

THE FINISH LINE

PACIFIC 2015

Wycliffe[®]
BibleTranslators

❧ AUSTRALIA ❧

EASTERN ARRERNTE; AUSTRALIA (2,820)

Rejoice! The Eastern Arrernte New Testament and Old Testament portions will be sent to the printer this year. **Pray** for God's protection on the books as they are returned by boat to Australia and the community area. **Ask the Lord** to lead Arrernte leaders as they decide on a strategic time to hold the dedication. **Pray** for creativity for them and wisdom in their far-reaching distribution plans. **Ask God** to prepare people in the community who will not only read the translated Scriptures, but also share them with others. May they use God's Word to teach and encourage believers, and sow seeds for those yet to believe. An audio recording of the Scriptures will also be available to those who cannot read (a majority of the population). **Ask the Holy Spirit** to bless this recording and draw many Arrernte into his kingdom as they listen to it.

YUMPLATOK; TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS, AUSTRALIA (23,400)

Hallelujah! The Yumplatok people now have the Bible in their own language. In July 2014, it was blessed by two Bishops of the Anglican Diocese of North Queensland. God answered prayer by providing a 60-foot boat to distribute the finished Bible. Last fall the crew piloted the boat up the eastern

shore of Australia, stopping in three cities that had communities of Torres Strait Islanders, and then into the islands themselves. **Praise God** that there were Scripture dedications along this journey. **Pray** for many Yumplatok speakers to learn of the love of God and be drawn into his kingdom. **Pray** that the boat would continue to be used according to God's plan.



❧ COOK ISLANDS ❧

PUKAPUKA; COOK ISLANDS/NEW ZEALAND/AUSTRALIA (6,000)

Because of other commitments last year, members of the translation team were not able to focus all of their time on the New Testament. Nonetheless, they persevered and made diligent efforts to finish it. **Praise God**, the New Testament is being typeset in the Netherlands and will be printed in Sri Lanka. A dedication will take place later this year in the Cook

Islands. After that, several smaller dedications will be held in Pukapuka communities in Australia and New Zealand. **Ask God** to work mightily among the people through his Word in their heart language. And **intercede** for the translation team as work continues on the Old Testament.

MICRONESIA AND POLYNESIA

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT – CAROLINIAN, KAPINGAMARANGI, NUKUMANU AND NUKUORO LANGUAGES; PACIFIC ISLANDS, MICRONESIA AND POLYNESIA (7,700)

Praise God that two of these projects saw Scripture dedications last year! The Nukumanu New Testament was dedicated on February 4, 2014, with joy, gratitude and dancing, and the Kapingamarangi Bible was similarly dedicated in December 2014. **Pray** that the people would read the translated Scriptures often and let God speak to their hearts. The Nukuoro translation team members are working on the final books of the Old Testament along with their consultant. **Pray** for the Carolinian team members to finish strong as they work on final checks and typesetting for the New Testament. **Pray** for the health and safety of both teams; there have been a number of members lost due to death and illness.

Seed Company – theseedcompany.org

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ABAU (DOWN RIVER DIALECT); PAPUA NEW GUINEA (1,000)

An expatriate team from Germany worked with mother tongue translators to complete a final check of the books of Matthew, John, 1–3 John, Jude, James and 1–2 Peter last year. God answered prayer! The manuscript was then prepared for printing — a detailed process that included checking for spelling consistency, selection of pictures and careful layout. **Ask the Lord** to enable the printer to produce books with clear print and strong binding. **Pray** for God's protection as the books are shipped from South Korea to Papua New Guinea and then to the village area. A dedication is scheduled for May of this year. **Lift up** the Abau people in prayer, asking that they will receive God's Word with joy and eagerness.

New Tribes Mission – ntm.org



AROP-LOKEP; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (3,020)

Praise the Lord! The Arop-Lokep New Testament was dedicated on June 8, 2014. The ceremony was filled with traditional dances and music, and also with new words that honored God and thanked him for his Word in their language. **Give thanks** that 400 Audibibles with recordings of the whole New Testament were made available at the dedication event. (Audibibles are small audio players designed for use among oral people living in remote locations without electricity.) **Pray** for God's Word, in printed and digital forms, to have an eternal impact among the Arop-Lokep people.

BARUGA; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (2,230)

Thank the Lord that the translators are on track to typeset the Baruga New Testament in 2017. They have already edited and polished some Epistles, and have also scheduled some more consultant checks. This year, they hope to complete team edits for all the remaining books. Plans are also underway to begin recording the New Testament in audio format. **Pray** that no setbacks would hinder the team and that any obstacles would be overcome, all for the glory of God. **Thank God** for the team member's desire to translate the Old Testament as well. **Ask him** to thoroughly equip them when the time comes for that project to start.

