



THE FINISH LINE Pacific 2016

Australia

EASTERN & CENTRAL ARRERENTE; Australia (2,820)

The Eastern and Central Arrernte speaking communities face steep challenges that stem, in part, from widespread alcohol abuse and domestic violence. **Ask God** to stir people's hearts and make them spiritually hungry for lasting solutions to these challenges. **Pray** that they will see a way forward that God, through his Spirit and Word, can provide. **Praise God**, the New Testament along with Old Testament portions was sent for printing late last year and will be dedicated in 2016. **Thank the Lord** for the Bible Society of Australia who is publishing it. **Intercede** for the Arrernte people, and **ask** that they will earnestly seek peace and direction in God's Word. **Pray** that heart-language Scripture will strengthen, encourage and equip them in all aspects of their lives.

Cook Islands/New Zealand/Australia

PUKAPUKA; Cook Islands/New Zealand/ Australia (5,000)

Praise God, the team received permission to print a diglot edition of the Pukapuka New Testament. **Pray** for adequate financial support for Mai, the main translator, to work full time. **Lift up** Kevin and Mai as they complete the final editing. **Pray** for Mary to finish the consultant checks amidst other responsibilities. **Pray** for consistent and effective communication via Skype with scattered members of the translation committee. **Ask the Lord** to give good health to the team as they work toward sending the New Testament and Psalms to a typesetter in Holland and a printer in Sri Lanka. **Pray** for the typesetting and printing to go smoothly. The team hopes to hold a dedication on "Gospel Day," December 6, 2016. **Ask God** to work mightily among the people through his Word in their heart language. **Pray**

that God's Word will bring unity to all the Pukapuka communities in the Pacific region.

Pacific Islands

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT— *Carolinian, Nukuoro and Pa'umotu* *languages;* Pacific Islands (16,550)

Rejoice! The Carolinian New Testament is complete. The team is making final tweaks on the project while they wait to obtain printing permissions. **Lift up** the Carolinian team in prayer as they continue to work on the Old Testament. **Praise be to God**, consultant Paulus has completed checking the final Old Testament books for the Nukuoro Bible. **Pray** for the Nukuoro team as they finish the final checking of the rest of their complete Bible. **Ask God** to protect them as they near the end of their project. Paulus will also visit the Pa'umotu team to check the book of Psalms. **Pray** that this project will continue between visits from Paulus and that the team will be able to publish the Gospels and Psalms in 2017.

SEED COMPANY—THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

Papua New Guinea

ABAU (DOWN RIVER DIALECT); Papua New Guinea (1,000)

God used faithful prayer warriors through the years to pray the Abau New Testament to completion. On May 21, 2015 a joyous celebration was held in the main Abau village of Sinow and the New Testament was dedicated to God's glory. It was a great, festive day! **Pray** that the downriver Abau people will read their Bibles faithfully and grow in their understanding and love for the Lord.

NEW TRIBES MISSION—NTM.ORG

BARUGA; Papua New Guinea (2,230)

Praise God, the Baruga team finished an initial review of the New Testament in 2015; and a final consultant check of Hebrews, Matthew and Revelation will be completed in March 2016. **Pray** for the team to finish an audio recording of the New Testament. **Thank the Lord** that experienced audio specialists are assisting them in this project. The Baruga team is also working on a glossary to help people understand unfamiliar terms in the Scriptures. Their goal is to prepare the New Testament for publication by the end of the year. **Ask the Lord** to direct them as they choose pictures and maps to include, and check for consistent punctuation and formatting. **Pray** for each member of the team to have good health and stamina, and wisdom in these tasks. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint and enable the Baruga team as they take on the translation of the Old Testament.

BUSH MENGEN; Papua New Guinea (8,400)

The Word of God transforms lives. When the translation team completed 1 Corinthians last year, a couple of Mengen Bible teachers were jumping out of their seats in excitement at the truths they understood for the first time. They had never before heard these truths in their heart language! **Thank the Lord** for helping the team complete seven books last year. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill them with power, wisdom and energy as they press on this year to complete four Epistles, the Gospels of Matthew and John, and Revelation. **Pray** that God's Word would continue to come alive to the believers and that their transformed lives would draw others to a saving knowledge of Christ.

