There are no roads leading to the Napo Kichwa people. They build their homes along the Napo River that runs through the Amazon rainforest of Peru and Ecuador. There, people travel by canoe.

To survive, people farm, hunt and fish. They also trade for supplies with merchants who travel up and down the river.

The Napo Kichwa actually represent many small communities who, hundreds of years ago, were forced to become part of the larger Quechua people group. As a result, they lack a true sense of their own identity, apart from their language. Their history of oppression has led them to not trust outsiders.

Although Christianity was introduced many years ago, most people haven’t clearly understood the true message of the gospel. There are few believers, and Bible translations done in related languages don’t serve them adequately.

A local church leader said, “We are believers without Bibles.”

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To date, very little ministry has taken place among the Napo Kichwa. But as Scripture is translated, it’s being put to use immediately. Church leaders are featuring it in their services, and local partners are using it as they reach out to the community.

Printed Bible stories are also being distributed in schools. The stories are easy to read and they’re helping to grow people’s interest in God’s Word.

“I have learned so much — I have learned how to pray!” a Napo Kichwa speaker said. “I understand so much more about the Bible. Having Bible stories in our language helps a lot.”

Your prayers and gifts will help the Napo Kichwa people gain access to more Scripture in their language!