DOM; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (12,000)

It has taken many years, but by God's grace the New Testament will reach Dom hands this year. It was typeset last fall in Florida and then sent to South Korea to be printed. **Ask the Lord** to protect the books as they are shipped to Papua New Guinea and then to the local village area. A dedication is planned for late summer. **Pray** that many Dom will want copies and that God's Spirit will transform them as they apply

the Scriptures to their lives. **Ask the Lord** to give great success to classes that teach them how to study the Word so that, in turn, they can “... correctly explain the word of truth” to others (2 Timothy 2:15).

New Tribes Mission – ntm.org

KANDAWO; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (4,000)

Rejoice that typesetting for the Kandawo New Testament was completed last June and that it was sent to Korea for printing! Meanwhile the people have gratefully received some Audibibles with recorded Scriptures. (Audibibles are low-cost, small and effective audio players designed for use among oral people living in remote locations without electricity and under harsh conditions.) **Ask God** to use the Audibibles to create a readiness and eagerness among the Kandawo to receive the full New Testament this year on April 14. A Scripture Application and Leadership Training course will be taught at the same time the New Testaments arrive. **Pray** that God’s Word will communicate clearly and powerfully, stirring the hearts of the Kandawo people. May the local church grow and mature with the Word available in the Kandawo language.

KASUA; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (600)

This year many books in the Kasua New Testament are scheduled to be consultant checked. **Thank the Lord** that after some uncertainty regarding the availability of consultants, two consultants volunteered to help. **Pray** for clarity and wisdom for all involved in the task. Continue to **lift up** the Kasua church and **ask** that God would raise up spiritual leaders to shepherd the Kasua believers. One of the nine villages has forged ahead in teaching literacy and developing strong readers. **Pray** for other villages to be inspired and to do likewise. **Pray** that through these efforts, many would learn to read the Word of God.

KONAI; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (600)

Hallelujah! The Konai translation team plans to dedicate the translated New Testament at Easter this year. The typeset digital files were sent electronically to the Korean Bible Society’s print shop last year. The Konai people are eagerly anticipating God’s Word; 180 copies have been sold in advance. **Ask God** to guide those who are preparing and planning the dedication ceremony. **Pray** that the Konai New Testament will speak clearly to the Konai people and bear much fruit within their communities.

KUNI-BOAZI; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (4,500)

Typesetting for the Kuni New Testament began last year, and a dedication is planned for January 2016. The translation team members met with church leaders from different denominations and villages last year and, with their input, made decisions about the appearance of the final printed copy. **Thank the Lord** for his faithfulness to the translators and **pray** that they would finish strong and would complete their work on schedule. And **pray** that the Kuni will be ready and eager to receive the New Testament. **Ask God** for clear guidance in forming a new translation team members to work more independently on an Old Testament translation.

MALEU-KILENGE; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (5,200)

On July 15, 2014, people from many Maleu villages gathered for a huge celebration in the village of Gie. Together they celebrated the arrival of the New Testament in their heart language! Thirty-four hogs were donated by the believers to help with the dedication feast. It was a joyous time of praising God for his goodness, grace and faithfulness in giving the Maleu people his Word. Some unbelievers received New Testaments and are reading them for the first time. Some even expressed interest in being taught God’s Word in their language. **Pray** for many more Maleu to put their faith in Christ alone to save them. And **pray** that the local believers will immerse themselves in the Word and let God continue to transform them into his image.

New Tribes Mission – ntm.org

MBORENA KAM; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (2,100)

Give thanks for the New Testament typesetting last year. Because Mborena Kam speakers live in a swamp-like environment with high rain and humidity, translators are working to raise additional funds to print the New Testament on waterproof paper! **Pray** for God’s Word to be physically durable as well as accessible in this language and that the Mborena Kam people would receive the translation with joy. May God bolster the physical and spiritual well-being of the translators and their families after wrestling with the pressures of completing the last stages of the project.

Seed Company – theseedcompany.org

MENYA; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (25,000)

Praise God! The Menya New Testament is scheduled to be typeset this year. As the translators prepare for this next phase in the translation project, **pray** that they will be strengthened and encouraged in their work so they can provide a quality manuscript. **Ask God** to supply the necessary funds for the Menya people to purchase the printed New Testament at affordable prices. The team recently adapted and updated a 1994 publication of Mark so that it is now more easily understood and accessible. They are also working on a recording of the Scriptures. **Thank the Lord** that he is making his Word available to the Menya speakers!



