The Komo people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo live in a forest area with a tropical climate.

To make a living, most people tend small farms or raise livestock. They are known to be very hospitable. If they receive a guest for the night and have only one bed, they will let the guest sleep in the bed while they find somewhere else to sleep.

The Komo have unique customs related to hunting and food — including rules about who is allowed to eat certain parts of an animal. The community leader is given the breast, while the person who retrieved the animal from the trap is allotted the paws and neck.

Some in the Komo community follow traditional religious practices. However most people identify as Christians.

Komo believers want God’s Word in their language so everyone can understand more deeply what it means to follow Christ.

We’re partnering with a local team to publish the New Testament in Kikomo, a language spoken by the Komo people!

All but three New Testament books have already been approved by a consultant. The remaining books — Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians — have been drafted and are ready to be checked. This will be done during the first stage of this three-year project.

Prior to publication of the New Testament, the Komo translation team will write introductions for all 27 books, along with a preface. They’ll also finalize key theological terms and complete a glossary.

To engage people who don’t read, an audio version of the New Testament will be recorded. Team members also plan to offer reading classes in the community, as well as literacy training workshops for local teachers.

Additionally the team will translate the “JESUS” film, a movie depicting the life of Christ and based on the Gospel of Luke.

“Komo Christians have been waiting a long time for the New Testament in their language,” a project adviser said. “They’re already preparing to receive it with open arms.”

Initial copies of completed New Testament books have already been distributed. Komo congregations are now using the translated Scripture in worship services, weddings and other church gatherings.

“The main purpose of the Kikomo translation is so the people have the Word of God in the language they best understand,” the adviser said. “It can save souls, making true disciples of Jesus.”

Local leaders also want to encourage the use of their language. “Through engaging with the Scriptures,” the adviser said, “the community can be transformed through changes in mentality and awareness of the mother tongue.”

Your prayers and gifts will help make the entire New Testament accessible to the Komo people in a language that speaks to their hearts!