



Language: Iwak

Speakers: 4,600

Dates: 2019-2020

Project Goal: The Gospel of Luke in audio format



IWAK (EE-wok)

ASIA — PHILIPPINES

THE PEOPLE

The Iwak people are a minority group in the Philippines. They live in small fenced-in communities, dispersed among larger people groups of the Nueva Vizcaya province.

Making their living as farmers, the Iwak grow taro and sweet potatoes in this mountainous region, as well as rice in the flood plains of lower elevations. They also rear animals, especially pigs. In fact, pigsties make up part of the architecture of their homes.

Pigs also play a role in Iwak traditional religion. Weddings, funerals and festivals include complex rituals during which animals are sacrificed to spirits.

Traditional beliefs also lead people to turn to shamans when they're sick or when they want blessings on their crops.

Only about 5% of the Iwak identify as Christians.

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 the Gospel of Luke into the language of the Iwak people!

Theirs is an oral culture in which the spoken word is highly valued. Many don't read or write their mother tongue.

To make God's Word accessible in this context, an Iwak team will translate the Gospel of Luke orally for use on audio devices.

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

The software is designed to guide oral communicators like the Iwak in producing oral Scripture in their language. Audio recordings of texts in related languages are pre-loaded into Render to act as references for the new translation. Users listen to the source languages, translate orally into the target language and record the translation in Render.

In addition, Iwak speakers will be involved in activities that encourage people to engage with God's Word — including home Bible studies, church camps and Sunday schools.

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!