**Africa**

**FLAME; AFRICA**

*Give thanks to God!* All of the New Testament books have been approved by a consultant. *Lift up* the translation team as they finish running each book through automatic checks by the computer software program called Paratext. This program checks the consistency of spelling, punctuation, key biblical terms, parallel passages and other features. They will then do a final read-through of the New Testament to correct any errors they find. *Ask the Lord* to give the team good health and stamina to finish the project, and to protect them from attacks of the enemy. *Thank the Lord* for good relationships the team enjoys with the community. *Pray* that the Lord will inspire the team with creative ways to engage people with the Scriptures. *Ask the Holy Spirit* to prepare people’s hearts to receive God’s Word with joy and hunger.

**KWEME; AFRICA (40,000)**

*Praise God,* the Kweme now have the New Testament available in their language! Due to sensitivities in the area, a dedication was held last year away from the community in a church in a city. Some Kweme from the language area celebrated together with national partners. Since the main use of the Scriptures will be in nonprint formats, only 1,000 copies were published using print-on-demand technology. *Pray* for creative thinking among the team members as they distribute the Scriptures in print and nonprint forms. *Pray* for the security of the believers, that they will be able to receive and use the New Testament in the format that best suits their situation. *Ask the Holy Spirit* to use God’s Word to bring hope and encouragement.

**RUPAIIQA; AFRICA**

Due to a lack of mother-tongue translators, a provisional copy of the Bible for testing and revision purposes will be printed this year. A local association of Rupaiqa speakers, whose members belong to the majority religion, have requested 100 copies! They are proud of their language and are willing to have the Bible distributed and promoted among their members. *Pray* that many will come into a living relationship with the God who made them. *Ask the Holy Spirit* to penetrate their hearts, and the hearts of hundreds of others, to motivate them to feed on the Word of God. May they encounter Jesus as they read. *Pray* for a replacement to be found for the national church leader who has been overseeing the project for almost 30 years. It will be difficult to replace him, and several people might be needed to do what he has been doing.

**Angola**

**NYANEKA-MWILA; ANGOLA (600,000)**

Excitement grows within the communities as the Nyameka-Mwila team prepares four Bible books for printing. These will give native speakers a taste of the Scriptures in their heart language. The team is encouraged to know that there are many who are eagerly awaiting the New Testament. *Thank the Lord* for equipping the translation team with wisdom and strength to carry out their substantial task. *Praise God* for providing the team with consultants. *Ask him* to grant them sound judgment as they work with the translators to achieve an accurate translation. *Ask the Holy Spirit* to ripen the hearts of the Nyaneka-Mwila so that the gospel can take root and produce genuine fruit.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**
Benin

AJA; BENIN (910,000)

God provided two consultants last year to move several New Testament books through the checking process. Give thanks for ATBA, the Alliance for the Translation of the Bible in Aja. They are holding meetings in the 22 counties in Togo and Benin where the Aja population is concentrated. Ask God to give them ongoing energy and enthusiasm as they present the Bible translation project to churches and collect contributions toward project expenses. Pray for full funding for the New Testament. The Bible Society, who funded most of the work for five years, had to greatly reduce its contribution due to income shortfall. This slowed the work down. Pray for God to provide so that the final comprehension checking and revision stages can be completed and the New Testament prepared for publication. Pray for an agreement to be reached on an orthography for Aja so that the translation can be revised accordingly.

ALLIANCE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE IN AJA, BIBLE SOCIETY OF BENIN

BIALI; BENIN (104,080)

Praise God for technology! The translation team used advanced features of Paratext, a computer software program, to do final checks on the New Testament. They were able to ensure that passages common to more than one Gospel match correctly, and that key biblical terms are consistently translated throughout the text. They also prepared introductions, footnotes and a glossary. The New Testament is being typeset during the first few months of 2017. Lift up the typesetters in Switzerland as they work via Skype with the translation team in Benin. Ask God to give them strong and reliable connections. Pray also for the team as they work with Theovision International to produce an audio version of the New Testament. Ask God to provide readers with strong, clear voices. Pray for local church leaders to work well together to prepare for a dedication of the New Testament in late 2017 or early 2018. May they be engaged and enthusiastic about using the translated Scripture in their churches and in their homes. Ask Jehovah-Jireh to provide the funds necessary to print the New Testament.

IDAASHA; BENIN (101,000)

The Idaasha translation team has been hard at work. Last year six books of the New Testament were checked, the script of the film “Abraham,” based on Genesis 12-25, was recorded, and the “JESUS” film was launched and distributed. Praise God! Ask the Lord to bring abundant fruit from these Scripture films. Lift up the team as they press forward to finish the remaining books of the New Testament. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower and renew them day by day. Pray for God’s protection over the team, including the literacy supervisor, program manager and support staff. Pray for their families to be safe and enjoy good health. As the team reaches out to more churches to hold literacy classes, pray that the churches will joyously agree and that many readers of the New Testament will result. Lift up the Idaasha people to the Lord, praying for transformation as they read God’s Word in their own language.

SEED COMPANY — THESeedCOMPANY.ORG; WYCLIFFE-BENIN — WYCLIFFEBENIN.ORG/EN/WELCOME

NATENI; BENIN (66,000)

The Nateni New Testament will soon cross the finish line! Lift up the team as they do final checks, including making sure that passages common to more than one Gospel match correctly, and that key biblical terms are consistently translated throughout the text. They plan to begin typesetting in April or May. Ask God to give reliable and clear connections between the typesetter and publishing firm located in Switzerland, and the translation team in Benin. Pray for funds to come in to cover the costs of printing the books. Lift up the team as they record the New Testament. Working together with Theovision International, they want to produce a Scripture app, making the Scriptures available to a wider audience. Pray that the recording equipment will work well. Pray for more reliable power in the region. Frequent outages slow the work down. As the literacy program continues, ask the Holy Spirit to give the team creative ideas in how to involve Nateni speakers not only in reading but also in writing their language. Pray for God to raise up a host of Nateni believers who feed and grow on God’s Word.

YOM; BENIN (300,000)

The Yom translation team is focused on the details of preparing the whole Bible for publication. Pray they will soon finish revising the New Testament, which was published in 1986. They are using Paratext, a computer software program, to run automated checks that evaluate the accuracy and consistency of the Old and New Testament translation. They are also preparing book introductions, a glossary, and selected maps and illustrations to include. Ask the Lord to give them stamina and wisdom. Praise God for MiDiBible in Switzerland, a nonprofit organization that publishes...
Bibles for minority peoples. They will publish the Bible and are paying for half the costs. Thank the Lord for another generous donor who is covering the other half. Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint each Bible and draw people into an intimate relationship with Christ as they read the Scriptures.

SIM INTERNATIONAL — SIM.ORG

Botswana

KALANGA; BOTSWANA (150,000)
The translation team continues to revise and check the few Old Testament books that remain to complete the Kalanga Bible, but health issues have slowed them down. Ask God to give them health, strength and joy. Pray for the Holy Spirit to anoint them so they can finish strong, and ask God to give them wisdom as they make decisions: Reverend Tafuluka Kubaya, project coordinator; Gerrit van Steenbergen, project consultant; and Reverend Gabriel Tsuaneng, Bible Society of Botswana chairman. Pray that God will “accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20, NLT) as he brings the Kalanga Bible to a triumphant conclusion in the next year or two. Lift up the Kalanga people, that their hearts will be hungry for the Lord and his Word.

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS — LBT.ORG; BIBLE SOCIETY OF BOTSWANA

Burkina Faso

BUAMU LAÁ; BURKINA FASO (69,200)
The translation team praises God for his protection in their daily activities. They did not accomplish their goals last year, however, due to a lack of funds. Ask Jehovah-Jireh to provide finances for a consultant to check a number of books that are ready for this stage. Prior to publication a consultant must ensure that each book is accurate, clear and sounds natural. Pray for the Holy Spirit to encourage the team members as they work with reduced salaries, and ask God to supply all their needs. Pray that Scripture portions already available will transform Buamu Laa lives and soon become worn with use. Lift up the need to reinstate a translation committee for the project. The committee, composed of church leaders of different denominations, advises the translators and makes decisions about the project. Ask God to raise up gifted men and women to serve in this way.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

DAGARA WULE; BURKINA FASO (100,000)
Praise God for friends of the translation team who live in Switzerland and are generously paying for the final phases of the project, including the typesetting of the New Testament. Typesetting will take place in Switzerland in early 2017. Pray for the translators to get the visas they need to travel there and work with the typesetter. Pray for safety in their journey and that they would make good adjustments during typesetting. Ask God to give the team wisdom as they make decisions about columns, subtitles, footnotes, pictures and maps. Pray for accuracy as they repeatedly proofread their work. Pray for the printing process to move forward seamlessly and for the books to reach their destination in excellent condition. Lift up the Dagara church, and ask that it will grow and thrive with God’s Word in their heart language.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

DOGOSÉ; BURKINA FASO (40,000)
God is faithful! He helped the translation team work with a typesetter in Cameroon last year to prepare the New Testament for printing. One of the translators fell seriously ill, but the Lord healed him and the team was able to complete the task. God also gave safety as the translators traveled between Burkina Faso and Cameroon. Give thanks, the New Testament has been printed and a dedication ceremony is scheduled for the dry season, from January to March. More people can attend then. Pray for God to prepare “good soil” and hungry hearts so that as the Dogosé receive God’s Word, they will “hear God’s word, cling to it, and ... produce a huge harvest” (Luke 8:15, NLT).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

DYAN; BURKINA FASO (15,000)
Thank the Lord for progress made last year! The translation team drafted Colossians, Jude and 1-2 Peter. Give thanks for their steadfastness in spite of reduced salaries due to limited funding sources. Ask the Lord to encourage them and provide for all their needs. Ask him also to provide finances for a consultant to check several books ready for that step. Pray that the community will use the Scripture portions they already have in their Bible studies. The team has been presented with an exciting opportunity to start a new program using Dyan Scriptures on a
local radio station. Pray for this to become a reality and for many Dyan speakers to be impacted as they hear God’s Word.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

KAANSA; BURKINA FASO (6,000)

Praise God! The long-awaited day of the Kaansa New Testament dedication dawned sunny and warm on March 5, 2016. About 600 Kaan people gathered, along with local traditional and political leaders, visitors from other ethnic groups, and friends from the U.S., to celebrate the joyful occasion. Dressed in festive clothing, there was music, dancing and speeches. All local and visiting pastors gathered around the New Testaments to dedicate them to the Lord and to pray for God’s blessing on the Kaan church. People flocked to the table where the New Testaments were on sale. Both printed and audio versions were purchased. A week later 35 church leaders attended a Scripture engagement seminar to become familiar with the New Testament and learn how to use it in personal or group Bible studies. Each day when lunch was served, no one wanted to stop — they were so engrossed in their studies and delighted by what they were discovering in God’s Word. Pray for great spiritual growth in the Kaan church and in individual lives as they soak in God’s Word.

