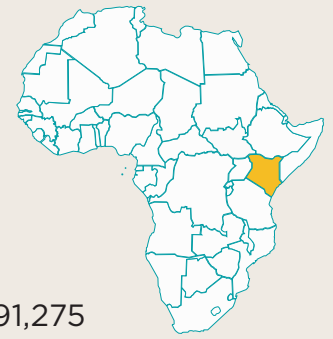




Language: Chonyi

Speakers: 149,000



Dates: 2016-2019

Total Project Cost: \$191,275

Project Goals: 10 New Testament books, Scripture engagement materials, "JESUS" film

CHONYI (CHOHN-yee)

AFRICA — KENYA

THE PEOPLE

The Chonyi are a very welcoming and optimistic people, living in one of the poorest districts of Kenya.

They make their living mainly by small-scale farming, growing crops and rearing small herds of animals such as cows, sheep and goats. Some earn a small income by selling crops like coconut, cashew nuts and cotton. Those living at the southern part of the forest practice fishing.

About 60 percent of the Chonyi people follow Christianity. Most of the rest practice traditional religion, which includes belief in a supreme creator god who is worshiped through mediators, along with ancestral deity worship.

Superstitions have led to the popularity of mediums and witchcraft among some. Alcoholism and drug abuse are also common community problems that Chonyi Christians have been trying to address.

However, the lack of any Scripture in the Chonyi language has made it difficult for believers to grow in their faith and reach out to others.

THE PLAN

We're working with local churches and field partners to help produce the first Scripture in the Chonyi language!

There is one experienced Chonyi translator on the team, and two more are being recruited. A chart of the writing system has been produced, and work has been done on Matthew's Gospel.

Chonyi leaders designed the project goals to meet their community's needs. For example, to instill godly values among their youth, they chose Titus and other books in which Paul emphasizes basic virtues.

The team will initially translate 10 New Testament books — Matthew, Luke, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 2 Timothy, Titus and James.

Although church leaders desire a full New Testament one day, an adviser says, "They are quite eager to receive these portions to begin impacting lives as quickly as possible for total community change!"

The team will also produce the "JESUS" film, Bible study materials, hymns and oral Bible stories.

THE IMPACT

"This feels like my own mother is speaking to me," said a Chonyi university student after reading from the recently drafted Gospel of Matthew.

The translator, who had shared the text with a number of students, was surprised at how moved they were. One of them had tears in her eyes as she read quietly.

"You mean that the Bible can really be written in Chonyi, our language?" she said. "You mean this is really possible?"

The translator assured her that indeed the Bible was being written in their language.

The student said that she'd been reading the Bible in another language. Even though she understood a little, she always felt as if a visitor — or someone far away from her reality — was speaking to her. Until now!

Your prayers and investment will help make God's Word available to the Chonyi people in the language that speaks to their hearts!