javanese Old Testament. Because it will be a virtual recording and will be web based, it will be a lengthy process. **Pray** for God to provide people with strong, clear voices to read the parts.

[SURINAME BIBLE SOCIETY – SURINAMEBIBLESOCIETY.ORG](http://SURINAMEBIBLESOCIETY.ORG)

Day 29: **KABIYÉ; TOGO (975,000)**

Give God praise! The translation team has drafted almost all the books of the Old Testament.

» **Lift up** the team as they press through next stages of the translation process — a check by other team members and speakers in the community to make sure the text sounds natural and clear, and a consultant check to ensure it is accurate.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to protect the team. Last year one of the translators had a serious accident but God saved his life.

» **Thank the Lord** for providing a man to handle the administrative tasks in the project and organize Scripture engagement activities. **Pray** for him as he receives further training, and for more opportunities to engage people with the Scriptures.

» **Ask the Lord** to sustain the literacy class teachers as they teach people how to read and write their mother tongue. May many come to a saving knowledge of Christ through reading God's Word.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCRIPTURES IN KABIYÉ; BIBLE SOCIETY OF TOGO; SIL

Day 30: **LUGUNGU; UGANDA (49,000)**

Thank God for enabling the completion of the Lugungu New Testament translation. The New Testaments arrived in Uganda last year in November and were dedicated on November 17! We rejoice for God's faithfulness to the translation team who finished this work in their lifetime.

» **Pray** that the Lugungu New Testament will be rapidly distributed and God's Word will transform people's lives.

» **Lift up** the church and community, that they will grow stronger in their faith in the living God. The people are praying for the start and continuation of translation of the Old Testament. **Pray** for the funding they will need for the Old Testament translation work to move forward.

» **Ask God** to use the Lugungu New Testament to transform the lives of the people and bring a lasting unity among the community.

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And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. — *1 John 5:14 (ESV)*

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