



Languages: Samo Matya, Samo Maya

Speakers: 144,000



Dates: 2017-2020

Project Goal: New Testament portions

NORTHERN SAN CLUSTER (SAHN)

AFRICA — BURKINA FASO

THE PEOPLE

The Northern San people of Burkina Faso live in a tropical area with grassy vegetation. They typically make a living by tending small farms.

San people enjoy wrestling and have a history of organizing and participating in competitions. Another pastime is weaving, and San weavers specialize in baskets and mats.

Many San people follow traditional religion, which involves idols representing ancestral spirits. A small percentage of the San identify as Christians, but when people choose to follow Jesus, they are often rejected and can lose their rights to land.

Three major San dialects are spoken — Samo Matya, Samo Maya and Ma Kaa. To interact with nearby groups, San people often use languages spoken widely throughout the region. But when pastors preach in these languages, they notice a lack of impact in the local community.

The Northern San people need God's Word in their own languages to clearly understand what Christ has done for them.

THE PLAN

We're working with a local team to translate New Testament portions into the Samo Matya and Samo Maya dialects!

Translators will adapt Scripture portions into these two dialects using an existing New Testament in Ma Kaa as a source. A former Ma Kaa translator is serving on the team as a resource person to help discuss difficult expressions with the rest of the staff.

In both languages, staff members will complete and publish Mark, Luke and 1-2 Peter. Because the community emphasizes oral communication, the team will record audio versions of Matthew, Mark and James.

Hebrews will be published and recorded in Samo Maya, and Romans in Samo Matya.

The team will also check eight additional books with a consultant — the final step before the translated materials are ready for publication.

Scripture will be used by local churches for Bible studies, outreach, youth programs and individual reading.

THE IMPACT

"Because they want to see the gospel have a real impact on the lives and the culture of the San people, the church leaders have expressed a desire for the Scriptures in Samo Matya and Samo Maya," a project adviser said.

Other Christians have shown enthusiasm for having God's Word in their language too. The local community has embraced the project and is eager to lead the translation efforts as much as possible.

The translators are dedicated, and they value the preservation of San languages. Other Christians are committed to pray for the project and help with testing and revising the drafts.

"The New Testament in Samo Matya and Samo Maya will allow the Christian communities to become well-rooted in the living Word and become mature witnesses," a project adviser said.

Your prayers and gifts will help the people of the Northern San Cluster gain access to God's Word in languages that speak to their hearts!

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