NEW TRIBES MISSION—NTM.ORG

DOM; Papua New Guinea (12,000)

Last summer 150 provisional copies of the Dom New Testament were printed by an on-demand firm in the U.S. and distributed to Dom believers. These copies are being used by the translation team to test a new orthography before the final bound copies are printed. **Pray** that they receive helpful feedback from literacy classes using the preliminary copies. **Pray** that the participants will grow spiritually as they read the Scriptures, and that they will also identify any errors and passages that do not communicate clearly. **Lift up** the final print job, and **pray** for the production of well-bound books. The team would like to hold a dedication toward the end of the year. **Ask the Lord** to guide them regarding ongoing translation of Old Testament Scripture.

NEW TRIBES MISSION—NTM.ORG

DOROMU-KOKI; Papua New Guinea (1,500)

Praise God that 94 percent of the Doromu-Koki New Testament is in draft form! **Pray** for team member Rob to be able to make trips to the language area and get more drafts checked for comprehension. He would also like to find people willing to record their voices for the "JESUS" film. **Ask God** to pave the way so these goals can be met. **Pray** for safety in travel. **Lift up** the need to bring two Doromu-Koki speakers to the translation center to respond to questions a consultant had on several books. Rob's wife Betsy had foot ligament reconstruction surgery last year. **Pray** for effective physical therapy and complete recovery. And **ask God's Spirit** to prepare fertile soil among the Doromu-Koki so that, as they read God's Word, it will take root and grow.

KANDAWO; Papua New Guinea (4,000)

April 15, 2015 was an historic day among the Kandawo people in the Jimi Valley of Papua New Guinea. Following years filled with challenges (the translators' home was destroyed or burned down three times), the New Testament was finally delivered to the people. In the sunshine, the Kandawo people participated in a dedication event where they celebrated God's Word with speeches and dancing. The closing drama was stunning: Men covered with mud marched to the rhythm of clapping boards and one-note flutes. They depicted the Word of God coming in Greek, but people could not understand. That was repeated for Latin, Hebrew, English, Chimbu and Pidgin. With each round, Satan came accusing and taunting, but two angels held him back. Finally, the Word came in Kandawo along with the blood of Christ, and people could understand. Satan fell to the ground and the angels put their feet on him in victory. **Pray** for God's Word to transform Kandawo lives, bringing them hope and victory.

KASUA; Papua New Guinea (600)

Rejoice! After 25 years of hard work, the translation team has arrived at a long-awaited moment—typesetting for the Kasua New Testament is ready to begin. They are scheduled to typeset it from January to March this year. They would also like to complete an audio recording of the New Testament. **Pray** that nothing would hinder their plans. **Ask God** to prepare people's hearts for the written and spoken Word of God in their own language. There is still a lot of work to be done; **pray** for God to strengthen the translation team and keep them vigilant in their tasks. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to bring revival to the Kasua churches as they prepare for a dedication celebration.

KONAI; Papua New Guinea (600)

Rejoice with the Konai people! Their New Testament was dedicated on Easter Sunday, 2015. The celebration was filled with song performances and speeches giving praise and thanks to Almighty God. Immediately following the celebration, people lined up to purchase their New Testaments. **Praise God** for their eagerness to own a New Testament in their heart language! **Pray** that the Konai people's excitement about God's Word will continue. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to bring them hope and transformation through the Scriptures.

ONEBOOK—ONEBOOK.CA

KUNI-BOAZI; Papua New Guinea (4,500)

Praise the Lord! The Kuni people will receive the New Testament in their language for the first time on January 8, 2016. Rejoice with them as they dedicate this Bible to the honor and glory of God. **Pray** that there will be unity among the different church denominations and that they will work well together in preparing for the dedication event. **Lift up** the Kuni people in prayer, asking that they will receive the Word of God with joy and have a longing in their hearts to read and listen to it. **Pray** for much fruit to come from this work. **Pray** especially for transformed lives and a visible, positive impact on the society. **Ask God** for clear guidance in forming a new translation team to work on an Old Testament translation.

