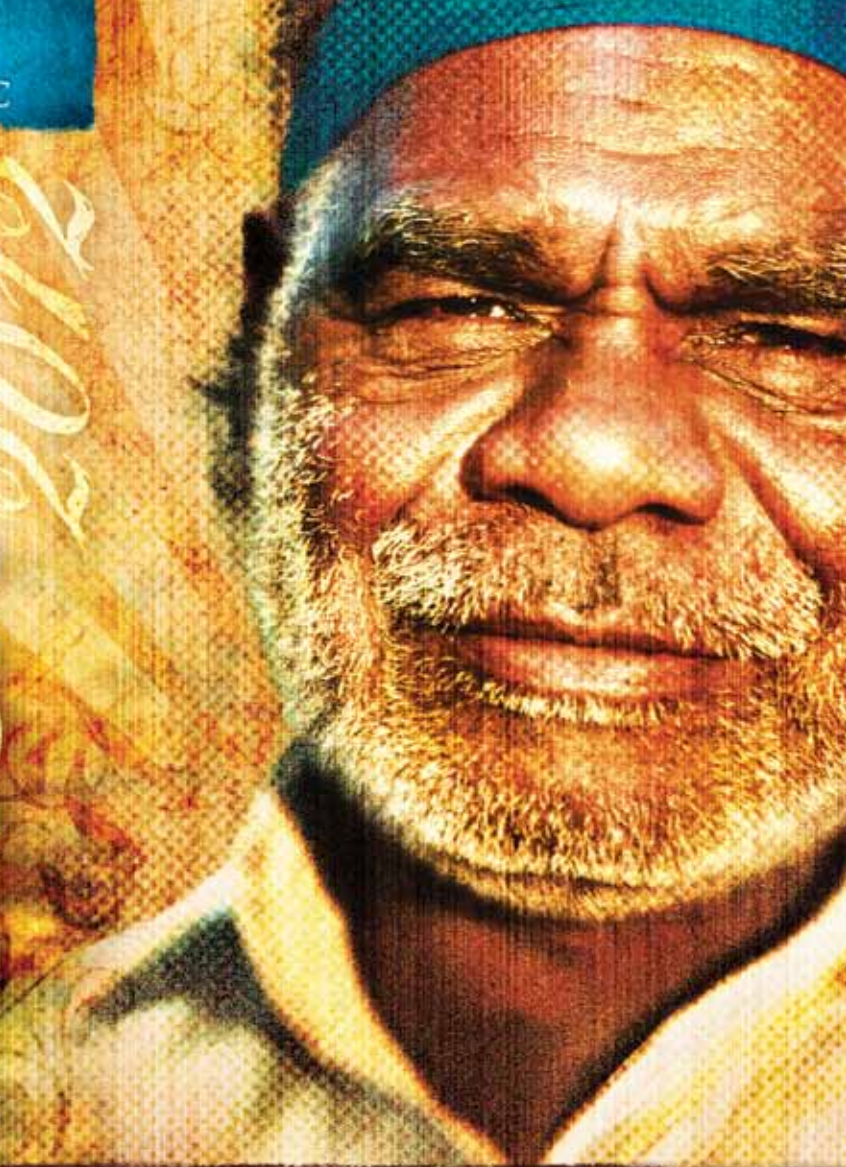


PACIFIC

# FINISH LINE



Wycliffe®





DEAR FRIENDS,

In a little village in Southeast Asia, where there is neither electricity nor phone service, translator Mandowen sat down each day at a laptop computer. A dozen people clustered closely around him, listening as he read a Bible passage in their Yawa language. The volunteer

reviewers enthusiastically discussed it, looking for ways to improve awkward or unclear sentences. When they were satisfied, Mandowen revised it on his computer. Then, using specially-designed software, he logged onto the Internet and synchronized his draft.

