



**Languages:** Agi, Amol, Aruop, Bragat, Eitiep, Sinagen, Torricelli, Yangum Gel, Yapunda

**Speakers:** 10,800

**Dates:** 2018-2020

**Project Goal:** Oral Bible stories



## NORTH PALEI CLUSTER

(pah-LIE)

PACIFIC — PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### THE PEOPLE

With more than 800 languages, Papua New Guinea is the most linguistically diverse country in the world.

The North Palei Cluster consists of nine of these languages, all of which are spoken in a land area of just over 230 square miles! A mountain range makes up the edge of their rugged land, which is largely covered in tropical rainforest.

Many people in this area are resourceful hunters and farmers, tending their gardens and finding what they need in their surroundings. Known for their hospitality, they are said to be some of the friendliest people in the world.

About 90 percent of people in these groups consider themselves Christians. But many also hold to traditional beliefs and practices. They often blame sorcery and spells for hardships they may endure. Community pressure to continue traditional ways is significant.

The people of the North Palei Cluster need to experience the liberating power of God's Word.

### THE PLAN

We're working with local partners to make God's Word available in the nine languages of the North Palei Cluster.

This two-year project will provide the first translated Scripture for these groups in the form of oral Bible stories.

Local trainers will conduct five workshops with participants from each language group to produce a set of 24 stories. This set will give a panorama of the Bible, from Creation to Jesus' resurrection. Some stories were also selected to address the communities' specific struggles. These narratives highlight scriptural truths like God's continued presence despite difficult circumstances and a believer's obligation to follow God alone.

The plan also includes training that helps participants facilitate discussions among some of the smaller languages that may be losing their viability. These talks will aid the local church as they assess whether more translated Scriptures would effectively contribute to discipleship efforts.

### THE IMPACT

Storytelling provides a method of hearing Scripture in a language and form the people of the North Palei Cluster can clearly understand. As people discuss and study stories with others, they'll gain a good understanding of how to apply the meaning of the Bible to their lives.

"We've heard of a number of participants coming to oral Bible story sessions, interacting with Scripture, and becoming believers," a project adviser said. "Often their communities notice the difference God's Word has made in them too."

In addition, project staff plan to conduct a workshop called "Culture Meets Scripture." This training is for anyone in the community and will examine cultural practices, the beliefs behind them and what Scripture has to say about those beliefs.

**Your prayers and gifts** will help make God's Word available to the people of the North Palei Cluster in a language and form that speaks to their hearts!