KASEM; BURKINA FASO (194,000)

The translation team was unable to reach their goals last year due to a reduction in available finances for salaries and consultant travel. In addition, one of the team members left the project. Thank the Lord for the commitment of the other two, who kept drafting Old Testament books, including Ezekiel and Hosea. Praise God also that a meeting was held in the language area with church leaders and that a translation committee was restarted to advise the team. Pray for God to raise up funds to cover project expenses and consultant travel costs. A number of books are ready to be checked by a consultant. Intercede for the team, asking the Holy Spirit to bring alive to them the very Scriptures they are translating. “And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled” (Romans 15:4b, NLT).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

KOROMFÉ; BURKINA FASO (196,000)

Praise the Lord! The final books of the Koromfé New Testament were checked by a consultant last year, and people in a community read through the entire manuscript to ensure it was clear and sounded natural. Lift up the translation team as they work with a typesetter in Cameroon to prepare the New Testament for printing. They need wisdom and good health. It’s a detailed process and the work is intense. As the New Testaments go to press, ask God to watch over and protect the printing presses, the binding machines, and the finished books as they are transported back to Burkina Faso. Lift up this predominantly Muslim community, praying that many will read the New Testament and join with the Psalmist saying, “The very essence of your words is truth. ... I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure” (Psalm 119:160, 162, NLT).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO; ONEBOOK — ONEBOOK.CA

NORTHERN SAN MACAA AND NORTHERN SAN MAYAA; BURKINA FASO (106,000 AND 38,000)

These two New Testament projects are being run simultaneously. Praise God for a positive reception last year to the publication of the Gospel of Luke, chapters 1-12. The communities want more! They are raising funds to publish the remaining 12 chapters. Pray for them to quickly reach their goal. Thank the Lord that all the books of the New Testament are in draft form. The translation teams need consultants and finances, however, to be able to check the books for accuracy and clarity. Claim God’s promise in Philippians 4:19, “And this same God ... will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus” (NLT). Intercede for the translators, asking the Lord to encourage them and keep their vision alive of providing the Scriptures for their communities. Pray that they will “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” (Ephesians 6:10, NLT).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

PUGULI; BURKINA FASO (22,000)

Rejoice! The Puguli community is eagerly waiting for the New Testament. A hurdle remains, however, a few books still need to be checked by a consultant. The technical skills of consultants are in high demand, and there are not enough to meet the needs. Pray for one to be available. Lift up the team as they then prepare the manuscript for printing. Ask God to keep them alert and give them strength as they spend hours scrupulously proofreading each verse to look for any remaining errors or spots needing improvement. When the final edits have been made, typesetting will begin. This determines how each page looks when printed. Pray for good health for each one on the team and their families so the work can proceed.

Lift up the team and their families so the work can proceed.

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unhindered. And ask the Lord to give them joy as they anticipate having God’s Word in Puguli.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO; ONEBOOK — ONEBOOK.CA

SICITÉ; BURKINA FASO (38,000)

God has fortified the translation team, and the New Testament is being printed this year! Last year they conducted a read-through of the entire manuscript among community people to ensure it was clear. They also made sure that key terms were consistently translated in each book, so that readers would not be confused. Thank the Lord for valuable feedback from the readers and that the New Testament could be sent to Cameroon for typesetting. Intercede for the team as they focus on teaching people how to read. Pray that when the Sicité church receives the New Testament, they will take ownership of it, using it in their services and their homes and promoting it among the wider community.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

TOUSSIAN; BURKINA FASO (34,000)

The Toussian New Testament is approaching the finish line! Lift up the team working on typesetting it in Cameroon. This is a detailed process in which they check for consistent formatting, add footnotes and cross-references, and carefully proofread each page. They need good health and keen eyes. Pray for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books. The translators who have devoted years to the project wonder what their future will hold once the New Testament is published. Ask the Holy Spirit to give them peace and lead them to ongoing significant ministries. Pray for the Toussian community to hunger and thirst for the Lord and be fertile soil for the coming New Testament. Thank the Lord for each person who has participated in the project, directly or indirectly, so the Toussian can savor God’s Word in their heart language.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO; ONEBOOK — ONEBOOK.CA

WINYÉ; BURKINA FASO (55,000)

Thank the Lord that electricity is now available in the village area and the translation team can work there. This means the translators can live in their own homes, reducing their expenses. This is a great help in light of reduced funding available for their salaries. Pray that God raise up the consultants and finances needed to finish the project. Praise God for a growing interest in the Scriptures by the community. Ask the Holy Spirit to water this fertile soil so that as the Winyé receive God’s Word, they will “hear God’s word, cling to it, and … produce a huge harvest” (Luke 8:15, NLT). Pray for the renewal of a translation committee, made up of church leaders from different denominations, to guide the translators and the project. Lift up the translators, asking the Lord to encourage them in the midst of challenging circumstances.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

Cameroon

ALVARE; CAMEROON (8,500)

Due to difficult conditions, translation is moving slowly. The consultant and exegete are far away from the translation team and have experienced technical problems transmitting data. Thank the Lord that the consultant has checked Revelation and part of Galatians for accuracy and approved them for publication. Ask God to encourage the team as they prepare more material for the consultant to check. Pray for God’s guidance for the exegete as he makes helpful notes on some of the translation drafts. Hebrews, 1-2 Thessalonians and Romans are fully drafted and ready for the consultant’s check. Pray for good lines of communication as the material is passed back and forth. It’s unlikely the team will reach the typesetting stage this year, so ask God to speed this work and remove all obstacles to the completion of the Alvaré New Testament.

KARANG; CAMEROON (18,000)

Praise God, many people showed interest in the Karang translation as the team went from village to village to test drafts of Scripture. They also journeyed through the neighborhoods of a nearby city to gather responses to the text. Not only was the feedback helpful to the team, but it was an effective way to promote the translation and increase awareness of it. Pray for wisdom for the team as they process responses to the testing of 1-2 Thessalonians, Titus and Philemon. Ask God to arrange time with a translation consultant for a final check of their work. Pray for good health for the team and their families. Ask God to protect them all. Pray, too, for a spirit of revival among the translation committee. May the Word impact every Karang heart.
The Lamnso’ Bible was dedicated on November 19, 2016. It was a momentous occasion as there had been challenges and sorrows along the way. Church leaders had looked forward to the dedication event for some time. Praise God, the Bibles were there and dedicated to God’s glory! Thank the Lord for providing the funds necessary to print the Bibles. Pray that the truth of God’s Word will break down cultural practices that oppose the gospel, and pray that the Banso people, who speak Lamnso’, will find true freedom in Christ.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

MH; CAMEROON (10,500)
The principal MH translator has completed his high school degree and was encouraged to continue his education. While his time devoted to studies may slow down the translation process initially, pray that it will increase his capacity for translation work as he progresses. Thank the Lord for New Testament books recently completed — 1 Corinthians, Colossians, Philemon and 2 Peter. The national anthem, too, was translated into MH. While security tensions in the area have decreased of late, please continue to pray for peace throughout the far north of Cameroon.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

NUGUNU; CAMEROON (40,000)
The printing process for the Nugunu New Testament began early last year, but unexpected complications delayed the actual printing. Praise the Lord, a dedication will take place this year! Pray that there will be great spiritual hunger for God’s Word throughout the language area. Work continues on the Nugunu-French dictionary and literacy and Scripture engagement activities. Lift up the translators as they transition from working on the project to starting other jobs. Pray for encouraging relationships in their communities and church congregations. Ask God to strengthen local churches as they work together. May they “stand firm against all the strategies of the enemy” (Ephesians 6:11, NLT). Pray for the safety of translation personnel in Cameroon and ask God to bring peace to this African country.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

OROKO; CAMEROON (106,000)
Praise the Lord! The Oroko translation team finished revising the entire New Testament last year. They also prepared a literal translation back into English of the final four books — Philippians, Colossians, Hebrews and Romans — so a consultant can evaluate the accuracy and clarity of the translation. Pray for consultants to be available to check the remaining 1,200 verses of the New Testament. Ask the Lord to give the team wisdom and guidance as they prepare supplemental materials like book introductions and a glossary. Pray for creative scheduling to maximize the time and personnel available for the various tasks. Ask God to place his hand on each aspect of recording the “JESUS” film — the logistics, the equipment and the voice actors. Pray for the film to draw people to Christ and to his Word.

WORLD TEAM — GLOBAL.WORLDTEAM.ORG

VUTÉ; CAMEROON (20,000)
Thank the Lord for progress made last year by Alfred, who has been translating and revising the Old Testament lectionary series. Pastor Paul, a well-trained Vuté pastor, worked with him to ensure accuracy and naturalness. Pray for a French-speaking consultant to check and approve their translation of these Old Testament selections. Pray for good team dynamics between Alfred, Pastor Paul, the Vuté language committee and all who will be promoting the series. May it be a powerful tool to build God’s kingdom among the Vuté people. Praise God that the audio version of the Vuté New Testament, recorded by

THE FINISH LINE 2017

WYCLIFFE.ORG
Faith Comes By Hearing last year, has been launched among the Yuté. Pray it will reach many Yuté people and transform their lives and communities.

**LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS — LBT.ORG**

**YAMBETTA; CAMEROON (8,000)**

Give thanks to the Lord! The translation team finished final checks and typesetting of the Yambetta New Testament last year. A printed proof was dedicated and presented to a church. One attendee wrote: “If some Yambetta people attended with skepticism, they left with their minds completely changed. Their deep desire now is to learn to read Yambetta for themselves so they can study the New Testament when it becomes available. Yambetta literacy is now a priority in the culture. The community is full of anticipation as they prepare to receive God’s Word in their heart language.” Ask God’s Spirit to anoint a large-scale literacy campaign to help Yambetta people learn to read, write and study God’s Word in their heart language. Pray that local churches will grow stronger as they use the Scriptures. Pray for people to turn to God and know him more fully as a result of access to his Word. The community will dedicate the printed copies of the New Testament this year.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

**BANDA-LINDA; CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (183,000)**

One day, a Banda-Linda speaker came to the Bible translation office and shared how after hearing the Gospel of Luke read aloud, he decided to change his life and serve Christ. Now he’s committed to promoting Bible translation in his own mother tongue. Another day a man asked one of the translators to read a passage from the Gospel of John. On hearing it, the man began to smile and broke into a laugh mixed with surprise as he heard the Word of God for the first time in his mother tongue. He was so happy, he stood up to salute it. Praise God for his powerful Word, and pray for the translation team as they press on in adverse circumstances. Pray for security in the area where they work: people are missing, some hide in the bush, and others have died. Testing Scriptures in the community is nearly impossible. Ask God to strengthen the translators, protect their families and help them draft more books.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**BOKOTO; CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (130,000)**

Thank the Lord that Bokoto people are developing a taste for reading and writing their own language. Children observe their parents doing this activity and want to participate! Praise God that the translation team visited two villages and that bonds were strengthened with the people. A pastor remarked, “The team’s visit reassured us we’ll see a Bible.” Pray for a reliable broadband global area network (BGAN) communication system so the translators can protect their work by connecting their computers to the internet in their remote location. This is key in enabling the translation work to move forward. Ask God to provide consultants this year to check
drafted Scriptures, just as he did last year. Pray for the country’s authorities to serve benevolently and that there will be an atmosphere in which Christians’ faith will thrive.

