The Obo Manobo people live on the slopes of Mount Apo in the Philippines. They are primarily small-scale farmers, but many also support themselves by producing and selling soft brooms made from tiger grass. The Obo Manobo are a resilient people, finding strength in their reliance on each other. Close-knit families and a respect for elders reinforce their ties. Generosity and hospitality are also hallmarks of their society.

Most Obo Manobo people follow a traditional religion in which they must appease spirits that interfere in the lives of humans. Only about 7% of the population identify as Christians. But in 2011 the Obo Manobo New Testament was completed! Today it’s widely used in churches and Bible studies, as well as by individuals.

We’re working with a local partner to translate Old Testament portions into the Obo Manobo language! An experienced team, which had previously worked on the New Testament, will continue in this project — translating Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, 1 Samuel, Esther, Nehemiah and seven Psalms.

In addition to printed text, audio recordings will be produced, as many Obo Manobo believers enjoy listening to Scripture while doing daily chores.

Churches are excited to incorporate Old Testament selections into their services for the first time. Church leaders expect the translation to help believers better understand their recently completed New Testament.

The team will also compose 100 Scripture-based songs in Obo Manobo. Most local church services are held in Obo Manobo, so this added collection of resources will be a great encouragement as people worship God in a language that speaks to their hearts.

“This project serves the ministry of local churches by growing new believers and fostering sustained spiritual growth within the language group,” a project adviser said. “It will speak into the culture and ethos of the people.”

To reach Obo Manobo communities with the gospel message, a weekly radio broadcast will feature recordings of Scripture-based songs and Old and New Testament books.

And the local partner organization plans to use translated passages of Scripture as reading material during literacy classes.

Will you join us in partnership so this people group can engage with more of God’s Word?

Your prayers and gifts will help make Old Testament portions available to the Obo Manobo people in a language they clearly understand!