Halfway around the world in Arlington, Texas, Wycliffe translator Linda Jones got up each morning and read Mandowen's latest draft. She checked to make sure the meaning hadn't been altered and sent back suggestions for the next round of discussion. They repeated these interchanges countless times as they made final revisions to the Yawa New Testament.

Working together in this way became possible in 2009 when a new geostationary satellite began circling the equator. It had only been in service two weeks when IT specialists from Wycliffe's Seed Company took a computer and a small satellite device to the village, showed Mandowen how to connect to the satellite, and taught him how to use the software.

Madowen and Linda were used to working long-distance because Linda's husband, Larry, served in Bible translation leadership and wasn't free to live in the village. For seventeen years, they sent Scripture drafts back and forth by mail and in hand-carried packets; Linda and Larry made trips to the village; Madowen made trips out of the village. But when it was time for the final revisions, they felt totally stymied. To finish well, they needed increased interaction with the Yawa people, and they did not know how to get it.

Then the satellite went into orbit, and God used it to bring the Yawa reviewers into the process. Finally, in June 2011, the Yawa people celebrated the arrival of the New Testament in their own language. Within a month

every copy was sold, and people were demanding more. A second printing will be needed.

With new technology like Mandowen's satellite device and new translation strategies, we are witnessing the greatest acceleration of the pace of Bible translation that the world has ever seen. In 2011, we dedicated over forty completed Bible projects—more than any other year! I firmly believe that God is honoring the faithful prayers of His people.

Translation projects for the people represented in this issue of *The Finish Line* are nearing completion, and now is an important time to pray because projects in this stage often experience significant setbacks. Will you pray for these groups and keep praying until they have God's Word in the language that best speaks to their hearts? Your prayers will make an eternal difference.

Warmly,

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

Bob Creson  
President  
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA



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A stylized, hand-drawn map of the Pacific region, including Australia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and parts of Southeast Asia. The map is rendered in brown and gold outlines on a textured, golden-brown background. The text labels are placed over the map: 'AUSTRALIA' is centered on the continent; 'PAPUA NEW GUINEA' is placed over the island of New Guinea; 'VANUATU' is placed over the island of Vanuatu; and 'MICRONESIA' is placed over the island of Micronesia. Each label is followed by its corresponding page number.

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**AUSTRALIA**

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Photo by Lisa Vanden Berg

## HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

The language projects listed in this guide are arranged first by location, then alphabetically by language name. You can pray through the projects one by one, or focus on a particular country or area for a given time. The map on the previous page serves as an index for the languages listed by country. There are a number of components included in each project listing to help you pray more specifically.

*Language name*

*Location*

*Population*

DOM; Papua New Guinea; 12,000; New Tribes Mission. The translators need to do comprehension checking on several more books in order to complete the New Testament, but need more help. **Ask God** to encourage the other team members to keep working and to help them find more people willing to help as well. **Pray** for wisdom as they sort through an issue with the orthography (the written alphabet for the language). [www.ntm.org](http://www.ntm.org)

*Suggested prayer topics*

*Website for additional information*

The 🗣️ symbol indicates that an audio version of this translation is being produced by the Faith Comes By Hearing organization this year. When you see this symbol, please pray for the health and safety of the recording team members as well as the readers from the local communities. Ask the Holy Spirit to use the recordings in a powerful way in the hearts and minds of those who hear the Scriptures.

**Please note:** This book contains sensitive information. In some cases pseudonyms have been used. Please do not post any material online without prior authorization.



Photo by Kahunapule Michael Johnson

# 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.*

## **PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE**

Translation teams and their families are vulnerable at this time. Pray for their stamina and health. Pray that their focus would 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 consultant checkers. Pray for the involvement and consensus of church denominations on the wording, writing, and printing of the translation. Pray for the final proofreading process, asking God to correct any errors that would mar the translation. Pray for the technology involved in every project so that it would not hinder the finished product.

## **PRAY FOR PROTECTION**

Pray for 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 may 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.