**DAGBA; CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (44,000)**

*Praise the Lord.* a consultant finished reviewing all the New Testament books last year and the manuscript was sent to a digital print specialist who prepared it for printing. Pray that the printing process will move forward seamlessly and that the books will be safely transported back to the Dagba area. They hope to have a dedication later this year. *Ask the Holy Spirit* to work in Dagba hearts, creating a hunger and thirst for God’s Word.

**GBEYA; CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (200,000)**

*Rejoice!* The translation team traveled safely from the capital city to the home area in order to do community checking of several New Testament books. This visit brought hope to the Gbeya who are anxiously awaiting God’s word in their heart language. *Ask God* for peace and security in this country so that more trips can be made and progress will continue. Pray that consultant checks will not be hindered as the team is in the final checking phase before printing the New Testament. *Entreat the Lord* to protect the lives of the translators and their families, who have suffered from serious illnesses. Claim the promise that “God blesses those who patiently endure testing. ... Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12, NLT).

**KABA; CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (83,000)**

Pray for peace and security in the Kaba language area and in their country. *Praise the Lord* for encouraging steps completed this past year by the translation team. The orthography was revised, and a Kaba book of hymns was approved. May the Kaba worship with the joy of the Lord as they await the completion of the New Testament. *Ask God* to enable this translation team to persevere in the final stages of consultant checking and the writing of each book introduction for the New Testament. As decisions for publication need to be made, *ask the Lord* for wisdom and unity. Pray also for those developing a financially sustainable literacy program so that many Kaba will be able to participate and become proficient readers.

**NZAKARA; CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (50,000)**

*Give praise to the Lord* that in spite of difficulties and insecurities, the translation team has been encouraged by the progress they have made in preparing New Testament books for publication. They rejoiced in God’s provision for travel by air when the roadways were not a safe option. Pray for wisdom for the team to determine whether or not they should relocate their work from the capital city to the language project location at this time. *Ask God* specifically for reliable internet connections and power sources so that the work will not be hindered. Pray that God will continue to “accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20, NLT) as the Nzakara translation team perseveres with the work.

**GUERGUIKO; CHAD (13,000)**

Thank the Lord that a consultant completed checking the books of Matthew and Hebrews last year, and Romans will be checked in February. The translation team has had major health issues, though, which impedes progress. Intercede for them, asking the Lord to keep them healthy and strong. An exegete, who ensures faithfulness of the translation to the biblical text, will work with the team in January and February. Pray for good progress in finalizing 1-2
Corinthians and for a workshop on 1 Corinthians in January. *Pray* that the exegete will be able to return for more than five months during 2018-2019. This would greatly help the team keep up with their goals for completion of the New Testament. *Lift up* the country of Chad, asking for continued peace so that translation work can continue.

**MANGO; CHAD (108,000)**

*Praise the Lord,* consultant checks are underway in the Mango New Testament translation process. After this stage is complete, the translation team will be able to move onto team checking and village checking of the New Testament books. *Lift up* the recording of the “JESUS” film. *Ask the Lord* to use this tool to draw the Mango people closer to him. *Pray* for good health among the team members. *Ask God* to keep them strong and to keep them focused on finishing this translation.

**CHADIAN ASSOCIATION OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**MIGAAMA; CHAD (20,000)**

The translation team has been steadily moving forward. 1-2 Thessalonians and Philippians were checked for accuracy and clarity by a consultant last year, and the team is at various stages of finishing Luke, Galatians and Revelation. A critical prayer need for the team this year is to be able to spend time together. The team members live in three different locations in the country. *Pray* that the best translator, a fulltime teacher, will be moved to a school in the language area to be more accessible for the project. *Ask the Lord* to help the exegete, who ensures faithfulness of the translation to the biblical text, balance several different responsibilities she has. *Pray* that the team will grow in their abilities as they attend a translation workshop. *Present* the country of Chad to the Lord, asking for peace so that translation work can continue.

**Côte d’Ivoire**

**DJIMINI; CÔTE D’IVOIRE (85,000)**

*Rejoice!* On March 19, 2016, close to 2,000 people gathered to celebrate the arrival of the Djimini Bible. The dedication was a significant event for which the Djimini people had waited more than 40 years. The New Testament was completed and dedicated in 1993, after which the Djimini churches decided to move forward with Old Testament translation. They chose Matthieu Ouattara, a young man who had worked on the New Testament translation as a teenager, to lead the project. *Give thanks* for Matthieu, who earned his Bible degree and then came back to direct the team translating the Old Testament. The team experienced numerous trials and tests of faith during the final stages, but *praise God,* he protected and provided for the team, and 3,000 copies of the Djimini Bible arrived in February 2016. *Pray* that the Lord will use this Bible to show his love to the Djimini people in the language of their hearts.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**KRU CLUSTER — BETE GAGNOA, BETE GUIBEROUA, GODIE AND WE SOUTHERN LANGUAGES; CÔTE D’IVOIRE (599,400)**

*Praise the Lord,* the four Kru Cluster language teams have consultant checked the four Gospels, Acts and most of the Epistles. One team has drafted all the New Testament books. The other three teams are about to complete this step as well. The teams encourage people in their communities to help test the books for comprehension. As people participate, they gain a sense of ownership in the project. *Give thanks* for the local churches who strive to help the translation teams finish their goals. *Pray* that with more eyes and ears interacting with the Scripture translation and providing valued feedback, the team members will make beneficial changes. *Ask the Lord* to protect this project from Satan’s attacks. *Pray* that he will build up mother-tongue speakers with the message of his love.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**NYARAFOLO; CÔTE D’IVOIRE (60,000)**

The goal of the Nyarafolo team is to produce a New Testament along with Old Testament portions. *Give thanks,* the Old Testament portions are drafted, and work on the New Testament is underway. *Lift up* the translation team in prayer as they try to finish drafting the New Testament by the end of 2017. *Praise the Lord* for donations the team has received to help subsidize the cost of printing individual books of the Bible. Because these books are more affordable, literacy is growing among the Nyarafolo, who are mostly subsistence-level farmers. *Pray* that the team will make great progress in teaching the Nyarafolo people to read so that they can easily access God’s Word in their own language! *Pray* that it will be possible to make an audio recording of the New Testament also.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; WORLD VENTURE — WORLDVENTURE.COM**
Democratic Republic of Congo

BUDU-KOYA; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (96,000)

Praise the Lord for opening doors for consultants to work with the translators. Some of the consulting was completed via internet sessions with a translation consultant in Ireland while a consultant-in-training and the translators worked in their local office in Isiro. God protected the internet connections even when a major lightning strike damaged other equipment in the area. Everyone was encouraged by the progress. Pray that consultants will be available to complete the final checks on the Gospel of John, 1-2 Corinthians, James and Revelation. Pray that the efforts of literacy workers to teach reading and writing of the Budu-Koya language will be successful. Ask God to give the Budu-Koya people a deep desire for his word so they can say with the prophet Jeremiah, “His word burns in my heart like a fire” (Jeremiah 20:9, NLT).

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

BUDU-NITA; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (169,700)

Visa delays complicated the scheduled translation consultant checks last year. Perseverance paid off and a consultant was finally able to travel and meet with the translation team to continue the required checks on several books. Praise the Lord that only three more New Testament books await a consultant check. Pray for the translation team as they write book introductions and as they choose pictures and maps to include in the printed New Testament. Ask God to supply all their needs, whether it be physical health for the families, more reliable computers for their work, or visas for consultants. “And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19, NLT).

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

FULIIRU; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (400,000)

Preparing the whole Bible for publication is incredibly detailed work, but a high-quality Bible translation is well worth it. The Fuliiru team has been faithfully persevering as they carefully check for correct spelling throughout the Bible, make all Biblical terms consistent, and prepare the Old Testament and revised New Testament for typesetting. Ask God to protect the computer equipment, software and files from corruption all the way through the printing phase. Pray for the team members and their families to stay healthy and safe. Give praise that this experienced team is already mentoring teams from neighboring language groups who are eager to work on their own Bible translations. Thank the Lord for the team’s dedicated work, and claim his promise in Philippians 4:19, to supply all their needs.

KOMO; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (614,000)

The translation team works a long way from the center of their language area. Pray for good opportunities this year to travel to their homeland to conduct community checks with various groups of people to confirm that the translated scriptures are clearly understood. Ask God to open the hearts of the Komo to yearn for more of his truth. May they find God’s word to be “more desirable than gold, even finest gold” (Psalm 19:10a, NLT). Praise God for the New Testament books that were checked by a translation consultant this past year, and now ask God to prepare the way for consultants to come and complete checks for the remaining books: James, 2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude, and Revelation.

LOGO; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (450,000)

On March 6, 2016, a crowd of over 3,000 sat under mango trees — Logo men, women and children, church leaders, government dignitaries, businessmen
and women, and common folk. They listened to traditional Logo music played with wooden flutes, antelope horns, bongo drums and shakers. Then a brass band marched down the hill toward the crowd, belting out traditional hymns. They were followed by men carrying a traditional chief’s seat on which were placed precious cartons of Logo New Testaments. Shouts and cheers went up. God’s Word had arrived for the first time in the heart language of the Logo! *Pray* that God’s Word will bear much fruit among the Logo people. *Ask God* to direct their steps and provide, as they desire to move directly into the translation of the Old Testament.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**MAYOGO; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (100,000)**

*Celebrate* God’s work! On March 12 last year the Mayogo had a huge celebration with a large crowd from the community, including denominational and political leaders, all gathered together for the presentation of the newly published New Testament in Mayogo. The festivities included traditional instruments and many choirs joyously performing. The very next day, a Sunday, many people were seen walking to church with their new books! *Pray* that God will speak deeply to the Mayogo now that they are reading and hearing God in their heart language. *Ask God* to give them the desire to take these New Testaments throughout all of their region so all may say with the Psalmist, “How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey” (Psalm 119:103, NLT).

