



**Language:** Lobiri

**Speakers:** 220,000



**Dates:** 2017-2021

**Project Goal:** Old Testament portions

## LOBIRI (loh-BEE-ree)

## AFRICA — BURKINA FASO

### THE PEOPLE

The Lobiri language is spoken by the Lobi people of Burkina Faso. Located in the southwestern part of the country, their homeland is a hilly area that features many small streams.

Primarily small-scale farmers, people grow millet, yams, peanuts, corn and beans. They're also skilled at pottery and basket weaving.

Known for speaking their minds, the Lobi people prefer to get to the point when conversing with others. They also have a reputation for being warriors, but even so, they're considered very hospitable.

Most of the Lobi follow traditional beliefs and worship an earth goddess called *dii*. Their daily life is permeated with religious practices as they seek the favor and protection of deities and ancestors.

However much of God's Word is now available in Lobiri, and the number of Christians is growing. Lobi believers are eager to have all of the Bible in their own language.

### THE PLAN

We're partnering with a local team to translate Old Testament portions into the Lobiri language!

With the New Testament already published, the local church is eager to see the translation of the Old Testament finished so they can have the full Bible in their language. Only 15 books remain!

In this four-year project, the experienced team of translators will complete the work they've already started on Numbers, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Hosea.

Each Scripture book will undergo rigorous checking by a translation consultant. Five of the books will be published during this project — 1-2 Kings, Psalms, Proverbs and Daniel — and audio recordings will be produced on SD cards for several of them.

In addition, the team will continue developing a Lobiri dictionary and conduct literacy training and classes in the community.

### THE IMPACT

"The Old Testament is vital to helping Lobi churches combat the strong influence of traditional religion," a project adviser said. "It will provide rich content for praise and worship, as well as an understanding of the entirety of God's redemptive plan."

As a result of having much of God's Word in their own language, Lobi people are increasingly open to the gospel message as part of their culture. "More and more, they no longer see it as a foreigner's religion," the adviser said.

Old Testament books produced in this project will be used by the church for Bible studies, children's education and more. And Scripture will help a local Bible school to better equip new pastors.

Through translated Scripture, the rapidly growing Christian community is learning about the true God, and abandoning former religious practices.

**Your prayers and gifts** will help the Lobi people access more of God's Word in a language they clearly understand!

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