



**Language:** Biali

**Speakers:** 155,000



**Dates:** 2020-2022

**Project Goal:** Old Testament portions

## BIALI (bee-AH-lee)

## AFRICA — BENIN

### THE PEOPLE

The Berba woman picked up the heavy load.

Day after day, she walked to the market with items she had produced or gathered — everything from cashews to charcoal.

The woman knew she needed to sell all her merchandise, simply to get by. Anxious thoughts clouded her mind, weighing her down more than the goods she carried.

In the past she often sought help from ancestral spirits, believing they influenced every aspect of life. But after reading a New Testament in Biali, her language, she began questioning such traditional practices.

Now the woman felt conflicted. In her time of need, she wondered if she should turn to the spirits for help, or to God.

*This story is based on everyday realities that many Berba people face.*

Having Old Testament portions in their language will give people a richer picture of God's character, helping them to grow in faith.

### THE PLAN

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

The New Testament was recently completed in Biali, along with the book of Genesis. During this three-year project, team members will continue work on the Old Testament.

The book of Ruth, which the team had previously translated, will be made available in print and digital formats. The team will then translate and publish Jonah, Ezra and Nehemiah. They'll also make progress on Exodus and 1 Samuel.

Berba church leaders believe that the Old Testament books produced in this project will help address social issues facing their communities. The teachings of Scripture will also better equip Christians to share their faith with others.

Audio recordings will be produced to help those who don't read to engage with Scripture. In addition, the team plans to translate the "JESUS" film script, which is based on the Gospel of Luke.

### THE IMPACT

In 2018, Berba people came from far and wide to celebrate the publication of the New Testament and Genesis in their language.

Local church and community leaders applauded the efforts of the translators during the event, which also included vibrant music and dance performances. "The New Testament was presented with reverence and joy," a project adviser said.

Before the day was over, the entire stock of Biali New Testaments — 2,000 copies — had sold out.

Since then, churches have started using God's Word in worship services and Bible studies. For individuals, gaining access to translated Scripture has enhanced their personal devotions, helping them to clearly understand what it means to follow Jesus.

Now, the Berba people are eager to see the entire Bible translated into Biali.

**Your prayers and gifts** will help make more Old Testament Scripture available in a language and form that speaks to their hearts!