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**NDRUNA; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (100,000)**

*Give praise!* The ceremony to celebrate the newly published Ndruna New Testament took place on March 20, 2016. Thousands of people came and stood for hours in the sun to participate in the presentation of the New Testament, to hear speeches and to watch choirs sing and dance. Hundreds of copies of the New Testament were sold that day. *Pray* for the distribution of these precious books, because their homeland is situated in the midst of conflict. Life-threatening dangers keep people from traveling and taking boxes of New Testaments to neighboring villages. The translators have not stopped work! They are well into the translation of the Old Testament. *Praise the Lord* that one of the translators and a consultant were able to go to Israel for six months of Hebrew studies.

**OMI; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (155,000)**

*Praise God* that this translation team has completed drafting almost the entire New Testament! *Pray* for the timing, logistics, visas, good health and adequate funding to permit translation consultant visits on a regular basis to keep the New Testament moving along the steps to completion. *Pray* for perseverance and keen minds to attend to the details of checking for accuracy and consistency. *Ask God* to “accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20, NLT) as he brings the Omi work to a triumphant conclusion in the next two or three years. *Ask for God’s Spirit* to unify the Omi community with good participation and collaboration as they share in this endeavor.

**TEMBO; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (150,000)**

*Ask God* to protect the completed, typeset New Testament manuscript as it is sent for printing and shipped back to Africa. *Pray* for the translation team as they make plans for the celebration of the published Scripture. Their home area continues to be plagued by ethnic and militia fighting, and they will not be able to hold the main celebration there. *Ask God* for wisdom to know how to safely distribute the New Testaments throughout the Tembo-speaking communities so that all may hear God’s message of love and salvation. *Pray* for the production of the audio version of the New Testament and for continued opportunities to broadcast readings over the radio.

**UBANGI CLUSTER PROJECT — MONO, NGBANDI-NGIRI AND PAGABETE LANGUAGES; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (354,000)**

The three translation teams are continuing to work on translating the New Testament for their language groups, but the project has stalled as financial procedures are worked out. *Lift up* the local churches and mother-tongue communities as they explore ways to assume responsible ownership of the Bible translation work and restart the project. The translators have completed over 90 percent of their goals, but without the necessary resources to do Scripture testing, wrap-up activities are limited. *Ask the Lord* to raise up strong local churches that will assume responsible ownership of the project and help bring the Bible translation work to completion. *Thank the Lord* that as a result of literacy activities, women who formerly couldn’t read the Bible in their language are literate and using Scripture. It’s giving them joy!

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**
East Africa

**MOROGORO CLUSTER PROJECT — MAKUA, NING, UTUKI AND VIDUNDA LANGUAGES; EAST AFRICA (706,000)**

**Rejoice!** Each of these language groups received the New Testament in their heart languages last year. The Vidunida, Makua, and Ning language groups joyously celebrated in July 2016, and the Utuki celebrated in October. All of these languages have also completed the “JESUS” film and an audio recording of the New Testament. **Pray** that there will be no complications in distributing these Scriptures and materials. **Ask the Lord** to use these New Testaments to transform people’s lives. The New Testament in the Arew and Omaraz languages are scheduled to be finished within the next two years. **Give thanks** for progress with consultant checks that have already taken place in these languages. **Lift up** all of these projects in prayer as they continue work on translating the Old Testament.

**PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS — PIONEERBIBLE.ORG; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG**

**DIRAYTA; ETHIOPIA (142,758)**

The Dirayta New Testament project is approaching the finish line due to six partners working together! They are the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus South West Synod (project managers); the Norwegian Lutheran Church Society (a sponsor); the Finnish Lutheran Mission (financial assistance in printing the translation); SIL-Ethiopia and Lutheran Bible Translators (providing consultant help and technical support); and the Bible Society of Ethiopia (publisher). **Thank the Lord** for the value each partner brings to the project. “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor” (Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV). The translation team worked hard to finish all consultant checks by the end of 2016. **Lift them up** as they focus on preparing the manuscript for printing. It’s a detailed process and they need good health, alertness, keen eyes for proofreading, and wisdom. **Pray** for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare fertile soil in Dirayta lives so they will receive God’s Word with joy and satisfaction.

**ETHIOPIA CLUSTER PROJECT — DAWRO, GAMO AND GOFA LANGUAGES; ETHIOPIA (1,236,000)**

**Praise the Lord**, the Dawro, Gamo and Gofa people have been using their New Testaments since receiving them in 2012. Each community has been impacted by having God’s Word in their heart language. **Give thanks** for the Christians who are growing in their spiritual walks and for the churches in the communities that are reaching out to unbelievers. Old Testament translation work has begun in all three languages. **Give glory to God**, for this is an answer to the Dawro, Gamo and Gofa people’s prayers. **Lift up** the translation teams hard at work on the Old Testament. **Pray** that the typesetting and proofreading process for each project will proceed efficiently.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG**

**HADIYYA; ETHIOPIA (595,107)**

**Thank the Lord** for his strength to the translation team — Belete, Ayele, Tesfaye and Belayneh, representing three church denominations — and to Dr. Haile Yesus, the Bible Society of Ethiopia consultant. They persevered and the consultant checks of the Old Testament were completed last year. A significant challenge faces the team, however, as funding from a church partner discontinues this year. **Pray** for God to provide the necessary funds. Another challenge is to complete revision of the New Testament, which has been in use over 20 years so it can be included with the Old Testament. **Lift up** the team as they carefully go through each book with a consultant. They need endurance, strength, wisdom and faith. **Pray** that the Bible can be sent for printing soon and for God to oversee each step of the printing process.

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS SOUTH WEST SYNOD**

**Ethiopia**

**KAFA; ETHIOPIA (834,000)**

The Kafa Bible is very close to the finish line. **Lift up** the translation team as they work to accurately complete revising the New Testament and also check for consistent spelling and use of key terms throughout the whole Bible. **Pray** for the typesetter who will work with the team to lay it out for printing. They need alertness, keen eyes and wisdom in making decisions. **Pray** that the printing process will move forward seamlessly. **Ask the Lord**, who “owns the cattle on a thousand hills” (Psalm 50:10, NLT), to provide funding to cover publication, dedication, distribution and promotion of the Kafa Bible. **Pray** for effective ways to get church leaders and others to use the Kafa Bible in personal study as well as in preaching and teaching.

**SIM INTERNATIONAL — SIM.ORG**
**KAMBAATA; ETHIOPIA (570,000)**

The Kambaata full Bible is nearing the finish line! **Lift up** the translation team as they revise the New Testament, which has been in use for 20 years. **Ask the Lord** to encourage the team daily as they work with a Bible Society consultant to complete the task. They need wisdom and strength. **Pray** for the team to remain productive and joyful despite challenges they face. A church partner is no longer contributing to the project. **Claim** God’s promise in Philippians 4:19 for the team, “And this same God ... will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus” (NLT). When the New Testament revision is approved, the Bible will be typeset and printed. **Intercede** for the people who handle God’s precious Word in these stages. May the Lord protect and guide them each day.

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA, LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS, THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS SOUTH WEST SYNOD**

**KOM CLUSTER PROJECT — KONTA, MELO AND OYTA LANGUAGES; ETHIOPIA (156,200)**

**Praise God**, the people in of the Konta, Melo and Oyta languages are eager to have the New Testament in their heart languages. All three translation teams have completed a first draft and team checks. Now each team is working on consultant checking and community testing. **Pray** for the upcoming final steps of the translation process, which include typesetting and proofreading. **Ask God** to keep the teams in good health and give them the strength to finish their respective projects. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to use these translation projects to promote spiritual growth in the believers of the area.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG**

**KONSO; ETHIOPIA (242,000)**

The translation team has completed team checks and consultant checks of the Old Testament. They hoped to have the Old Testament plus a revision of the New Testament ready for printing by the end of 2016, but they suffered a major loss last year which slowed them down; the man who led the project for the last ten years left for another job. **Ask God** to encourage their hearts as they persevere to the finish line. This year they are running computer checks through the entire manuscript to check for consistent spelling, punctuation and other features. They then will make formatting decisions regarding the layout of the Bible. **Pray** for God to lead them to decisions that will make the Bible easy to read and use. **Pray** for a quality print job. **Ask Jehovah-Jireh** to supply finances needed to cover the remaining project expenses and printing costs of the whole Bible. **Thank the Lord** that the Konso have a great hunger for God’s Word.

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA, LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS, THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS SOUTH WEST SYNOD**

**MAJANG; ETHIOPIA (40,000)**

**Give thanks!** The Majang New Testament is available to the people in audio format. The local community now has use of this valuable spiritual resource. **Praise the Lord**, many have confessed their sins and received Jesus Christ as their savior as a result of viewing the “JESUS” film in their language. **Ask the Lord** to protect and strengthen the faith of new believers. **Pray** that love will be real and obvious in the lives of these who have “passed from death into life” (John 5:24, NLT). **Lift up** the printing and shipping of the Majang New Testament; 5,000 copies have been ordered. **Ask God** to anoint the Bibles so they arrive safely for their upcoming dedication.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-ILLUBABOR BETHEL SYNOD**

**ME’EN; ETHIOPIA (151,500)**

The team has begun a final check of the Me’en New Testament to ensure punctuation, spelling and biblical terms are consistent and clear. **Thank the Lord** for the local Scripture reviewers’ committee, who have shown great commitment to completing the remaining three New Testament books. **Lift up** the translation team in your prayers. **Pray** for patience as they make final consistency checks, spelling checks and formatting decisions. **Ask God** to provide the team members with health and strength as they move toward the end of the project.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**SHEKKACHO; ETHIOPIA (80,000)**

The Shekkacho people live in the mountainous southwestern part of Ethiopia. **Praise God**, the New Testament is nearing completion. **Lift up** the translation team as they finish preparing the manuscript for publication. It’s a detailed process that requires good focus and concentration. **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with energy, focus and wisdom. **Pray** that God would guide every aspect of the printing process — for functional printers, quality book-binding, and secure packing and shipping of the New Testaments back to Ethiopia. **Pray** for the
Lord to lead regarding the best time and place to hold a dedication celebration. Present to the Lord the need for funding to cover these costs. And ask God to help the team successfully implement Scripture engagement activities.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-ILLUBABOR BETHEL SYNOD

