



Language: Basketo

Speakers: 113,000



Dates: 2018-2021

Project Goal: Old Testament portions

BASKETO (bah-SKEHT-oh)

AFRICA — ETHIOPIA

THE PEOPLE

The Basketo people of Ethiopia care deeply for their neighbors.

For example, if a man experiences tragedy, others in the community will stop whatever they're doing and rush to his aid. They'll remain by his side until he and his family have fully recovered.

Much of Basketo life revolves around the forest. In fact, the name Basketo is based on words that mean "house of forest." The woodlands teem with coffee trees, a vital cash crop.

The Basketo's traditional religion also centers on the forest. Believed to be the home of ancestral spirits, the woods serve as a temple where various religious rituals take place.

Some Basketo people live in deep fear of spirits. However the majority of the population now identify as Christians, and in recent years, the New Testament was published!

Local church leaders long for more translated Scripture so people can better understand how to follow Christ.

THE PLAN

We're working with a local team to produce more of God's Word in the Basketo language!

Following the publication of the Basketo New Testament, translators began drafting several Old Testament books. In this three-year project, the team will complete and print seven of them.

Initially the team will publish 2,000 trial copies of Genesis, Esther, Obadiah and Jonah. This will allow Basketo speakers to quickly gain access to Old Testament portions and give them the opportunity to offer feedback to the team. Their input will help ensure the translated Scripture is clear to people in the community.

Trial copies of the remaining three books — Exodus, Joshua and Ruth — will be made available before the project ends. In addition, a translation consultant will check drafts of nine other Old Testament books.

Local churches selected the Scripture portions being translated in this project. They are eager to use them for Bible study and during worship services.

THE IMPACT

For some time, a Basketo evangelist named Haile has been reading the Bible in another language, Amharic.

Haile was eager to communicate the gospel to others, but it was difficult without Scripture in his own language. "I have been struggling to understand the exact meaning of what the Amharic Bible says," he said.

When Haile finally gained access to the New Testament in Basketo, he was amazed. "It made my work so easy!" he said.

Others in the community are delighted to have portions of God's Word in their language. One church is now holding services in Basketo twice a month. People are also using the New Testament in small group studies.

Local believers look forward to the day when the entire Bible is available in Basketo.

Your prayers and gifts will help the Basketo people gain access to more Scripture in a language that speaks to their hearts!