



Language: Dulangan Manobo

Speakers: 40,000



Dates: 2019-2022

Project Goals: Old Testament portions;
New Testament audio

DULANGAN MANOBO

(doo-LAHNG-ahn mahn-OH-bo)

ASIA — PHILIPPINES

THE PEOPLE

The Dulangan Manobo start their day like many people do — with a cup of coffee.

Coffee trees thrive in the mountainous area of the Philippines where the Manobo live, thanks to a cold climate and fertile soil. Most people depend on the cash crop, with the men rising very early in the morning to tend their fields.

However many people lack adequate farm tools, which can lead to food shortages. Large-scale land acquisitions by commercial companies have also significantly impacted livelihoods.

About 45% of the population identify as Christian. Those who don't profess faith in Jesus hold strongly to traditional religion. The *limuken*, a bird of omen in this culture, is seen as a guide, while amulets are believed to provide protection.

Although the New Testament is available in their language, believers need more of God's Word to counter traditional religious beliefs. And since theirs is an oral culture, people need Scripture in audio form.

THE PLAN

We're working with a local team to produce more Scripture in the Dulangan Manobo language!

In this three-year project, team members will translate and publish Deuteronomy and Proverbs. The book of Jeremiah will also be drafted. Local church leaders selected these three books to help address specific issues the community is facing, such as oppression and poverty.

Additionally, these Old Testament portions will help Manobo believers better understand the teachings of the New Testament. As a project adviser explains: "Jesus frequently says, 'It is written,' but the people are puzzled as to where these things are written."

To help with the translation, team members will take part in biblical Hebrew workshops. And they'll train and mentor local church leaders.

The team plans to craft oral Bible stories, as well as 15 worship songs that will be made available in print and audio formats. The previously translated New Testament will also be recorded.

THE IMPACT

The publication of the New Testament in 1988 was a turning point for the Dulangan Manobo community.

As people heard the gospel message in their language, many accepted Jesus as Savior. Churches began springing up, and a large number of Christians enrolled in literacy classes, eager to read God's Word.

Men who once warred with neighboring people groups became hospitable and friendly, and their treatment of women improved. To celebrate special occasions, people began offering a thanksgiving prayer to God instead of to evil spirits.

"For those who became believers, life became more meaningful," a project coordinator said. "Gradually people changed some of their values, making God's teachings their standard of living."

Today nearly half the population follows Jesus. "Christianity," the coordinator said, "has transformed the Dulangan Manobo people."

Your prayers and gifts will help Dulangan Manobo speakers grow in their faith as they engage with Scripture in a language they clearly understand!