IT IS THE SAME WITH MY WORD. I SEND IT OUT, AND IT ALWAYS PRODUCES FRUIT. IT WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL I WANT IT TO, AND IT WILL PROSPER EVERYWHERE I SEND IT. —ISAIAH 55:10–11 (NLT)

*For more tools to guide you in your prayers for projects nearing completion, as well as other helpful prayer resources, visit [www.wycliffe.org/pray](http://www.wycliffe.org/pray).*

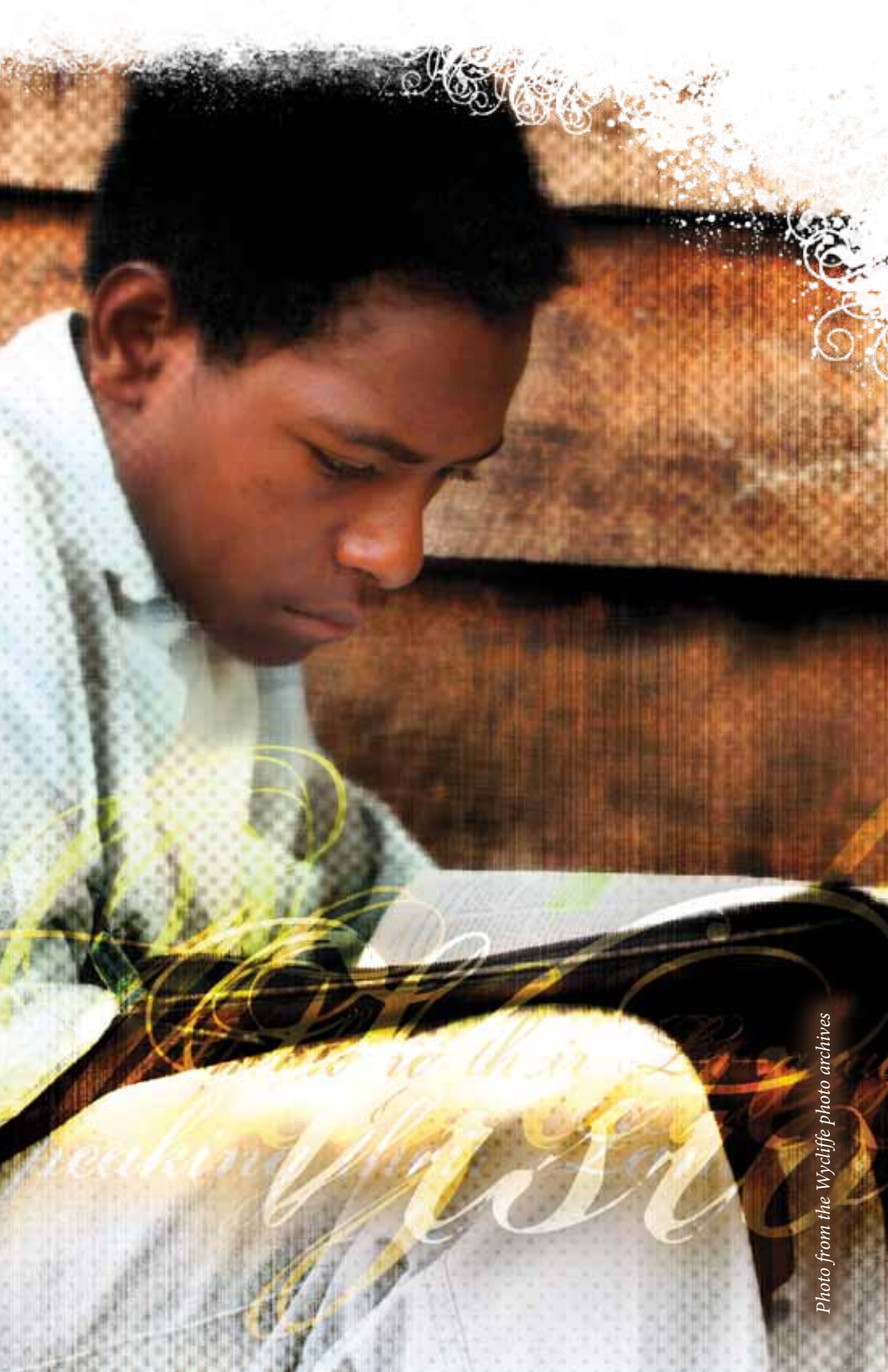


Photo from the Wycliffe photo archives

# LEARNING TRUTH

By Karen Weaver

“I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children are following the truth” (3 John 1:4, NLT).

The Sursurunga people of Papua New Guinea grow up with the belief that if they allow their children to cry, evil spirits will come to take the child’s spirit, and the child will get sick and die. In order to keep their children from crying, parents start lying to them from the day they are born.

One example of this can be seen in the interactions between Tala and his mother. “Tala, we need to go,” says the mother. Little Tala refuses and cries, so she says, “There’s a truck waiting on the road. Do you want to go for a ride?” There is no truck, but Tala stops crying and goes with his mother. Both missions are accomplished—Tala obeys his mother and stops crying. The evil spirits have been thwarted and Tala will not get sick and die.

Because of this belief, lying was an integral part of the Sursurunga culture.

But in 2010 the Sursurunga people celebrated the arrival of the New Testament in their language. When they attended a Christian discipleship course, God’s Word spoke to them in many areas of their lives. They learned that lying is a sin against God, and they were convicted to change the way they relate to their children.

After the first lesson, one grandfather went home, called his family together, and confessed to them his sin of lying to his kids when they were small. He used to tell them the moon would eat them if they cried, and one of his daughters had started telling her kids the same lie. Picking up his nine-month-old grandchild, he told her he was sorry and asked her forgiveness. He requested that his whole family do the same. He also prayed, petitioning God to cut this sin from his family.

Another man said, “The talk about truth really pierced my liver, causing me to feel sorrow and begin new behavior. I am committed to speak the truth to my new grandchild.”

