



**Languages:** 18

**Speakers:** 312,900



**This Year's Need:** \$93,825

**Project Goals:** Bible Translation, Literacy, Scripture Engagement

# SOLOMON ISLANDS

PACIFIC

## THE PEOPLE

Situated northeast of Australia and just south of the equator, the Solomon Islands is home to over 65 language communities. People there usually rely on small-scale farming and fishing to support themselves.

Because many communities are isolated, education and employment opportunities are limited. And access to God's Word is also limited, which leads to significant challenges.

While Christianity is widespread in the Solomon Islands, many people mix traditional beliefs and practices with their faith. This often leads to fear and confusion about spiritual powers. Without the Bible as a guide, some have also been susceptible to cults. And the bonds of addiction and abuse have plagued others.

In a few cases, local churches are making efforts at discipleship and outreach. But, as a team member working with the Are'are people says, "Without the Scriptures in an understandable language, it is an uphill struggle, to say the least."

## THE PLAN

Wycliffe is working with a local field partner organization, Bible Translation and Literacy Partnership, to make God's Word accessible for 18 language communities in the Solomon Islands.

The language teams are making progress — the completed Baelelea New Testament was celebrated earlier in 2015 (see photo)! A copy was even placed in the Bible display at the Solomon Islands National Parliament during a special ceremony.

Teams are also producing materials for Scripture engagement and literacy. For example, the Gao team has published hymnals, prayer books and many literacy books.

These are significant milestones, but much work remains among these and other language communities. To achieve their goals, this project focuses on training and supporting local leaders, translators, literacy workers and Scripture engagement personnel — equipping Solomon Islanders to be engaged in all levels of the Bible translation movement in the country.

## THE IMPACT

Many people in the Solomon Islands are eager for Scripture in their language. Churches want to use God's Word in their services and for discipleship and outreach. They anticipate more people contributing to the life of the church as they understand the Word more deeply.

One Are'are congregation experienced the impact on Palm Sunday when they took turns reading the Passion Story from Mark's Gospel in their language.

After the service, a man and a woman approached the narrator, who is also the senior translator, to share their experiences. The woman said that the reading had moved her, and she cried because she heard it in her language.

The man exclaimed, "This beats all! This is history — in 2015, we heard our language [in church]."

**Your prayers and investment** will help more people in the Solomon Islands have God's Word in the language that touches their hearts!