MBORENA KAM; Papua New Guinea (2,100)

The Mborena Kam have diligently worked for over 30 years on the translation of the New Testament. Over the past 10 years, they have only had a part-time advisor helping them move the translation forward. **Praise God** for their perseverance. **Pray** for success as they make audio recordings of each New Testament book and use these recordings to guide them in making final revisions of the New Testament this year. **Ask the Lord** to fill them with wisdom and discernment. They hope to publish and dedicate the New Testament by July 2017. **Pray** for physical and spiritual strength for the translators and their families; they experienced tremendous pressure last year and must continue under this pressure until they complete the New Testament. **Lift up** the Mborena Kam people. **Pray** that they will receive the Scriptures with joy, and that the New Testament will bring the light of the gospel and salvation into their hearts and lives.

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MENYA; Papua New Guinea (25,000)

The Menya translation team has fought through many trials to finish final consultant checks on their New Testament. Major interruptions to their work have included a serious vehicle accident and, for one of the team members, a broken leg. Nevertheless, typesetting is scheduled to begin in January 2016 with a dedication anticipated for early 2017. As the team prepares to make a digital recording of the New Testament, **ask God** to provide people with strong, clear voices to read the Scripture. **Pray** that the recording equipment will function well. The team wants the recording to be available at the dedication event. **Ask God** to put his hand of protection over the team even as they continue to experience injuries, equipment failures and other signs of opposition from the enemy. **Pray** that they will have confidence, perseverance and strength to complete the New Testament. **Give thanks** for the enthusiastic Menya people who want to see the New Testament project finished.

NEW IRELAND CLUSTER PROJECT— Barok, Fanamaket, Hinsaal and Sokirik languages; Papua New Guinea (5,000)

Praise the Lord that mother-tongue translators are incredibly committed to completing the New Ireland Cluster New Testaments. **Lift up** the teams in prayer as they receive further training in the translation process. **Give thanks to God** as the final consultant check of the Sokirik New Testament has begun. **Pray** that these Scriptures will help believers turn from traditional animistic practices and instead trust God to meet their needs. **Praise God**, the Hinsaal New Testament is in its final checking phase and will soon be sent for publishing. **Pray** for understanding among the Fanamaket people as they learn about Jesus' life, his sacrifice and salvation by grace. **Pray** that proper biblical teaching will provide a solid foundation on which the Barok people can build their lives. **Pray** too that knowledge of God's Word would combat any false teachings.

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SALIBA; Papua New Guinea (2,500)

Two teams are working on the Saliba New Testament translation. One finished a revision of Revelation and Genesis last year. **Pray** for good feedback as the books are checked by an advisor for accuracy, and with local speakers for comprehension. The leader of the other team was involved in a family dispute which prevented his team from working. **Ask God** to help this team regain focus and complete a draft of 2 Corinthians, a difficult book to translate. **Pray** that God will protect the team from further disputes, sickness or other distractions. **Pray** for progress, specifically for them to draft several more of the Pauline Epistles this year. **Thank the Lord** that some team members received additional training in translation last year, as well as a helpful computer course.

Lift up the project advisors who live in Austria. **Pray** for stable Internet connections as they communicate with the translation teams. **Pray** too, that their visits back to the language area to work onsite with the translators would be profitable.

SIMBARI; Papua New Guinea (4,000)

Praise God, 80 percent of the Simbari New Testament is drafted! There are also plans to include Old Testament portions with the New Testament publication; 30 percent of those portions is also complete. Last year major progress was made when the translation team completed first drafts of Matthew, Luke and John. **Intercede** for the team as they translate 2 Timothy, Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude and Philemon this year. They need focus, wisdom and energy to finish the task. **Ask the Lord** to bless their families with good health and stability so the team can concentrate on their work. And **pray** that God's Word will powerfully influence the translators' lives as they work with it day after day.

NEW TRIBES MISSION—NTM.ORG

SUDEST; Papua New Guinea (2,000)

People came from Australia, Kenya, the U.S. and other places in Papua New Guinea to attend the Sudest New Testament dedication on July 5, 2015. It was a great party! Only a year before, this community had suffered great loss when a cyclone hit their home, Sudest Island. The church and village scheduled to host the dedication were devastated. Only three houses remained standing. **Praise God**, the whole island began to build new houses and plant gardens for the village. People brought more food to the dedication than they normally would. **Give glory to God** for his faithfulness in seeing this New Testament through to completion and into the hands of Sudest speakers. **Pray** that the New Testaments will soon grow old with use.

