“Ezika!”

His mother’s irritated voice sent shivers down Ezika’s spine. The youth hurried through the crowded market, rejoining his parent just as she completed a sale.

Ezika quickly began helping other customers who were waiting to purchase cassava, beans and yams. Like many Aokho people, his family eked out a living through farming, reserving a portion of their crops for themselves, then selling the rest.

Sometimes it bothered Ezika to see his parents work so hard. He had grown up hearing, “God loves you.” But if that was true, why was his family always struggling?

Each week he went to church hoping for answers. However with no Scripture available in his language, he usually left the service feeling confused and empty.

This story is based on everyday realities that many Aokho face.

To understand God’s deep love for them, the Aokho need his Word in a language that speaks to their hearts.

At the request of local church leaders, Scripture is being translated into Aokho for the first time!

This project will complete the entire New Testament in three years using an innovative process that incorporates a larger-than-normal team.

In the first year, team members will publish the Gospel of Luke. An audio recording will also be produced during this time, along with the “JESUS” film. The following year, 1-2 Corinthians will be finished and immediately made available.

By the conclusion of the project, the New Testament will be completed and typeset. While the printing will take place later, audio Scripture will be accessible right away.

To encourage engagement with God’s Word, the team will hold memorization and reading competitions. They’ll also train local educators to teach people to read and write their language. In addition, a community health program will help meet physical needs while promoting the translation.

Aokho Christians are eager to have God’s Word in their own language.

“We want translation of the Bible!” one prominent church leader said.

But community members haven’t been sitting on the sidelines waiting for someone else to get the job done. Before the project even began, they had formed a language committee made up of representatives from area churches, and started drafting the Gospels of Mark and Luke.

“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.”

Will you come alongside Aokho believers as they work to produce the very first Scripture in their language?

Your prayers and gifts will help people encounter God through his Word, in a language they clearly understand!