SIDAMO; ETHIOPIA (2,900,000)

Hallelujah! The Sidamo received the complete Bible in their heart language on November 7, 2015. It was an amazing event; people were excited to have the whole Bible. Within a few months it became evident that the 3,000 printed copies were not enough. Pray that more copies will soon reach Sidamo hands. Pray for the Sidamo church to use the Scriptures in their services and Bible studies so believers will mature and God's kingdom will grow.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTH CENTRAL ETHIOPIA SYNOD

XAMTANGA; ETHIOPIA (300,000)

Praise God, the typesetting process and final checking stages for the Xamtanga New Testament are complete! The New Testament is now in the printing process. The translation team is hopeful that printing will be completed in the first half of the year. Pray for shipping and dedication of the New Testament. Ask the Lord to provide proper training for the translators, who want to begin an Old Testament translation. Give thanks for their commitment; pray that God would show favor on them.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

Ghana

AVATIME; GHANA (24,000)

Give thanks, the translation team completed proofreading the entire Avatime New Testament. Praise God for a translation consultant who visited the team and made useful suggestions that were incorporated into their work. The translation consultant also taught the team how to check through key terms, which has helped speed up the typesetting process. Lift up the printing process of the New Testaments. Pray that they will be printed on schedule so that a dedication ceremony can be held in March 2017. Pray that sufficient funds will be raised for shipping and transporting the New Testaments from the port to the community. Ask the Lord to transform the lives of the Avatime people as they read and hear the Word of God.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION — GILBT.ORG; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

BULI; GHANA (140,000)

Praise God, the Buli Bible is ready to be printed! God answered prayers for successful typesetting last year. Thank the Lord for the Bulis — along with friends in the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S. — who gave toward publication costs. Pray for funds to cover the remaining printing, shipping and dedication costs. Ask God to guide every aspect of the printing of this Bible — for functional printers, a smooth book-binding process and secure packing and shipping of the Bibles back to Ghana and the language area. Ask the Lord to anoint the dedication service, attracting people to Christ and to his Word. Claim God’s promise in Isaiah 55:11: “I send it [my Word] out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to and it will prosper everywhere I send it” (NLT).

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION — GILBT.ORG

KAAYKE; GHANA (80,000)

Thank the Lord that the entire New Testament has been drafted. The translation team is now focused on putting each book through key checks necessary before publication. John, an exegetical consultant, is checking to ensure faithfulness of the translation to the biblical text. Ask the Lord to keep him healthy. Team members are reviewing the texts in the community to make sure they are clear and easy to understand. Pray they will get good feedback. A critical need is for consultants to be available to check for accuracy and naturalness and to look for omissions, extraneous thoughts or possible misconceptions. Ask Almighty God to provide consultants and also funding to finish the project.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION — GILBT.ORG

NYALOTA CLUSTER PROJECT — LOGBA, NYANGBO AND TAFI LANGUAGES; GHANA (18,300)

Praise God that the Gospel of Mark has been published in all the three languages of the Nyalota cluster project. The full New Testament has been drafted and is being reviewed for consultant checking and approval. Give thanks for the translators, who have gained experience in the use of the computer programs that are facilitating progress of their
work. Pray for good health for the translators and the review committees, who are hard at work on this translation project. Lift up the churches in this area. Pray that they would effectively use the published Scripture materials. Ask the Lord to provide local resources to support the work of the review committees and consultant checking sessions.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION — GILIBT.ORG; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

VAGLA; GHANA (13,500)
The Vagla project experienced numerous spiritual attacks last year. Ask God to put his protecting army of angels around each family in the translation team. Thank the Lord for enabling the team to complete a read-through of the entire Bible and prepare it for typesetting. It is a detailed task that involves formatting decisions like font and column sizes, and preparing footnotes and cross references. Present the typesetter and team to God, asking him to keep them alert, strong and joyful. Pray for a mistake-free printing process. Lift up those who plan the dedication, that they will know when and where to hold it. Ask the Lord to give vitality to a literacy program and prepare many new readers for the Vagla Bible. “Jesus … said, ‘Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible’” (Matthew 19:26, NLT).

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION — GILIBT.ORG

Guinea-Bissau

MANJAKU; GUINEA-BISSAU (285,000)
Rejoice! The Manjaku New Testament was dedicated on November 12, 2016. Thank the Lord for his hand on the project through the years. Pray that he will use this newly dedicated book to transform the Manjaku and bring them hope. Ask the Lord to anoint mother-tongue literacy efforts. Pray that reading their own language will be a blessing to many Manjaku people. Lift up the translation efforts of the Old Testament. Ask God to reveal to the translators what paths they should take regarding the translation process. Pray that God would grant them wisdom.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

Kenya

GIRYAMA; KENYA (751,500)
The Giryama Old Testament is almost at the finish line! Typesetting began in January. When that is completed, the digital files will be sent to a linguistic center in Texas for final proofreading. They will then go to South Korea for printing. Pray for God’s hand to be on the printing presses and binding machines so excellent quality books will result. Ask the Lord to protect the books as they are shipped to Kenya, go through customs and are trucked to the community area. The translation team would like to hold a dedication at the end of the year. Lift up those planning the dedication, that it will be a time giving glory to God and drawing people into a relationship with Christ and his Word. Pray that the Giryama church will grow and thrive as they anticipate feeding on the rich content of the Old Testament, in addition to the New Testament which they received in 2004.

BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY KENYA — BTLKENYA.ORG

RENDILLE; KENYA (60,000)
The translation team is focused on checking key Biblical terms across the New Testament, preparing a glossary, and choosing maps and pictures for the New Testament. Ask the Lord to fill the team with energy and wisdom as they finish these final, important tasks. Pray that when they make a final check of the text with speakers in the community, they will find any areas needing improvement. Lift up the typesetting team as they prepare the manuscript for printing. It’s a detailed, rigorous process with multiple proofreading tasks at each step. Pray for the team to have strength and keen eyes. Ask the Lord to provide good internet connections between the translation team members and their consultant in Kenya, and Nick, a team member who recently moved to England. Thank the Lord for improved hearing for Nick, who received cochlear implants last year. Pray that the New Testament will reach the printer by the end of 2017.

AFRICA INLAND MISSION — AIMINT.ORG/ZA; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

SAMBURU; KENYA (160,000)
Praise the Lord, the translation team has completed consultant checking on several New Testament books. Their goal is to have all the books consultant checked and completed by the end of this year so that the New Testament can be published in 2018. Thank God for the success of the recent Scripture reviewers’
workshop. Pray that the translators can continue to work effectively and accomplish their goals. Pray also for the Scripture-engagement workers. Ask the Lord to make their feet swift as they travel to different parts of the language group to spread his Word. Pray for peace in the Samburu area so the team can move about freely to talk with local church leaders and continue distributing Bible materials to them.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**THARAKA; KENYA (112,000)**

Praise God that the consultant checks of the Tharaka Bible are complete and now the typesetting process can begin! One member of the team, Onesmus, is continuing his academic training by working toward a master’s degree in Bible translation. Give thanks to God because this will equip him to serve on other translation projects. Lift Onesmus up in prayer as he furthers his training. Pray that the typesetting process will proceed smoothly so that the Bible can be sent soon to South Korea for printing, and be shipped back in time for an early 2018 dedication. Ask the Lord to guide the Tharaka people in the way of his Word. Pray that many will come to Jesus.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**Malawi**

**ELHOMWE; MALAWI (1,000,000)**

The translation team is focused on completing the Old Testament this year. Ask the Lord to keep them and their families healthy and strong. Pray for them as they check all the books to be sure they are accurate and sound natural. They will also check to see if key terms are used consistently throughout the books, and proofread the manuscript multiple times. There are 39 books, so the team needs keen eyes and perseverance! They are aiming to have the manuscript ready for typesetting by the end of the year.

“Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible” (Matthew 19:26, NLT). Thank the Lord for an audio recording of the New Testament that is now available, along with the “JESUS” film in Elhomwe. Pray that God’s Word in oral, visual and print formats will impact many lives for eternity and bring hope for this life.

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF MALAWI; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**NYUNGWE; MOZAMBIQUE (420,000)**

Praise God, only one book of the Nyungwe New Testament translation remains to be drafted! Another six books still need exegetical and consultant checks. Thank the Lord for good teamwork and for the excellent help of the consultants. In 2015, the community received 20,000 copies of Matthew in Nyungwe. Almost all of these copies have been distributed. Ask the Holy Spirit to use this book to encourage interest in the Lord and the New Testament nearing completion. Pray for the translation team to have strength and perseverance as they work.

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF MALAWI; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG**

**MEETTO; MOZAMBIQUE (1,200,000)**

Poor harvests last year left Meetto speakers struggling for food. Give thanks for a mission group who organized a food program to meet the Meetto people’s needs. Local churches were used as distribution centers in the communities. This provided ideal platforms for supplying Sunday lectionaries that contain Scripture passages in Meetto. Lift up those who accepted the lectionaries with enthusiasm. Pray that they will continue to seek God’s Word through the churches. Praise the Lord for the addition of Pastor Gonçalves to the translation team. He is serving as their project administrator and is already making a big difference. Pray that his involvement will revitalize the team and empower the translators. Ask God to prevent discouragement and conflict within the team.

**SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**

**LAMBYA; MALAWI (60,000)**

Hallelujah! The New Testament was launched April 23, 2016. Christians from all walks of life in Chitipa District, the northernmost district in Malawi, jubilantly celebrated and danced. Five thousand copies were dedicated to God’s glory. Pray that both individuals and whole communities will be transformed as they feed on God’s Word. The translation team is now immersed in translating the Old Testament. Ask God to fill them with his Spirit each day and give them power to persevere in this immense task. They are checking drafts with consultants as well as using Paratext, a specialized computer software program, to check spelling and consistent use of key biblical terms.

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF MALAWI; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG**
through different stages of the translation process. 

**Ask the Lord** to keep them healthy. **Pray** for good communication with local churches, the sponsoring agency and supporting churches.

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### TAKWANE; MOZAMBIQUE (200,000)

**Praise God**, the Takwane now have God’s Word in their heart language! On July 1, 2016, the Takwane hybrid Bible (Genesis, Exodus and the New Testament in Takwane, and the remaining books in Portuguese) was dedicated to the Lord in a great celebration. Translators, reviewers, consultants, administrators, government representatives and local pastors were among the crowd. **Thank the Lord** that truckers delivered boxes to 14 different selling points located throughout the Takwane area and also left boxes at the Bible Society office in the provincial capital. A dedicated app on Android phones has both the audio and written forms so people can both hear and follow the highlighted text on their phones. **Thank the Lord** for technology that makes the Takwane Scriptures available to more people! **Pray** that many will share the app with others who have phones. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint each Bible and draw many into a living relationship with Christ through his Word.