A woman who has been a believer and teacher for many years confessed, “I must always speak the truth. I have been manipulating my grandchildren with lies. I need to focus on speaking the truth in every situation.”

*Praise God* that His Word is living and active—it bears fruit and changes lives!



Photo by Elyse Patten

**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. For deeper prayer points and updated information, websites are listed under some language groups. In the following prayer requests, an organization name listed after the population or country indicates a translation project handled by a partner. Unless otherwise noted, each project is for a complete translation of the New Testament.

## AUSTRALIA

ARRERENTE, EASTERN; Australia; 3,820. The New Testament is fully drafted! **Pray** for Neil as he works on revising and preparing the text for consultant checking. **Ask the Lord** to help him find Arrernte speakers who are consistently available to work with him; many have work and family pressures to cope with. A date for project completion is uncertain. **Pray** that the work would progress in God's perfect timing and that the team would be encouraged!

KUNWINJKU; Australia; 1,410. All the books of the New Testament are drafted, and the checking process is underway. **Praise the Lord** that the Bible Society in Australia will help to bring the project to publication. **Pray** that the team will be able to get the right people together to help with the checking, despite many being so busy. Also, the translator and his wife had to move further away from the project due to a death in the family. **Ask God** to strengthen them and provide the finances to cover increased travel costs to keep in touch with the team. **Ask the Lord** to break down these hurdles so that the project can be completed well and on time!

YUMPLATOK; Torres Strait Islands, Australia; 23,400. **Praise the Lord!** After nearly twenty-five years of work, the Yumplatok Bible will be dedicated on July 1, 2012. **Pray** for protection over the printing of it. **Ask God** to provide a boat for the team that will aid in getting the Scriptures into the hands and lives of the Yumplatok people. **Praise the Lord** that Scripture portions are already being distributed and promoted!

