



Language: Alune

Speakers: 20,000



Dates: 2018-2021

Project Goal: Old Testament portions

ALUNE 5 (ah-LOO-nay)

ASIA — INDONESIA

THE PEOPLE

Most of the Alune people are farmers, growing cloves, nutmeg and coffee beans to sell in local markets. They also harvest other crops and vegetables, mainly for their own food.

This people group is found on Seram, the largest island in the Maluku province of Indonesia. They reside primarily on the western part of the island, and several of their communities are in a mountainous area. Some are inaccessible by car, requiring visitors to travel on foot to reach them.

The Alune people place a high value on education. Children attend schools and some pursue university degrees in the provincial capital, Ambon.

Although many Alune identify as Christian, most people hold tightly to traditional beliefs. They live in fear of spirits and sometimes consult shamans for guidance and healing.

To help church leaders teach God's truth and grow believers in their faith, more Scripture is needed in the Alune language.

THE PLAN

We're partnering with the Protestant Church of Maluku to produce more of God's Word in Alune!

After the New Testament was completed in 2012, Alune church leaders expressed their desire for Old Testament Scripture. Since then, an experienced team of local translators has completed several Old Testament books, including Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Ruth and Jonah.

In this three-year project, the team will draft Ezekiel and continue work on Deuteronomy, Judges, 1-2 Chronicles and Job. They plan to publish Ezra, Nehemiah, portions of Psalms, and Jeremiah.

Local churches are especially eager to incorporate the Psalms into their services and use them to craft worship songs.

Finished Scripture will be produced in print and digital formats and may even be used in elementary schools to teach reading.

Local volunteers will help the team distribute published Scripture to churches that serve nearly 30 Alune communities.

THE IMPACT

"Because churches in the Maluku Islands are making greater efforts to use local languages in their services, it's great timing to have more of the Alune Scriptures available to church leaders in the area," a project adviser said.

For too long, the Alune have read and listened to God's Word in a majority language that many people don't understand well. "The Alune translation will definitely help people to have the true knowledge of God," the adviser said, "and the whole Bible message."

As more Old Testament Scripture becomes available, the team expects local ministries to grow stronger and to see Alune communities transformed as a result.

"People will understand clearly who God is," the adviser said. "As the Alune live in the light of God's truth, they'll no longer be oppressed by spiritual darkness."

Your prayers and gifts will help Alune people access more of God's Word in their own language!

Amended 12/2020