**Namibia**

### KHOEKHOEGOWAB; NAMIBIA (251,200)

Excitement is growing as the New Testament and a selection of Psalms are finally ready for publication. **Thank the Lord** for upholding the translators through the translation process. **Pray** that he will continue to fill them with energy and eagerness to complete the Old Testament. **Praise God** for providing reviewers to work with the team. **Ask** the Lord to grant them sound judgement as they read through Psalms and Proverbs. **Pray** that a growing desire for God’s Word will be stirred in the hearts of the Khoekhoegowab speakers.

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### Niger

### EASTERN NIGER FULFULDE; NIGER (450,000)

**Hallelujah!** The Fulani of eastern Niger received the New Testament in their heart language on September 24, 2016. As visitors arrived, they were met by a long receiving line of Fulani, some in colorful traditional dress. Choirs from different areas sang, including a children’s choir singing two songs written especially for the occasion. A highlight was when six women in traditional dress walked in with calabashes on their heads (often used to carry milk). They marched to the front, deposited the calabashes on the ground, and later uncovered them, revealing New Testaments inside. The preacher proclaimed that as milk is important for physical health, so reading God’s Word is important for spiritual health. **Thank the Lord** for Faith Comes By Hearing, who made a recording of the New Testament. The literacy rate among the Fulfulde is low, so this audio New Testament will give more people access to God’s Word. **Pray** that the New Testament, in audio and print forms, will be widely distributed and that lives will be transformed. **Lift up** the translation team as they press forward to translate the Old Testament.

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### WESTERN NIGER FULFULDE; NIGER (500,000)

**Praise God** for technology that allows the translation team to continue to work together, even with team members living on different continents — Africa and North America. **Pray** for the team as they adjust to working at a distance and for good, reliable internet connections. **Pray** that they can stay on schedule; they finished the translation work in 2016 and are now working through the final stages in preparation for typesetting in June 2017. **Ask the Lord** to provide gifted people to help with the final review and revision of the manuscript. They also need to go through the Gospels, ensuring that passages common to more than one Gospel match correctly. **Pray** for a good relationship and good communication with partner organizations and churches who will be using the New Testament. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare hearts so that the Western Niger Fulfulde will agree with the Psalmist and say, “The very essence of your words is truth” (Psalm 119:160, NLT).

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### Nigeria

### BWAATYE; NIGERIA (477,000)

**Praise be to God!** The Bwaatye New Testament has been fully drafted. This is an exciting time for the team to reach this significant milestone. **Give thanks** that anticipation for God’s Word is growing among Bwaatye speakers. They continually ask, “When are you going to finish this work and let us have copies of our own?” **Pray** that many Bwaatye people will hear, understand and believe God’s Word. **Pray** for the translation team as they share the gospel with others.
Ask the Lord to protect team members and continue to give them favor in the eyes of people in the community. Pray that they will have mental and physical stamina to balance translation work along with other responsibilities.

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C’LELA; NIGERIA (90,000)

A team of seven mother-tongue translators is diligently working to complete the New Testament along with Genesis, Ruth and Jonah. Praise the Lord, public readings of the New Testament are helping the team test the translation. One day, after hearing the second chapter of James read aloud during an event, a C’lela university graduate said, “After hearing the Bible in our mother tongue, the message of the Word has gone into our bloodstream. Today I understand what this passage is talking about.” Ask God to grant the team clarity and focus as they complete the final stages of the translation and identify and correct any errors or inconsistencies. Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of the C’lela people so they receive his Word with gladness.

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DADIYA; NIGERIA (30,000)

Praise God for the consultants who checked the New Testament books that detail the missionary life of Paul. These books have spoken in countless ways to the Dadiya people. The Boko Haram group abducted a local pastor last year. They told him if he wanted to be released, he must become a follower of their religion. The pastor told his abductors that he was willing to die for Christ. He was able to say goodbye to his family by phone before he was killed. Translator Joseph says, “We should ask God to give us the courage to face whatever danger befalls us. We’ve seen how this pastor braved death because of Christ.” Give thanks for the pastor who was willing to give his life for the Lord. Lift up his family and church in prayer. Pray for the translators as they prepare the four Gospels for publication. They are also working on Romans and 2 Corinthians.

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DUKAWA; NIGERIA (73,000)

The team worked hard last year preparing a glossary and book introductions to include in the New Testament. Thank the Lord for a completed audio recording of the New Testament and some Old Testament passages. Using AudiBibles, small solar-powered audio players, the team is testing the translation with people orally before finalizing the print version. Pray that they will receive helpful feedback. Ask the Lord to fill the typesetting team with energy, alertness and wisdom as they make formatting decisions about columns, pictures, maps and the font. Pray that any errors will be caught as they proofread the manuscript multiple times. Pray for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books. Ask God to protect the finished New Testaments as they are transported back to Nigeria, go through customs and are delivered to the language area.

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GWOROK; NIGERIA (100,000)

Praise the Lord that after much careful planning, a new zonal office was opened last year to serve 18 translation projects in the north central area of Nigeria. The Gworok translation team participated in the ceremonies. Ask the Lord to use this facility to foster cooperation and partnership among the project teams and the churches in the area. Thank the Lord that the team has completed audio recordings of the Gospel of Luke and Philippians. Lift up the team as they continue drafting the rest of the New Testament.
books. **Pray** that they will produce clear and accurate translations of God’s Word. **Ask God** to provide for all the team’s needs as they overcome the challenge of being shorthanded. Two translators left last year for other work. **Pray** that God will provide godly and skilled replacements.

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**HYAM; NIGERIA (500,000)**

**Praise the Lord!** The Hyam New Testament is nearing completion. People are gearing up for it by taking part in literacy classes and composing mother-tongue hymns. **Pray** that people will learn to read his Word effortlessly as they take these literacy classes. **Give thanks** as the translation team is working on a publication called “The Wonderful Plan of God 1 & 2,” made up of selections from Genesis and Exodus. This will provide an Old Testament foundation to the Hyam New Testament. **Pray** that these materials will be valuable spiritual resources alongside the New Testament. **Pray** that the team’s final proofreading of the Hyam New Testament will reveal any misspellings, unclear renderings or other issues.

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**ICHEN; NIGERIA (50,000)**

**Give thanks** for the continued checking of the New Testament to prepare it for typesetting. Logistical difficulties delayed the training of the “JESUS” film team. Fundraising for the production continues. **Ask the Lord** to protect this precious project from all outside influence and to bring the proper funds to complete the project. A number of churches plan to send members of their congregations for training as literacy teachers. **Praise God** for the growing passion for his Word. **Pray** that the Ichen community will continue to receive the teaching of the Scriptures with open hearts. **Lift up** the translation team as they approach the conclusion of their project. **Ask God** to bless them with wisdom, unity and physical health.

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**IKA; NIGERIA (345,000)**

**Praise God!** The Ika translators have reached a major milestone. All Old Testament books have now passed the vital consultant checking step. **Lift up** the team members in prayer as they look for resolutions to any remaining translation issues. **Ask God** to give them boldness and time efficiency at this crucial stage of the project. **Give thanks** for the mother-tongue speakers who carefully reviewed entries to produce the Ika dictionary, which will be a valuable research tool for the translation work to come. **Ask the Lord** to be with the translators as they do a final check and testing of the revised New Testament.

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**ITEN; NIGERIA (50,000)**

**Hallelujah!** The Iten New Testament is at the printers. **Thank the Lord** that the “JESUS” film arrived to the Iten people in answer to prayer. **Pray** that this resource will be used to bring many to the Savior. **Lift up** the translation team in prayer as they maintain the Iten word list. This is an exhaustive inventory of all Iten terms occurring in the New Testament. The team’s responsibility is to ensure that all of these entries are correct and consistent. **Ask the Lord** to open people’s hearts to receive his truth. **Pray** that many will understand the message of Christ’s love. **Ask God** to replace fear and intimidation with freedom and joy.

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**JENJO; NIGERIA (15,000)**

**Give thanks to God!** With portions of Scripture available, use of the Jenjo language in church programs is on the rise. This is the first time that the Jenjo language is the predominant language used in services. Deemed sacred, the chief priests mandated the use of the Jenjo language. Until now, traditional religion offered a connection to Jenjo heritage that Christianity did not. **Praise the Lord**, the Jenjo language is no longer just for worshippers at shrines; it is now used for the glory of the one true and living God! **Lift up** the translation team as they move the books of Romans, 1-2 Corinthians and Hebrews through the translation process. **Ask God** to encourage church leaders to play a role in distributing the Jenjo Scripture portions that are already available.

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**JJU; NIGERIA (500,000)**

The translation team finished typesetting Daniel and the twelve Minor Prophets. **Praise God**, these Old Testament books will soon be available in printed form! **Thank the Lord** that the translation project is bringing deeper relationships among the workers and preparing them to spread the gospel. **Ask God** to be with the translators as they prepare the book of Ezekiel for publication. **Pray** that he would anoint them as they enter the critical final phase of the Old Testament project. **Lift up** believers as they do Bible-based evangelism and discipleship to nurture a strong local church.

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KUTEB; NIGERIA (100,000)
Team member Ibrahim writes, “I now understand my Bible better. For example, I once couldn’t differentiate between righteousness, faithfulness, honesty and truth. But now I know the difference in my own language. My translation experience has brought about this deeper understanding of the Scriptures.” Thank the Lord for Ibrahim and his work on the translation team. Everywhere the translators go, people ask, “When will the Bible be ready for us?” Praise God, the people are eager to have the whole Bible in their language. Pray that this excitement will continue to grow as the Old Testament project gets closer to completion. Lift up the country of Nigeria. Pray for peace and that people can enjoy freedom to worship and serve the Lord. Ask God to keep the translation team and the people of the Kuteb language healthy and safe.

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LEGBO; NIGERIA (80,000)
Praise the Lord! Members of the community have begun reading trial editions of the Gospel of Luke. As they read, they testify that they can clearly understand God’s Word in Legbo. Many of the translators report gaining a deeper spiritual understanding of God’s Word as they work. Pray that the translators will be anointed with God’s power as they produce the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, bringing these books to completion. Lift up the many Legbo speakers in prayer. Ask the Lord to send his Holy Spirit to spark a deep desire within them as they hear his gospel and know him as their Savior.