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URA; Papua New Guinea (2,400)

Praise the Lord, rough drafts of Hebrews, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians are completed. These are the final books of the New Testament to be translated! **Ask the Lord** to give wisdom and discernment to consultants who are checking each book for accuracy and naturalness. The team would like to have all the checks completed by June. **Pray** that the Ura translators will be available for further checking when needed, either in the village or by meeting at the translation center. **Ask God** to help the team clearly identify people who could contribute to a recording of the New Testament. **Pray** that the recording would be done in a timely manner. **Pray** for unity among the churches and Christian fellowships in the Ura communities.

URAT; Papua New Guinea (6,280)

Thank the Lord that all consultant checks of the Urat New Testament were completed last year and typesetting began at the end of the year. **Pray** that the team will work together harmoniously; they have struggled with unity. Their goal is to send the New Testament to a printing firm in South Korea in early 2016. **Ask God** to bless the team with stamina, good concentration and health. If there are no hindrances, they could hold a dedication later this year. May the celebration honor God and greatly impact the Urat people, growing their hunger for the Word. **Pray** for God's Spirit to cover each person and each step in the process.

URIM; Papua New Guinea (5,000)

Praise God for modern technology that enables the Urim translation team to work together via Skype—one member is in Finland and the other members are in Papua New Guinea. **Thank the Lord** that over 70 percent of the New Testament is completed. **Ask the Lord** to give wisdom and discernment to the team and the consultant as they check Hebrews, Jude and the last few books. **Pray** for strength and alertness for the team as they edit John, Romans, 1-2 Peter, and 1-3 John. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill the translators and their families with joy as they press on day by day. **Pray** that a Christian song book and recordings, an Urim picture dictionary and other Urim reading books will help people become more fluent in reading their language so they can more easily read the New Testament when it is published. **Pray** also for computers and other equipment used in the project to work well.

VITU; Papua New Guinea (8,800)

Praise the Lord for progress made last year. The New Testament will be typeset from January to March 2016. **Lift up** the team as they work remotely with one another: Werner, Leni and Komoi are in Papua New Guinea, and Peter and Wiljo are in the Netherlands. **Pray** for stable Internet connections and for wisdom as they make decisions about formatting the text. **Ask God** to help them finalize the audio recording of the New Testament from April to June. They would like to have a Bible app so people can read and hear the Scriptures on their smart phones. **Pray** that they might also create a website for Vitu information, including Scriptures in Vitu and a Vitu-English dictionary. **Ask the Lord** to give the team stamina and good health for these tasks, and **pray** for unity and good cooperation. **Pray** for Vitu believers to support the project with prayer and finances.

VULA'A; Papua New Guinea (6,400)

It's no secret that obstacles come up as a translation nears completion. Last year the project secretary, Alice Ralai, broke her leg and could not work for an

extended time. Nevertheless, the team steadily moved forward. **Thank the Lord** that Genesis, Psalms 1-30 and Isaiah 1-20 were consultant checked. The team's expected completion date is now set for December 2016, but meeting this date will be a challenge. The remaining books that require a consultant check are difficult ones. **Ask God** to give the team and the consultant wisdom, strength and perseverance. **Pray** that the team and their families will have good health, which would allow the team to focus on their work. **Lift up** Dr. Jerry Tamate, project coordinator, as he guides the team toward completion.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WARAN; Papua New Guinea (3,000)

Give thanks, the Waran translation team completed a rough draft of the New Testament last year. In addition, a number of books were checked by a consultant. **Intercede** for the advisor to the project, and **ask God** to give him good health. He was on furlough the second half of 2015. He is key to finishing checks and revisions of the translation, as well as ensuring it is accurate, readable and faithful to the original meaning. **Pray** for successful literacy and Scripture-use activities so that the Waran people will be well-equipped to read and use the New Testament. **Lift up** the Waran in prayer, asking the Lord to transform them with his love and his Word.

