PRAYING FOR
BIBLE TRANSLATION
PROJECTS AS THEY CROSS

The Finish Line
DEAR FRIENDS,

The Word of God is alive and powerful. When it’s heard and understood in a language that speaks to a person’s heart, there is a better opportunity for life-changing engagement — the person will never be the same after that personal encounter with the very heart of God.

All around the world, people are still waiting for that moment when they hear God speak their name in their own language. As we ask God to accomplish his will on this earth — that every tribe, nation, people and language would know him — we are participating in a mission that has been in progress for thousands of years.

This year, Wycliffe celebrates 75 years as an organization involved in Bible translation around the world. I want to invite you to join me in praying through the 30 translation projects shared within these pages. Each day offers specific ways that you can pray for these projects as they near the finish line. By praying, you are impacting future generations that will receive the life-changing message of the Good News in their own language. And that’s significant work.

Thank you for praying for these translation projects that are so close to finishing. May God be glorified as more people groups are impacted by Scripture in the languages they understand best.

Warmly in Christ,

Bob Creson
President/CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators, USA
ABOUT THE FINISH LINE

Prayer is an important part of Bible translation, and it is especially critical during the final stages before completion. Often this is when spiritual attacks happen and troubles arise. The translations are so close to being done, but it can be difficult to persevere.

That’s why “The Finish Line” exists. These projects and teams need prayer, and you can be a part of the team that supports them. But these 30 projects aren’t the only ones in need; they represent more than 300 similar translation projects worldwide waiting to cross the finish line. A complete list of all projects, sorted by area of the world, can be downloaded anytime from wycliffe.org/finishline. Sign up to receive weekly prayer email updates, which include a 30-day Finish Line prayer guide for each month, our e-newsletter and more at wycliffe.org/joinprayer. The requests can easily be printed and used in your personal prayer time, with your family, in your small group or at a weekly prayer meeting. Additionally, you can reach us at 1-800-WYCLIFFE (1-800-992-5433 ext. 3870) or by email at prayer_usa@wycliffe.org to request a printed copy by mail.

HERE’S HOW IT WORKS

**LANGUAGE NAME** | **LOCATION** | **POPULATION**
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**DAY 5: 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

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Every translation project is unique, but many face similar challenges and obstacles. You are welcome to use this list of prayer points to help you begin and focus.

**PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE**
Translation teams and their families are vulnerable at this time. Pray for their stamina and health. Pray that their focus will remain on Jesus, despite the challenges that will come. Pray for their hearts to be encouraged by one another.

**PRAY FOR THE PROCESS**
Pray for trained consultants who check the work. Pray for the involvement and consensus of church denominations on the wording, formatting and printing of the translation. Pray for the final proofreading process, asking God to show them any errors that would mar the translation. Pray for the technology involved in every project and that nothing would hinder the finished product.

**PRAY FOR PROTECTION**
Pray for those involved with translation projects operating in sensitive areas. Pray for peace in areas affected by turmoil and unrest. Pray for provision in the event of hurricanes, cyclones, floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Pray for the courage and strength of mother-tongue speakers in the event of persecution.

**PRAY FOR THE PRINTING**
Pray for the typesetters, who often work in a language they do not understand, that they will be accurate and maintain the integrity of the translation. Pray for availability of paper. Pray for the printers as they work to ensure that inking, pagination and binding result in clear and durable books. Pray that the published books will be delivered in God’s perfect power and timing.

*And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.*

— Matthew 24:14 (NLT)
PRAYING THROUGH THE STAGES OF A TRANSLATION PROJECT

FIRST DRAFT: A preliminary, tentative translation that will be tested and improved. Revisions continue throughout successive drafts.

REVIEWER CHECK: Speakers of the target language read through the translation to make corrections and suggest improvements.

BACK TRANSLATION: Rendering a translation back into a language of wider use, usually in a word-by-word or phrase-by-phrase format. The back translation enables consultants who do not know the target language to evaluate the accuracy and adequacy of the translation.

CONSULTANT CHECK: A skilled and experienced advisor meets with the translation team to discuss the wording of the translation, verse by verse. The advisor may share how known problem passages have been handled by others and also give advice on broader and more general aspects of the program.

EXEGETICAL CHECK: Ensuring accuracy in translation and faithfulness to the source text by comparing the translation to the original Greek or Hebrew.

CONSISTENCY CHECK: Ensuring consistent translation of key biblical terms, important theological concepts, Bible names and parallel passages throughout the entire text. Reasons for necessary variations are clarified.