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LIS MA RON; NIGERIA (75,000)
Give thanks for the translators who spent all night in a village where they community tested the book of Jude. Lis ma Ron speakers came out in mass numbers to listen. The Lis ma Ron people desire to hear the message of salvation. They also generously show hospitality to the team members who serve in their community. Lift up local Christian workers as they apply the tool of God’s Word to evangelism, discipleship and planting churches. Pray that the mother-tongue Scriptures will speak to many hearts. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower the translation team to make God’s Word clear and natural so people don’t need to depend on the national language translation. They have made progress on John, 1 Thessalonians and Revelation. Ask God to show the List ma Ron people that he has not forgotten them. Pray that they will be drawn closer to his Son Jesus Christ.

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LOKAA; NIGERIA (350,000)
Give thanks to God, the Lokaa translation team was provided with a second computer. This is an answer to prayer because now the team will not have to use just one computer for both back translating and team checking. Praise the Lord for protecting the team members and healing those who were ill. Pray that as the team continues their work, they will be blessed and remain safe and healthy. Isaiah is among the Old Testament books ready for consultant checks. This particular book, which the New Testament quotes often, deepens knowledge with its descriptions of God. Lift up the consultant checks of remaining books of the Old Testament. Ask specifically for consultants’ availability as books become ready for checking.

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MAYA; NIGERIA (50,000)
Praise God, the final two New Testament books in Maya have been community tested and locally reviewed. This is an exciting milestone! Thank the Lord for bringing the team to this exciting stage in the project. Pray that he will reward their work with radiant results as they see Scripture go forth powerfully into the population. The word list that contains each vocabulary term in the translation is under final review. This is exacting work, but dynamic, error-free Scriptures are worth it. Lift up the typesetting of the Maya New Testament. Ask the Lord to protect the process and anoint his servants as they carry out this vital task.

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MBGOLIZIA; NIGERIA (190,000)
Praise God! The “JESUS” film was recorded in Mgbolizia. It was a huge success and an answer to prayer. Mgbolizia churches continue to express their enthusiasm for having Scriptures to use in their worship services. They are eager to receive the completed New Testament with Old Testament portions. Lift up the translation team as they enter the prepublication stage. Ask the Lord to fill them with strength, perseverance and wisdom. The translation team rejoices as they hear testimonies of people experiencing life changes and a new understanding of Jesus as they listen to Scripture in their heart language. Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare the Mgbolizia speakers’ hearts and minds to receive his Word and his Son.

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**MUSHERE; NIGERIA (10,000)**

Churches hold drama, poetry and song contests using Scripture in the Mushere language. **Thank the Lord** for the men, women and youth who are setting their language to music and producing videos using their mother tongue. **Give thanks**, the Mushere people are less shy to use their mother tongue than before. They are eager to have written materials in their heart language. **Pray** that God’s Word would fall on listening ears and hungry hearts, drawing the Mushere to him. **Ask God** to provide all that’s needed so the team can produce the “JESUS” film and print and launch completed Bible books. They have been pressing forward on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and the book of Philemon.

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**MWAGHAVUL; NIGERIA (700,000)**

**Praise the Lord**, Mwaghavul believers are placing high value on God’s Word. People are eager to listen to the Word, and the translation team regularly receives requests for new Scripture listening groups. **Lift up** the team in prayer as they try to keep up with the demand for print copies of the New Testament and new listening groups. **Ask God** to continually grant them energy and focus as they approach the end of the Old Testament project. **Pray** that he will keep them safe from all harm and any disunity. **Lift up** the Mwaghavul Christians as they share the message of God’s love with others. **Pray** that they will be given wisdom as they read and listen to their mother-tongue Scriptures.

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**NIKYOB; NIGERIA (20,000)**

**Praise God**, Luke’s Gospel will soon reach Niykob hands. As the book is finalized, **ask God** to grant special insight to the team. **Thank the Lord** for providing a consultant to work with the translation team. **Pray** that he would help the consultant and translators find areas that need improvement. The translators appreciate how the Niykob community has been helping to meet their needs. **Ask the Lord** to prepare certain individuals to help with the next translation steps, such as community testing and reviewing. **Pray** that many Niykob will enter into a relationship with Jesus as they read and hear his Word.

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**RON; NIGERIA (115,000)**

The Ron translation team continues to check and back translate their drafts to guarantee that Ron speakers will be able to understand the Scriptures. **Give thanks** for the consultants who check the translators’ work and help test the Scriptures in the community. **Praise the Lord** for these translators who strive to live in accordance with the Word they translate. **Pray** that God would use their example to encourage other Ron speakers to follow Christ. **Pray** for the project as the team looks forward to finishing the New Testament this year. **Ask the Lord** to give them the wisdom, patience and insight they need to finish well.

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**TAROK; NIGERIA (523,000)**

**Praise the Lord** for a three-day literacy workshop that the translation team facilitated as a new opportunity to promote the Tarok translation project. **Give thanks to God** for the encouraging reports the translation team received about the effectiveness of a website they had created to assist Bible translation in Tarok. **Pray** that lives would be touched to turn toward Christ through hearing God’s Word online and in person. **Ask the Holy Spirit** for unity among team members, so that they would work diligently together and pray together, knowing that the work they are doing is for the Lord’s glory.

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**TERA; NIGERIA (100,000)**

**Praise God**, the Tera people will receive God’s Word in their heart language this year! The New Testament was sent to South Korea for printing in August 2016. **Lift up** those planning the dedication. **Ask God** to guide them to the best time and place to celebrate. **Pray** that many will be drawn to Christ as the written Word of God arrives. **Pray** that copies of the New Testament will quickly become old with use. **Thank the Lord** that along with mother-tongue Scriptures, Tera speakers will also be receiving other materials in their language, such as poetry and songs. **Pray** that they will study and apply God’s Word to their everyday lives.

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Republic of Congo

VILI; REPUBLIC OF CONGO (50,000)

Praise the Lord for seven trained Vili translators! The team has made good progress developing their written language. They have also begun Bible translation work in the Gospels and the Epistles. Ask God to put together a committee of revisers for community checks. As they review the scriptures, ask the Lord to open their eyes to his truths. Pray, too, that God will provide opportunities for translation consultants to come work with the team on the necessary checks of these completed drafts. Entreat the Lord to sustain the team and meet their every need. Pray for God to prepare “good soil” so that when the Vili receive God’s Word, they will “hear God’s word, cling to it, and … produce a huge harvest” (Luke 8:15, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF CONGO

Senegal

ONIYAN; SENEGAL (20,000)

Give thanks to the Lord! The Oniyan New Testament and Genesis have been published and were dedicated on January 28, 2017. The translation team is preparing other Scripture-based books and recordings so that a range of resources will be available to the community. Both the New Testament and Genesis will be available as audio recordings. Also Oniyan churches will have access to specially written worship songs in their heart language. Praise God for the team’s hard work and devotion to expanding his kingdom. Ask the Lord to use these audio and printed materials to impact people’s lives. Pray that the Oniyan will cherish their new Bibles and continue to teach God’s Word to the next generations.

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WAMEY; SENEGAL (20,000)

Video chat meetings have enabled the translation team to work tirelessly on their projects even though team members were in different countries. Praise God for this technology and for the team’s hard work as they checked the New Testament books. Give thanks for reading and song writing workshops that are taking place to help Wamey speakers learn how to read and how to write worship songs. Lift up the translation team in prayer as they finish checking the last New Testament books and as the typesetting process begins. Pray for progress in the production of the “JESUS” film and the audio New Testament.

Ask the Lord to use these media projects and the workshops to foster greater interest in God’s Word and spiritual growth.

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South Sudan

BAKÁ; SOUTH SUDAN (37,000)

Praise God! The Baká New Testament and Genesis was sent for printing in South Korea last year. Ask God to watch over and protect the finished books as they are transported back to South Sudan and go through customs. Pray for safe delivery to the language area; the roads are insecure due to a civil war. Thank the Lord that churches are excitedly awaiting the Scriptures. They have already been using portions they had available. Pray that the newly produced “JESUS” film in Baká will impact lives for eternity and cause those who see it to hunger for the written Word. Lift up those making an audio recording of the New Testament and promoting Scripture engagement and literacy activities so more people can access God’s Word. Ask the Lord to guide the churches and community members as they organize a dedication this year. They want to select a venue and date that will allow many to attend. Pray for peace in the Baká area and that the warring factions will be transformed by love and mercy.

DIDINGA; SOUTH SUDAN (60,000)

The Didinga New Testament is very close to the finish line! Thank the Lord for the diligent, steady work of the translation team last year as they completed careful checks of the manuscript and proofread it multiple times. God provided church members to also review it, and they joyfully gave it their blessing. Typesetting was completed, and it is being printed. Pray for a quality print job, safe transport of the books from South Korea to South Sudan and clearance through customs. Pray that a safe way will be found to transport the books to the Didinga area as most road travel is insecure due to fighting. Thank the Lord that the “JESUS” film is now available in Didinga, and that an audio recording of the New Testament was made with the help of Faith Comes By Hearing. Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint these and other Scripture engagement and literacy training projects so that God’s Word will have ongoing spiritual impact. Pray for the churches and community members to plan a New Testament dedication that will glorify God and inspire interest in his Word. Ask God to use his Word to bring revival in this area where there are few believers.
**GBAYA; SOUTH SUDAN (16,000)**

Due to political tensions in South Sudan, with fighting in and around the areas where the Gbaya live, one translator’s family ended up in a refugee camp last year and the other family was living in remote uncultivated land. “But the word of God cannot be chained” (2 Timothy 2:9, NLT). In a town impacted by the fighting, a small group of Christians has been using already printed Scripture portions for their Bible study. A neighbor from another majority religion became interested in the gathering and in stories from Genesis and joined the study. The following week she brought two of her friends and they kept attending. God’s Word is powerful! Pray that many Gbaya will find the Lord through His Word. Lift up the translation team as they complete final checks and proofreading of the New Testament in order to begin typesetting. They need strength, perseverance and keen eyes. Thank the Lord for careful checking of the manuscript by the team, consultants and reviewers chosen by the church.

**KELIKO; SOUTH SUDAN (70,000)**

Proofreading the 27 books of the New Testament, along with portions of the Old Testament, is a demanding but important task. Ask God to fill the translation team with strength, endurance and joy as they finalize the proofreading in preparation for typesetting it this year. Pray for safety for the team as they travel on roads that are often insecure. Praise God for churches being excited about and using Scripture portions already published. A number of church leaders have also begun to teach Keliko literacy as part of their Sunday School program, or in classes using easy reading Bible stories. This prepares readers for the New Testament! Pray for people in the community to catch a vision for these classes and for resources to sustain the classes when the translation project ends. Lift up the churches and community members as they organize for a dedication and distribution of the long-anticipated Scriptures.