## MICRONESIA

ISLES OF THE SEA cluster project—CAROLINIAN, CEMUHÎ, PUKAPUKA, KAPINGAMARANGI (Old Testament), NIUAFO'OU, NUKUORO (Old Testament), PAICÎ, PA'UMOTU, RAPA 'ITI, TIKOPIA, and WOLEAI languages; various Pacific Islands; 34,150. Work progresses at different rates among these islands, and some projects are temporarily stalled. The Carolinian and Paicî New Testaments are close to being completed. Several of the languages are working on Old Testaments. **Please pray** that through God's grace in good communication, wisdom, and guidance, all of the teams will continue to work toward their common goals together. **Pray** that many people who speak the languages of the Isles of the Sea cluster project will find the ultimate meaning of their lives in the Scriptures. [www.theseedcompany.org](http://www.theseedcompany.org)

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

AGARABI; Papua New Guinea; 27,000. Dedicated May 22, 2011.  
**Praise the Lord!**

BARIAI; Papua New Guinea; 1,380. **Pray** for perseverance and discretion for the translation team as they finish typesetting the text so they can send it on for printing. The dedication is scheduled for July 1, 2012. **Pray** that they would reach their goal and that God would use these Scriptures powerfully in the Bariai community.

🔊 BOLA; Papua New Guinea; 13,700. Dedicated on June 25, 2011.

DOM; Papua New Guinea; 12,000; New Tribes Mission. The translators need to do comprehension checking on several more books in order to complete the New Testament, but need more help. **Ask God** to encourage the other team members to keep working and to help them find more people willing to help as well. **Pray** for wisdom as they sort through an issue with the orthography (the written alphabet for the language). [www.ntm.org](http://www.ntm.org)

KONAI; Papua New Guinea; 600. **Praise the Lord** for the New Testament that has been consultant checked, despite computer problems! **Please pray** for continued progress on the final revisions and that God would protect the people involved and their necessary equipment. **Pray** also for a refreshing time of home-assignment for the translators.

KUNI-BOAZI; Papua New Guinea; 4,500. **Pray** that the team is able to meet their goal of completing all work on the New Testament in 2012 with a dedication hopefully in 2013. **Please pray** for strength, stamina, and wisdom for the entire translation team. **Ask God** to protect the team and their families, as well as their equipment. **Pray** for the involvement of local pastors who are needed to assist in final decisions, especially related to the use of certain key terms. **Pray** for good communication, understanding, and unity among these men. **Pray** that the translation team is able to find people who have a good ear so that the text sounds natural and clear. **Praise God** that people in the community have begun to display a hunger for God's Word as they read printed Scripture portions or hear some of them recorded on audio players.

MADAK; Papua New Guinea; 3,000. The New Testament was revised and reprinted with the book of Psalms in 2011.

MALEU-KILENGE; Papua New Guinea; 5,200; New Tribes Mission. **Praise the Lord** that the team is nearly done with their consultant checking. **Lift them up** in prayer as they finish any necessary changes before sending the text on for publication. **Ask God** to give them sharp eyes with great attention to detail and wisdom in knowing how to proceed with any changes. [www.ntm.org](http://www.ntm.org)



MARIK; Papua New Guinea; 3,500. Completely checked and typeset, the New Testament is now being printed. The dedication is scheduled for August 2012. **Pray** that plans for the Scripture celebration will fall into place without trouble and that it will be a wonderful time of glorifying God!

MENYA; Papua New Guinea; 20,000. Despite many setbacks with this translation, the team is not giving up on a goal of typesetting in the fall of 2012. **Pray** that the team will persevere through consistency checking, consultant checking, community testing, and final read-throughs of the translation. As they continue to move towards the finish line, **pray** that these steps would go well and that there would be no serious delays. **Thank the Lord** for providing Jay Patiqu, a new member for the team. **Pray** that he is able to learn the translation process quickly and balance this work with a position he holds with the local government. **Praise the Lord** for people's enthusiasm to read the translated Scriptures. **Pray** that this excitement will lead more people to help translate the Scripture into various dialects of the Menya language.

