



Language: Iwak

Speakers: 4,600

Dates: 2019-2020

Project Goal: New Testament portions
in audio format



IWAK (EE-wak)

ASIA — PHILIPPINES

THE PEOPLE

The Iwak people are a minority group in the Philippines. They live dispersed among several larger people groups.

Instead of traditional thatched houses, many now live in modern dwellings that have two or more rooms.

Making their living as farmers, the Iwak grow rice, vegetables and root crops to sell in local markets. They also rear animals, especially pigs. In fact, pigsties can make up part of the architecture of their homes.

The majority of the Iwak people identify as Christians.

About 5% of the Iwak practice traditional beliefs. For example, at weddings, funerals and festivals there may be complex rituals during which animals are sacrificed to spirits.

To experience the transforming power of God's Word, the Iwak need Scripture in a language they clearly understand.

THE PLAN

We're working with local partners to translate Scripture into the Iwak language!

Most of the present generations of Iwak people are well educated. But when it comes to the Iwak language, they highly value the spoken word since many don't read or write Iwak.

To make God's Word accessible in this context, an Iwak team will translate and publish the Gospel of Luke in audio format. They'll also draft portions of the book of Acts.

In this project, the team members will use cutting-edge, oral-translation software called Render.

The software is designed to guide oral communicators in producing oral Scripture in their language. Users listen to preloaded source languages, translate orally into the target language and record the translation in Render.

In addition, Iwak speakers will be able to engage with God's Word through Bible studies and other activities.

THE IMPACT

"We are hopeful the recorded translation of Luke will bring transformation in the lives of the Iwak people," a project adviser said.

God's Word will help address challenges in the community, including practices of traditional religion and mixing beliefs.

Project staff also anticipate the translation will help church leaders grow in their understanding of the Bible and equip Christians to share the gospel message with others.

In addition to the impact on the Iwak community, this project is designed to develop capacity that will support other Render projects.

Four Filipinos will be continuing their training to become Render trainers who can equip others throughout the Philippines. Another person will begin training to serve Render projects in Africa and South America.

Your prayers and gifts will help make the first ever Scripture available in a language and form that speaks to the hearts of the Iwak people!

Amended 4/2020