MANIDE (mah-NEE-day)

THE PEOPLE

The Manide people of the Philippines live in a rural, mountainous area with a tropical climate.

In order to meet daily needs, people hunt, or are employed as temporary workers at coconut or rice plantations. Sometimes they must rely on government subsidies for food. Gold discovered nearby has recently brought outsiders and unrest to the area.

Most people practice traditional religion, believing in the work of spirits in their lives. Less than one percent are Christians.

In recent years, a popular cult has been stirring up trouble in the area. The cult persuades people to move to its settlement, offering rice subsidies and housing to people who agree to join.

While Christians have said they won’t join the cult, without access to God’s Word, they could be led astray.

“Manide Christians need God’s Word for their transformation and for sharing the gospel with others,” says a project adviser.

THE PLAN

A team is now being trained to craft Bible stories into the Manide language.

This is the first time that the Manide people will have God’s Word in their mother tongue!

Oral communication is preferred in the Manide culture, and many people don’t read. These stories will be used to start a Bible storytelling movement.

Through a series of workshops, the team will produce 35 oral Bible stories in the form of digital audio recordings with a written transcript. They will invite local believers to participate in the storytelling process — crafting stories, testing and revising them, and providing feedback.

Music and other art forms will be integrated, helping God’s Word to speak to the hearts of the Manide people.

The team will train pastors to use the materials in their churches. Story clubs will also be started where people can gather to listen to God’s Word together.

THE IMPACT

“The local community and the church have a strong desire to see this project move forward,” says an area director.

Through storytelling — a key aspect of the Manide culture — advisers hope that people will connect deeply with God’s truth. The stories will be in the language that the Manide people understand best!

As believers grow in faith, their desire for God’s Word deepens. These 35 oral Bible stories will provide a first taste of God’s Word.

The Scripture will equip Manide Christians to understand more about God and their faith. It will also provide tools for sharing the gospel message with others.

In addition, these oral Bible stories may serve as a starting place for future translation of God’s Word into Manide.

Your prayers and investment will help the Manide people hear God’s Word in their heart language for the first time!