NEW IRELAND CLUSTER PROJECT – BAROK, FANAMAKET, HINSAAL, SOKAREK AND SOKIRIK LANGUAGES; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (5,700)

One of the numerous languages in the Ireland Cluster project finished last year. **Praise God** for the complete Sokarek New Testament! Four other New Testament projects anticipate completion before 2018, with each at various stages in the translation process. **Pray** for trouble-free typesetting of the Hinsaall New Testament. **Pray** for the Barok translators as they draft and check their last book. And **pray** for the Fanamaketa and Sokirik teams who are checking and editing their New Testament rough drafts. Precision and clarity remain the goal so the people will have Scriptures that accurately communicate God's plan of salvation.

Seed Company – theseedcompany.org

OGEA; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (2,210)

It's been a long road, but God has been faithful. The Ogea received the New Testament in their language

during a festive celebration on June 28, 2014! As they read God's Word, **pray** for hearts to remain open to the truth. **Ask the Lord** to build his church among the Ogea and grow true worshippers of Christ.

Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association – pngbta.org

SALIBA; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (2,500)

Two Saliba translation teams received training last year in computers, typing skills and using Paratext software, a tool useful in evaluating the accuracy and consistency of translation drafts. They also attended a Translators' Training Course for further development of their translation skills. Their new skills are valuable and helpful to their translation process, especially as they work with project advisors in Austria via the Internet. Half of the team is drafting the Epistles of Paul, and the other half is working on Revelation and 1 Peter. **Pray** for the two teams to work together efficiently, communicate well and exchange helpful feedback. **Ask the Lord** to bless them with perseverance and good health. **Lift up** the advisors in prayer as they plan to visit the Saliba project in September to revise the drafted texts onsite. **Pray** for the resources they need to make that trip a success.

SUDEST; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (2,000)

God continues his faithfulness to the Sudest people. In mid-2014, the New Testament translation was typeset and sent to the printers. People in surrounding villages on Sudest and neighboring Peron Island are excited about the translated Scriptures. Many look forward to having their own copy. Please **pray** for these people as they recover from the destruction of Cyclone Ita last April. Many families lost their gardens, so **ask God** to restore their food supplies on the island. **Pray** that the people would be encouraged and strengthened by his Word. May their love for God and each other grow as they dive into Scripture.

Seed Company – theseedcompany.org

TÀY; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (500)

Last summer, on July 17, the Tày held a party to celebrate the arrival of the Tày New Testament! Together, along with many visitors, they dedicated it to God and prayed for the Holy Spirit to work through it. In addition, a recording of the New Testament was made available. The recording can be loaded onto SIM cards and easily played on hand-held mobile phones. The audio recording also allows Tày speakers who cannot read to hear God's Word

first hand. Immediately following the New Testament dedication, a two-week Scripture Application and Leadership Training course was held. **Pray** for the leaders who were trained to reach Tày people throughout this remote jungle area with the truths of Scripture. May they make good use of their newly printed New Testaments.

Pioneer Bible Translators Papua New Guinea – pbtpng.org

URAT; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (6,280)

The translators are worn out, so **lift** them up in prayer, asking for renewed strength and continued healing for some serious health problems. One of the key team members is going on furlough this year; **pray** for safe travels for her. **Ask God** to bless her with a restful time back home so she is reenergized to return to the field and continue her work. Typesetting is planned for the end of this year. In light of this excellent goal, continue to **pray** for the translation team to have good health, clear communication and positive spirits. **Pray** for wisdom and accuracy as the last stages of the project come into sight.

URIM; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (4,000)

Give thanks for the Urim New Testament project, which is progressing well. This year the translation team will conduct community and consultant checks of the last books. **Ask God** to give everyone involved in the checking process great patience, insight and discernment as they work to make sure the Scriptures are clear in the Urim language. Preparation for the New Testament's publication will follow these vital checking procedures. **Pray** for significant impact of the "JESUS" film and the three other Urim language films that the team continues to share with the community. Another key focus is on literacy and Scripture use efforts among the Urim. **Ask God** to allow the team to produce more Urim books, as well as help booksellers to get set up and start libraries. **Pray** for good sales of a Christian songbook and accompanying recordings that were produced in 2014. May these resources be well used in churches and homes to bring glory to God.

VITU; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (8,800)

The end is in sight! The translators intend to finish consultant checks in May. Next they must conduct a read-through of the New Testament and then begin typesetting. **Pray** for available consultants so that the team can meet this goal. The translators communicate

with one another and also with consultants online and have experienced a variety of computer problems over the years. **Pray** that they will be able to exchange notes, questions and corrections by email without hindrance. **Intercede** for translator Vena and his family as they handle the financial and emotional strain of their teenage son attending school on the mainland in a secular environment. **Pray** for resolution for some language dialect complexities. Unless the Vitu accept a certain spelling and pronunciation, they will have to print two different New Testaments.

