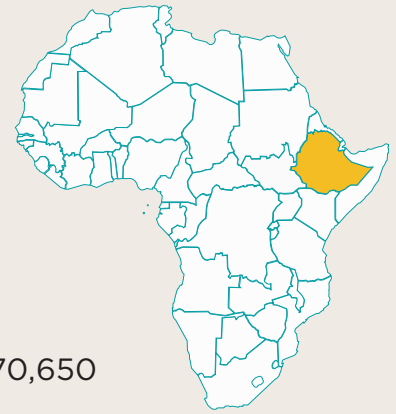




**Language:** Burji

**Speakers:** 125,000



**Dates:** 2016-2018

**Total Project Cost:** \$170,650

**Project Goal:** Old Testament portions

# BURJI

## AFRICA — ETHIOPIA

### THE PEOPLE

The Burji of Ethiopia seek to meet their daily needs through small farms — growing things like maize, sorghum and beans.

Some breed cattle, sheep and goats. Others are involved in trade.

Most of the Burji people live either on a mountain slope or in a valley of the region. Some have gained important positions in communities along the road to Kenya. Because of conflict with neighboring communities, others are now scattered throughout Ethiopia.

Traditionally, the Burji people were known for their culture's unique organization. Although things have changed over time, they had very strict rules and obligations.

The majority of the people identify with Christianity, but many continue to practice traditional religion. Those who follow traditional beliefs trust in shamans and fear evil spirits. Another world religion has also taken root in the region.

The Burji need God's Word to stand strong against the claims of other religions.

### THE PLAN

A Burji translation team is now translating the first portions of the Old Testament into their language!

They already have the New Testament in their language. Now the Burji churches have asked for help translating the Old Testament.

In this project, the team plans to translate 11 books — Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Proverbs, Joel, Amos, Jonah and Malachi.

As the books are completed, they will be published and distributed to churches in the area. Having hard copies of God's Word is important to the Burji because the printed form of Scripture is highly valued in Ethiopian culture. However, a partner organization plans to work with the translation team to also produce audio versions for people who don't read.

The local team was so determined to have the Old Testament in Burji that they started translating before the project plan was even finalized!

### THE IMPACT

"Having the complete Bible in their mother tongue will strengthen the churches and help them to mature in their faith," a project adviser says.

The Burji team selected portions of Scripture based on community needs. Genesis was chosen so people would understand their need to be reconciled with God. Other books will give believers context for understanding the New Testament. Still others talk about disobedience and show God's redemption for those who turn to him.

The team also selected the book of Ruth, which will help their culture view women in more positive ways.

As Burji people put their faith in Jesus, they are letting go of their fear of evil spirits. Many believers are now living in unity and sharing the gospel with others. God's Word will lead to even greater life change.

**Your prayers and investment** will help the Burji have access to more of God's Word in their heart language!