**TENNET; SOUTH SUDAN (10,000)**

South Sudan is a very insecure country, especially on the roads. There is widespread fighting and tension. Pray for security in the Tennet home area and throughout the country. The translation team faces daily challenges as they travel in their work. Ask the Lord to put his blanket of protection over them as well as all Tennet speakers. Praise God for progress the team has made, in spite of difficult circumstances. Last year they completed a consultant check of eight books and reviewed some books translated early on in the project. They are encouraged by the positive reception of people in the community when they hear the Scriptures. Lift up the team in prayer as they put the New Testament manuscript through a series of final checks and proofread it multiple times. Ask the Lord to keep them strong, alert and wise. They would like to begin typesetting the New Testament with Old Testament portions by the end of the year.

**Tanzania**

**BURUNGE; TANZANIA (13,000)**

Praise God, the Burunge will receive the New Testament in their heart language this year! The translation team worked hard last year and prepared the manuscript for publication. It was typeset and sent for printing at the end of August. Pray for safe delivery of the books back to Tanzania and through customs. Lift up those planning the dedication; ask the Lord to guide them to a time that would allow the greatest attendance. Ask God to raise up many readers through literacy classes. Thank him that the “JESUS” film was recorded and is having an impact on people, including those from another major religion. Pray that as the Burunge receive God’s Word, they will be transformed and proclaim with the psalmist, “The very essence of your words is truth” (Psalm 119:160, NLT).

**MBEYA CLUSTER PROJECT — BENA, KINGA, MALILA, NDALI, NYAKYUSA-NGONDE, NYIHA, SAFWA, SANGU AND VWANJI LANGUAGES; TANZANIA (3,037,000)**

Give thanks! Translation teams were able to hire additional full-time translators for the Bena and Nyiha languages and one part-time employee for the Malila language. Even though they are doing well, there are still many things to learn; pray as they continue to settle in and gain experience. Praise God for additional Ndali, Nyakyusa-Ngonde and Nyiha communities who are excited about the translation work that’s going on and are eager to be involved. Lift up the Kinga New Testament in prayer as it undergoes the final checks and typesetting stages to be dedicated in 2018. The Nyakyusa-Ngonde and Vwanji New Testaments will follow soon after, with the other six languages also getting closer to finishing their New Testaments. Praise the Lord that the book of Acts in the Safwa language as well as some parts of Genesis in Sangu will become available as audio versions this year. Ask the Lord to use these projects in addition to Bible apps, and
other literacy materials that are being produced in the various languages to draw the native speakers closer to him. Pray for God’s protection over all the translation teams working in the Mbeya Cluster.

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NGONI; TANZANIA (312,000)

Praise God for the availability of consultants and the funds to pay their expenses. Multiple consultant check sessions have taken place, and will continue this year. When the consultant checks are completed, the translation team will implement the suggestions and advice from the consultants and start working to prepare the New Testament for the typesetting process. Pray for health and strength for the translators as they strive to complete these goals this year. Rejoice! When these steps are complete, the Ngoni New Testament will be ready for publication. Pray for the Lord to pave the way so they can also record the “JESUS” film and produce audio recordings of Scripture. Ask the Lord to create a desire for him within the hearts of the Ngoni people so they will be eager to hear his Word.

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YAO; TANZANIA (500,000)

Praise God, the translation team just completed recording the Yao language in Malawi for the “JESUS” film. This language is spoken all along the east coast of Lake Malawi in Mozambique and in the Lake region of Tanzania; each of these areas are mostly unreached. Ask the Lord to use the “JESUS” film to reach every last Yao speaker in Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania. Pray as the team continues working on the New Testament translation. Lift them up in prayer, asking for health, wisdom, stamina and good communications with one another.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG

Togo

LAMA; Togo (117,000)

God gave unusual progress to the Lama translation team last year. They drafted the following Old Testament books: 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Songs, Jeremiah and Lamentations. In addition, the books of Joshua and Isaiah were checked by a consultant. Praise God! Lift up the team as they move all these books through a team check, a review by people in the community and a consultant check. They need God’s wisdom and strength. Thank the Lord for providing consultants. Pray that the result of the reviews will be texts that sound natural and are accurate and faithful to the original meanings. Lift up a new Scripture use coordinator as he develops activities to help churches and individuals use the translated Scriptures. May God raise up many readers for his Word. Pray for the local board over the translation work. They desire to mobilize the local churches and the whole community around the Lama language and the Word of God. Ask God to give the Lama people enthusiasm and excitement over their language and the Scriptures.

Uganda

LUBWISI; UGANDA (99,400)

Hallelujah! The Babwisi people have the New Testament in their heart language, Lubwisi. Two months in advance of the dedication some believers were so excited that they traveled to Kampala, where the boxes of books were stored, just to touch them to be sure they were there. They didn’t want to believe it without touching the boxes. They said that “their eyes are in their hands.” On July 29, 2016 — dedication day — the people celebrated for eight hours! Women carried the boxes of New Testaments in on their backs, the same way they carry water, food from the garden, and firewood. This symbolized that the Scriptures are a local product, they have required hard work, and they are essential for life. The people rejoiced! The actual distribution of the New Testaments was planned to be orderly, but people thronged to obtain their prepaid copies, and the rest of the stock quickly sold out. Churches immediately began to use the Scriptures in their services. At last, they didn’t need an interpreter to translate into Lubwisi when the Scriptures were read in English or another trade language. Pray for increasing use of the Scriptures and for individuals, families and whole communities to be transformed.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

LUGUNGU; UGANDA (49,000)

Give thanks, the final-read through of the New Testament text is complete. When typesetting is finished, the text will be sent to South Korea for printing. Praise God for his faithfulness to the translation team. Pray for the printing and shipment of the New Testament books back to Uganda to take place in time for a dedication in late 2017. Ask the Lord to give the team patience and perseverance as they await the publication of the New Testament. Lift up the churches in the community in prayer. Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare them to receive the Scriptures with joy and gladness.

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LUGWERE; UGANDA (409,000)

Praise God, the Bagwere people are receiving God’s Word in their heart language this year! Ask the Lord to protect the New Testaments as they are shipped to Uganda from South Korea. Lift up the Scripture engagement team as they prepare the churches and community to receive the New Testaments. Pray for people to respond to the gospel and for the churches to use the Scriptures in all of their activities. Pray that the Lord will use the translators in new ways and provide fulfilling work for them as the New Testament project comes to a close. Pray for unity among the churches as they organize together and prepare to begin translation of the Old Testament. Ask the Lord to protect a new community-based organization that will guide that work.

LUNYOLE; UGANDA (341,000)

Hallelujah! On January 14 this year, the Banyole people received the New Testament in their heart language. Pray that they will eagerly embrace the Scriptures and that churches will use it in their services and activities. Ask the Holy Spirit to transform individuals and communities through the Word. Lift up the translators who have so faithfully served in the New Testament project. As the project closes, they have begun to translate the Old Testament but on a part-time basis. Pray for the Lunyole church and others to catch a vision for this and get behind the translators financially.

West Africa

RAMA; WEST AFRICA (60,000)

The Rama language is a cross-border language between two countries in West Africa. Since around 2008, four organizations have been working together to complete a translation of the New Testament. Praise God for great progress made last year and for strong community involvement. In the process of holding community meetings, the translation committee discovered many more Rama-speaking villages! Lift up those typesetting the New Testament, asking God to help them with formatting decisions. Pray for keen eyes as they proofread the manuscript multiple times. Pray for the printing process to move forward seamlessly. A dedication could possibly be held later this year. Ask the Lord to provide funds, both externally and through the Rama community, for publication, dedication and literacy expenses. Pray that a host of Rama speakers will be trained so they can read, apply and share God’s Word with others.

SAHELANGUE; WEST AFRICA (2,000,000)

A project to provide the full Bible in Arabic script for a major group of the Sahel encountered significant obstacles in recent years. A consultant died of a heart attack and a specialist in Arabic script battled throat cancer for a year. Last year the typesetting team finished the long and exacting proofreading of the entire Bible. They are very excited about how this Bible will touch the hearts of their people. Supplemental materials to accompany the text were also finalized and the manuscript was sent to South Korea for printing. Pray that the equipment will work well and quality books will be produced. Ask God to protect the shipping container as it travels back to Africa, and for a quick release at customs. Pray for those planning a dedication. Lift up the 11 proofreaders who made significant faith goals concerning the number of Bibles each one will distribute. Because fewer than one per cent in the language group are Christian, opposition is probable. Ask the Lord to keep believers safe and allow them to travel in the area, comprising four countries. Pray that many will download the Bible to their cell phones! Ask Jehovah-Jireh to provide funds to print, ship, import and distribute the Bible in the language area.

Zambia

ILA; ZAMBIA (82,900)

Rejoice! The Ila New testament was dedicated on July 12, 2016. It was a glorious celebration filled with singing, prayers and speeches given by special speakers. One speech in particular was given by the ceremony’s guest of honor, Mr. A.B. Munyama of the Zambian Supreme Court. Give thanks for the Ila people and their excitement for this translation as each person in attendance received a copy of the New Testament. Lift up the distribution of the New Testaments to the remainder of the Ila people. Ask that they would grow spiritually in their walks with Christ. Pray for the continuing work on the Ila Old Testament translation project. Ask the Lord to give the translators strength and perseverance as they press on toward their goal of giving the Ila people a full Bible.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ZAMBIA; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG
**NKOYA; ZAMBIA (146,000)**

Give thanks for the translation team, which has been pressing hard to finish the Old Testament. It has taken 60 years for the Nkoya to get the full Bible in their heart language. The team is now working on harmonizing the Old Testament text with the New Testament text to make sure both are structurally sound. Lift up the translation team as they move their translation work to the Zambian Bible Society’s headquarters in Lusaka. Pray that this move will allow the team to proceed to next steps in the translation process more quickly. Ask the Lord to prepare the hearts of the Nkoya people so they will be ready for his Word.

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF ZAMBIA, SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG**

**SOLI; ZAMBIA (54,400)**

Rejoice! The Soli New Testament was dedicated in January 2017. Pray that the Soli speakers will find divine power from their mother-tongue Scriptures to supply everything they need “for living a godly life” (2 Peter 1:3, NLT). Pray as the translation team begins work on the Old Testament. Ask God to provide health and endurance for every person involved in the Soli translation work.

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF ZAMBIA; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG**

A complete list of all projects, sorted by area of the world, can be downloaded anytime from wycliffe.org/finishline.