“Ale” is the name that this people group have given themselves. The word describes the temperate climate of their region in Ethiopia. Ale also means “together,” an important word for these hard-working people who struggled for more than 20 years to gain independence and the right to their land. The term signifies the unity of the many dialects of their language, as well.

The Ale people reside in the Rift Valley, making their living by small-scale farming. Success depends on good levels of rain, because the sandy soil doesn’t hold moisture for long. Many people also raise goats and sheep.

Most of the Ale people follow traditional religious beliefs, often living in fear of death and the influence of evil spirits. Only about 10% of the people identify as Christians.

The Ale people need God’s Word in their language so they can gain a deeper understanding of the hope found in Christ.

We’re working in partnership to help translate God’s Word into the language of the Ale people!

A committee of Ale church leaders and local translators met to discuss what portions of Scripture they wanted available first in their language. They decided on seven books — Genesis, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts and Romans.

Some of the Scripture had previously been drafted, but it was in a different dialect. In 2015 the local government and community representatives chose a standard dialect for their written language, so this project will begin by adapting the drafts into that widely accepted dialect.

The books were selected to speak directly to needs in the Ale church. The Gospels will be helpful for teaching in Sunday services. Genesis was requested because it tells of Creation and provides important background for New Testament Scriptures. And Acts and Romans will help churches edify and encourage believers.

“The gospel was always preached in a foreign language for us,” an Ale Christian said. “People embraced Christianity because Christ was the only hope, but after all these years, it feels like the charcoal of our heart has never been put on fire.”

“We never really had a chance to meet with God ourselves because we never thought we were worthy for that,” he continued. “Now with Bible translation, we know that God speaks our language too, and he can bring inner change through his Word in our lives, spoken in our language.”

As they read God’s Word, Ale people are seeing the hope of who they are in Christ. They understand that they are made in God’s image. To them, the Bible translation project is a sign that God cares for them as a father and speaks their language.

Your prayers and gifts will help the Ale people gain access to God’s Word in a language they clearly understand!