MESEM; Papua New Guinea; 4,000; Assemblies of God World Missions. **Pray** for the Mesem translation team as they work toward publication in 2012. **Praise God** that the entire New Testament has been drafted and over half of it is ready for publication. Mesem speakers can now read the Scriptures and hold worship services in their own language.  
[www.vanaria.org](http://www.vanaria.org), [www.themesemnewtestament.blogspot.com](http://www.themesemnewtestament.blogspot.com)

NEW IRELAND cluster project—BAROK, KANDAS, KONOMALA, LABEL, LAVATBURA-LAMUSONG, NALIK, NOTSI, PATPATAR, TANGGA, FENI, FANAMAKET, BUTAM (IAKET), SOKAREK, HINSAAL, and SOKIRIK languages; Papua New Guinea; 31,850. **Pray** for these fifteen language groups as the teams draft New Testament portions. **Ask God** to keep them in good health as they work. **Praise God** that the message of the New Testament is becoming accessible in the New Ireland cluster languages!

NIMO; Papua New Guinea; 350; New Tribes Mission. The New Testament was dedicated October 2010. **Pray** for spiritual growth in the community and for the translators as they upgrade chronological Scripture lessons for the people. **Pray** also for good health for all the team members.  
[www.ntm.org](http://www.ntm.org)

OGEA; Papua New Guinea; 2,210; PNG Bible Translation Association. The Ogea New Testament is being typeset and prepared for printing. **Pray** for careful attention to detail in these stages, and **praise God** that funds were provided for the printing! [www.bta.monsoonhub.org](http://www.bta.monsoonhub.org)

PINAI-HAGAHAI; Papua New Guinea; 1,000. **Pray** for the advisors who are working remotely most of the year to assist the translation team with New Testament books from Romans to Revelation. The team is working towards finalizing the whole New Testament over the next few years. **Praise God** for the MegaVoice device that provides the translated Gospels and Acts in an audio format. Through listening to these Bible portions in their own language, a revival has started among the Pinai-Hagahai. **Praise God** for the wonderful reception of the Gospels and Acts so far. [www.megavoice.com](http://www.megavoice.com)

POLYNESIAN OUTLIER cluster project—NUKUMANU and TAKUU languages; Papua New Guinea; 1,680. The Takuu New Testament was dedicated on December 24, 2010, and it is bearing fruit! **Praise the Lord** for this encouraging news and that the Nukumanu New Testament has crossed the finish line as well. It is being printed and will soon be delivered to Papua New Guinea. **Pray** that nothing will delay this process as the team plans a Scripture dedication event! [www.theseedcompany.org](http://www.theseedcompany.org)



TÀY; Papua New Guinea; 500. **Pray** for good health for this translation team. **Pray** that they will be able to continue their work without spiritual attacks or distractions. The team's goal is to finish the translation within the next three years. **Pray** that local churches will use these Scriptures to transform the lives of local people. [www.pbtpng.org](http://www.pbtpng.org)

WARAN; Papua New Guinea; 3,000. An ambitious strategy to finish within the next three years will certainly require the translation team to depend on God in all things. **Pray** that the team will maintain a good balance between family relationships, translation work, and their main profession of tending gardens. **Ask God** to provide for all their needs. Several members of the team have had health problems; **pray** for complete healing. [www.pbtpng.org](http://www.pbtpng.org)

## VANUATU

SOUTHEAST AMBRYM; Vanuatu; 3,700. The Ambrym translators are adapting more material from the related Paama translation until May 2012. They are also working to complete oral recordings of the New Testament by May 2013. These are large projects; **pray** for perseverance, encouragement, and success in their work! **Ask the Lord** to also bless the task of producing six years' worth of children's Sunday school material. **Pray** that church leaders would embrace the Bible in their own language and promote its use.