VULA'A; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (6,400)

Thank the Lord for good progress made last year by national translators who are translating the Old Testament and revising the 1954 Vula'a New Testament. Much remains to be done, however, and many of the original team members are old or have died. **Lift up** Jerry, chairman of the team, and Alice, secretary, who carry much of the workload. **Ask the Lord** to raise up new personnel to help in the final steps of checking over the manuscript as a team. Then their consultant must review it. **Pray** for the consultant to be available to them as his time is very limited. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to infuse the team members with energy, alertness and joy as they press on toward completion.

Bible Society of Papua New Guinea



WARAN; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (3,000)

Praise the Lord that advisors to the Waran translation team were able to return to the project last year. **Ask God** to enable the team to complete consultant checks of the remaining books. **Pray** for strength, alertness and keen minds. Once the checking sessions are finished, the final stage of revision can begin. During this phase the translators will look for additional changes that improve accuracy and readability, making it more faithful to the original meaning and more natural in local expression. **Lift up** the Waran people in prayer, asking the Lord to transform them with his love and his Word.

Pioneer Bible Translators Papua New Guinea – pbtpng.org

WASKIA; PAPUA NEW GUINEA (35,000)

Hallelujah! The Waskia New Testament was dedicated last September. Also, more than 130 chapters of Scripture were recorded and put on Audibibles (small audio players designed for use among oral people living in remote locations without electricity). **Pray** that the Word of God in the Waskia language would be widely distributed and applied in numerous situations. **Ask God** to teach the people to love his Word in their mother tongue. **Pray** that it would strengthen them spiritually. The team is still working on translating the Old Testament into Waskia. **Pray** for good progress, patience and dedication to the task.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

GELA; SOLOMON ISLANDS (14,500)

The Gela community is excited by the prospect of receiving the New Testament this November. A member of the translation team said, “This dedication is the most significant event for the Gela community in 100 years!” In preparation for the large number of people expected to attend, the host village is planting extra food crops. **Pray** for wisdom for the committee planning the logistics and transportation for the ceremony. **Lift up** the New Testaments in prayer as they are printed in South Korea this year and then shipped to the language area. **Pray** they will arrive in time for the dedication. **Ask the Lord** to use two workshops — Scripture Application and Leadership Training and Using Your Bible — to motivate people to study the Word and apply it to their lives.

KWAIO; SOLOMON ISLANDS (20,000)

Last year on Easter weekend, the Kwaio received the New Testament in their heart language during a colorful ceremony. About 400 copies were purchased that day. One woman who purchased a New Testament remarked, “Now it will be hard to go to the garden and work. We will want to stay home and read our Bibles!” Also, a week before their Scripture celebration event, a copy of the Kwaio New Testament was placed in the Bible display at Solomon Islands National Parliament during a special program. The Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament and members of Parliament were in attendance. A passage from the Kwaio New Testament was read and prayer was given in Kwaio. When a Kwaio speaker who works at Parliament heard the Scripture that morning, it moved him to tears. **Pray** for many Kwaio to come into God’s Kingdom through his Word!

NORTH MALAITA CLUSTER PROJECT – BAELELEA, BAEGGU AND FATALEKA LANGUAGES; SOLOMON ISLANDS (21,400)

Praise God with the Baelelea people this February when they celebrate the New Testament in their language! **Pray** for the preparation and planning surrounding this dedication ceremony. The Baeggu and Fataleka teams are also making good progress; **pray** for final editing and typesetting to wrap up by the end of this year, as planned. **Pray** for wisdom for those translating the Epistles, a task more difficult than the Gospels. The teams are making final decisions on key terms and spelling, and are preparing for consultant checks. The teams are making final decisions on key terms, spelling and preparing for consultant checks. **Lift up** their efforts in prayer so that his Word may shine brightly into the lives of the people!

Seed Company – theseedcompany.org

ROVIANA; SOLOMON ISLANDS (9,000)

Last year the translation team published trial editions of all the books from Joshua through 2 Kings. Further Old Testament translation is also progressing well. The Roviana people eagerly await the Bible in their language and are asking for copies of the trial publications. In one village, the lone copy of the Gospels and Psalms was so sought after that it never stayed in one place long enough for anyone to read the whole edition! **Pray** for accurate and timely checking of the remaining 11 books. **Ask God** to bless the team

members with plenty of focused time for their work, free from distractions. **Pray** for good health for the translators and their families. **Praise God** for working in the hearts of those who read his Word.