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS PAPUA NEW GUINEA—PBTPNG.ORG

Solomon Islands

GELA; Solomon Islands (14,500)

The Gela translation team anticipates a large turnout for the dedication of the New Testament this spring. A member of the team said, "This dedication is the most significant event for the Gela community in 100 years!" The host village planted extra food crops — extending hospitality to visitors is a high value in their culture. **Ask the Lord** to provide abundant crops and give unity to church and community leaders as they prepare for the event. **Pray** for wide distribution of the New Testaments to the Gela speakers who live on the Florida Islands of the Solomon Islands. **Pray** that church leaders will use the New Testament in local churches and that God's Word will impact and transform the Gela people.

NORTH MALAITA CLUSTER PROJECT— Baelelea, Baeggu and Fataleka languages; Solomon Islands (23,400)

Hallelujah! The Baelelea New Testament was launched on January 13, 2015 in the village of Faalau. It was a great celebration. And for the first time in the Solomon Islands, audio New Testaments were distributed along with published New Testaments. The team printed 2,500 copies and produced 1,000 SD cards. These cards, containing the audio New Testament, can be played on cellphones, which are in widespread use. They provide easy access to God's Word for those who can't read. **Pray** for spiritual fruit from God's Word in Baelelea. **Thank the Lord** that the Baeggu and Fataleka teams completed consultant checks of their New Testaments late last year. **Pray** for successful efforts this year as they use a special computer software program, Paratext, to prepare the books for publication. This software facilitates editing and checks for consistent formatting, spelling and punctuation. **Lift up** the teams as they also run village-based literacy projects and make audio recordings of their New Testaments. As they work on these multiple projects, **ask the Lord** to fill them with energy, wisdom, unity and a deep love for Christ.

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ROVIANA; Solomon Islands (14,000)

By the end of 2015, the translation team aimed to have all the final checks completed on the Roviana Bible. Typesetting is scheduled to begin early this year. **Praise God**, the team is considering a recording of the Roviana New Testament. It would be an added blessing if a recording could be released at the time of the dedication; **pray** that they may proceed with the audio recording. Church leaders will need to choose a date for the Bible dedication which will likely be held later this year or in early 2017. **Ask God** to grant them wisdom as they select a date when many Roviana speakers will be able to travel safely to the location of the dedication. **Pray** for the community to experience a growing anticipation and excitement about the coming of God's Word. May God prepare Roviana hearts to receive the Scriptures and respond to their message.

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Vanuatu

EPI CLUSTER PROJECT—Baki, Lamel and Lewo languages; Vanuatu (3,400)

Praise God! Teams are preparing the Baki and Lewo New Testaments for printing during the first half of 2016. They hope to hold dedications in early 2017. **Lift up** the team doing the typesetting. This is a detailed task involving decisions about formatting, font size and type, placement of maps and pictures, and footnotes. **Pray** also for the computers to function well. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in people's lives so that the communities will get behind the translations. **Pray** for successful strategies to engage individuals, churches and whole communities with the Scriptures. **Intercede** for the Lamel translation team — they have completed a draft of the New Testament but it requires more work to reach the publication stage and they have run into some roadblocks.

LENAKEL; Vanuatu (11,500)

A draft of the entire New Testament was completed in 2006. Tim, a translator who lived among the Lenakel but now pastors a church in Australia, makes occasional visits back to Vanuatu to conduct intensive checking sessions of the drafts. Sixty-seven percent of the New Testament has been checked. **Ask God** to give Tim and the translation team success during his visits. **Pray** for God's guidance regarding the option of bringing a Lenakel speaker to Australia to expedite the process. The process has slowed due to a decision to change the orthography for the language, including adding an extra vowel. However, the change will enable the translation to be more widely accepted and aid people who are learning to read. **Thank the Lord** for his leading! **Pray** for the Lenakel church to grow and to use Scripture portions already available as they wait for the completed New Testament.

PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA—PRC.ORG.AU

PAAMA & SOUTHEAST AMBRYM CLUSTER PROJECT; Vanuatu (10,000)

The church erupted with applause when project coordinator Leigh held up copies of the typeset Southeast Ambrym and Paama New Testaments with Old Testament portions last year. "When is the dedication?" they asked. "When can we have our own copies?" **Praise God** for this eagerness in people's hearts for God's Word. **Lift up** the translation teams as they finish recording and editing the audio Bibles. **Pray** for many to participate in the planning for May dedications of both the audio and print versions. **Lift up** these two groups, praying that they will embrace their new Scriptures and fully integrate them into their churches, homes and community lives.

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