EPI cluster project—BAKI, LAMEN, and LEWO languages; Vanuatu; 3,400. **Pray** for cooperation between the Lamén language translator and community so they can finish the task well. Once the final spelling and revision decisions are made, typesetting can commence. **Pray** that this would happen in a timely manner. **Ask the Lord** to bless team members with good health so that they can all participate in the joy of the coming celebration of this newly translated Scripture!

MASKELYNES; Vanuatu; 1,200. Due to health concerns in the advisor's family, the nearly-completed Maskelynes project was slowed. **Praise God** for His protection over the Healey family through several accidents, and **lift up** in prayer the health and safety of the rest of the translation team as well. **Ask God** to help the team be able to make good progress as they check and complete the New Testament. **Pray** also that the people would be motivated to learn to read, so that through this translation project, they can come to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.

PAAMA; Vanuatu; 6,000. **Ask God** to help the translators complete the last five books of the New Testament by May 2012 and the oral recording of the Scriptures by May 2013. **Pray** that church leaders would embrace the Bible in their own language and promote its use, and that six years worth of children's Sunday school materials would be completed. Also **ask God** for wisdom for the team as they seek to reach three quarters of the Paama people that live off the island.

SOUTHWEST TANNA; Vanuatu; 5,000. **Please pray** for this team as they are about to cross the finish line! **Lift them up** in prayer as they do a read-through of the complete Tanna New Testament and prepare for the upcoming task of typesetting, some of which will be done remotely. **Pray** for the completion of the New Testament audio recordings and Scripture-use material as well. Finally **pray** for good health during this period and good relationships with the community.

WHITESANDS; Vanuatu; 7,500. This is a project in which the advisor is primarily located in the United States and the translator functions more or less independent of local help. **Please pray** that Skype meetings will allow them to accomplish their goals together and that the translator will be able to do much on his own. **Pray** for the Whitesands people to accept and embrace the new translation. **Ask the Lord** to bless this project, that it would bear much fruit!



Photo by David J. Ringer



Photo by Lisa Vanden Berg

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Choosing to spend time in prayer for the language projects presented in *The Finish Line* is hard work as well as heart work. Once people make this investment in the building of God's kingdom, they are likely to ask the question, "What's next?" Many want to expand their involvement into the areas of donating and serving.

For those individuals able to provide funding for a language project, please contact us at **1-800-WYCLIFFE (1-800-992-5433 ext. 3705)**. Some of our prayer partners have rallied their Sunday school classes to organize a fundraising event. We never cease to be amazed by the creativity of God's people.

Interested in taking a short-term trip to witness translation work up close? We encourage you to visit [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org) and click on the **Go** section. You'll find a variety of programs, all designed to help you dig deeper into the world of Bible translation and literacy work.

You might be ready to take the first step toward membership. Go to [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org) and click on **Go**. Then click the button titled **Preparing to Serve**.

Your continued prayers are always welcome. Wycliffe's Prayer Ministries department can equip you to pray for a language community where there is no work in progress. You can sign up for the **Bibleless Peoples Prayer Project** by visiting [www.wycliffe.org/bppp](http://www.wycliffe.org/bppp) or by calling **1-800-WYCLIFFE (1-800-992-5433 ext. 3870)**.

**Please note:** *This book contains sensitive information. In some cases pseudonyms have been used. Please do not post any material online without prior authorization.*



Photo by Elyse Patten



**“THE BIBLE ITSELF IS NOW CLEARLY OUT OF CONTROL IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.... ONCE PEOPLE GET THE BIBLE IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE, YOU CAN READILY EXPECT WHAT IN MOST CASES WILL BE AN EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF FAITH MOVEMENTS TO CHRIST.”**

—Ralph Winter,  
Founder, U.S. Center for World Mission,  
*Mission Frontiers*, Sept./Oct. 2006

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