Seed Company – theseedcompany.org

❧ VANUATU ❧

SOUTHEAST AMBRYM; VANUATU (3,700)

Typesetting of the Southeast Ambrym New Testament began last October. **Pray** that it will be completed and the New Testaments printed in time for a dedication in July. Audio recordings of the New Testament and some Old Testament portions are ready to go. The team wants 1,200 audio Bible players ready for distribution at the dedication. **Pray** for the necessary funding to make this possible. **Thank the Lord** for strong interest in Sunday school books and songbooks. **Ask God** to prepare the hearts and minds of the Southeast Ambrym people to read and hear his Word. May it bear much fruit in their lives.

Seed Company – theseedcompany.org

EPI CLUSTER PROJECT – BAKI, LAMEN AND LEWO LANGUAGES; VANUATU (3,400)

Intercede for the Baki and Lewo translation teams as they complete final revisions on these two New Testaments. **Pray** that they would find any sections needing improvement before turning them over for typesetting in April. **Lift up** those who are typesetting the New Testaments. This is a detailed task involving decisions about formatting, font size and type, placement of maps and pictures, and footnotes. As audio recordings are made of the New Testaments, pray that the readers will read clearly with strong voices. **Pray** too for the computers to function well. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in local people's lives so that the communities will get behind the translations, which were begun over 30 years ago. **Pray** for successful strategies to engage individuals, churches and whole communities with the Scriptures. And **lift up** the Lamen translation team in prayer — the New Testament has been drafted but it requires more work to reach the publication stage.

KWAMERA; VANUATU (3,500)

Rejoice! On June 13, 2014, several hundred people gathered together in Ienmarei village and celebrated

the launching of the Kwamera New Testament. A drama depicting the arrival of the first missionaries began at 7 a.m. on the white sandy beaches. Then a large procession, with all the major denominations in the area participating, climbed one mile up the mountain to the dedication ceremony. The celebration included the raising of flags, speeches, lunch, skits and a dedication prayer. The New Testaments and Megavoice units (handheld MP3 players containing the entire recorded New Testament) were distributed to an eager crowd. **Ask God** to appoint a Scripture engagement team to work with the local translators. **Pray** that they would help inspire and encourage the local people to read and listen to the translated Scriptures. **Ask the Lord** for a great harvest among the Kwamera.

LENAKEL; VANUATU (11,500)

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

Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia – prc.org.au

MASKELYNES; VANUATU (1,200)

Three days of music and drama presentations led up to April 9, 2014, the day of dedication. During that time, people from several islands and from overseas gathered to celebrate the New Testament in Maskelynes. The Scripture celebration featured singing, speeches, feasting and dancing. Young people performed skits about Bible verses and read translated portions. They showed pride in their language and great joy at seeing the Scriptures published in it. Chiefs from each clan ensured that everyone received a New Testament. MegaVoice players (devices used to listen to the audio New Testament) were sold at a discount. At a later meeting, a young man named

Setla said to some of his friends, “When everyone else in church is trying to understand the Bible text, we (the young men) will be able to understand what it’s really saying because we’ll be able to read it in our own Bibles now, not the national language.” **Praise God** for the coming of his Word in Maskelynes. **Pray** for evidence of the Spirit’s transforming power, at work through the Word, in the lives of the people.

PAAMA; VANUATU (6,000)

Praise God for progress already achieved! A team of native speakers read through the New Testament and Old Testament portions looking for errors or ways to improve the text. Then the manuscript was typeset in the fall. **Pray** that the books will be printed and delivered to the language area in time for a dedication event in July. The translation team would also like to complete an audio recording of the Scriptures. **Lift up** the translators to the Lord in prayer, and ask for his empowerment and perfect timing for them. **Pray** for the availability of the project advisor who teaches linguistics in Canada from September to May. **Ask the Lord** to guide him as he juggles many responsibilities. And **ask the Holy Spirit** to work in Paama lives so they will be spiritually hungry when God’s Word arrives and speaks to them in printed and audio forms.

Seed Company – theseedcompany.org

WHITESANDS; VANUATU (7,500)

Hallelujah! The Whitesands people do not have to wait any longer — they received the New Testament in their heart language this January. It was delivered in both print and audio. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit’s anointing of these New Testaments and for copies to soon grow “old” with repeated use. **Ask the Lord** to supply the needed funds for MegaVoice players (small handheld solar-powered digital audio players). These effective devices allow people to listen to the Scriptures wherever they are. And **pray** that the dedication celebration will continue to inspire other language groups on the island to use their translated New Testaments.



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