REVISION: Changes made to the translation to improve accuracy and/or readability, making it more faithful to the original meaning and more natural in expression in the target language. Every translation goes through many revisions. Revisions require follow-through, entering corrections and further rechecking.

FORMAT AND STYLE CHECK: Ensuring that supplemental material is prepared and checked, including a preface, footnotes, glossaries, maps, pictures, captions and introductions to the books. Verses and chapters are numbered, and spelling, punctuation and paragraphing are checked.

PROOFREADING: The long, intense and demanding task of checking all the details of an entire manuscript, including those listed under “Format and Style Check.”

TYPESETTING: Once final decisions are made on the aesthetic presentation of the book (size and style of print, overall layout and design, etc.), the edition is ready for print.
FINDING FREEDOM IN THE GOSPEL

More than 27,000 islanders living in San Andrés, just off the coast of Nicaragua, had waited their whole life to hear God speak to them in Creole, their heart language. So when the pastor began to read in Creole for the very first time, the congregation was amazed. People began to nod in agreement as they listened. Soon the entire congregation was on its feet, clapping one another on the back and laughing aloud in joy!

The dedication of the San Andrés Islander Creole New Testament took place in a church service on February 7, 2016. It was a time of excitement, rejoicing, celebration and great encouragement to all who were present — official guests, pastors, church members and visitors. After praising the Lord together through hymns, a speaker talked about the history of the translation project, beginning with the first Christian congregation on the island. Its founder began to teach Afro-Caribbean children to read and write, as well as teaching Bible lessons and Christian hymns in English, 170 years ago. It took all those years before God’s precious Word came to them in the form of a complete New Testament — “iina fi wii languij” — in their own language.

The translation project started in 2000 when SIL* members Ron and Lois Metzger moved to the island. When they had to move to Dallas for family reasons, Ron continued to work with students from the island in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Lois became sick with cancer and was ultimately called home to be with the Lord.

A milestone was reached when the Gospels and Acts were both recorded and published. Although Ron was not expected to continue on the translation, he was not done yet and continued to work with the Islanders. It became clear that the translation of the New Testament would be finished.

* One of Wycliffe’s primary partners.
At the dedication, Pastor Ricardo Gordon shared, “After 170 years, I can now preach in Creole. That is freedom.” His message proved to be the highlight of the evening. He took Acts 2:1-11 — the passage where the Holy Spirit first comes upon the disciples and they begin speaking in other languages — and applied that to the New Testament in Creole. When people heard the disciples speak in their own language, it dignified all the languages and made everybody feel included. There was no distinction between those who spoke and those who heard them speak; there were no first class citizens or second class citizens — all languages were equal and important. Pastor Ricardo’s message made a deep impression and was affirmed by everybody shouting ‘Amen’ and clapping their hands.

In an update, Pastor Ricardo shared, “All our generations to come will be influenced by the Word of God in our language. Hallelujah! Only God can do such a marvelous work. I am simply amazed.”
30 DAYS OF PRAYER

Note: The Finish Line is a quick-access resource to help you pray more effectively for translations that are within three years of publication or arrival to a language group. This is one of the many times in the course of a translation project when spiritual attack seems to be felt more acutely. For deeper prayer points and updated information, websites are listed under some language groups. In the following prayer requests, an organization name listed at the end of the entry indicates a translation project handled by a partner organization. Unless otherwise noted, each project is for a complete translation of the New Testament. For most projects, the population is included after the country or area name.

DAY 1: ABUAHOI; Americas

Give thanks to God, the final draft of the New Testament was completed last year. The translation team is focused on finishing an audio recording of the Scriptures, which will be key in reaching the Abuahoi. Ask God to keep the readers’ voices strong and clear for the recording. Pray that each participant will be available to complete the project. Ask the Lord to protect them as the recording takes place in a sensitive environment with potential negative consequences for the team members. Pray that as the Abuahoi listen to God’s Word, they will encounter Jesus and find true reconciliation with God the Father through the saving grace of Christ. “So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ” (Romans 10:17, NLT).

DAY 2: ATIANGA; Asia

The translation team members have worked hard to publish the whole Atianga Bible. Pray for a smooth printing process that will result in quality books. Pray that local believers will accept the new translation of the New Testament in this full Bible. Ask the Lord to pave the way for officially importing the Bibles into the country and for a positive reception among Atianga speakers. Some individual books of the Bible are currently inside the country, but they are stored and cannot be distributed officially. Pray for these books to find their way to potential readers. The team also published the book of Proverbs as a diglot, which shares the Atianga version alongside a major regional language translation. Ask God to lift barriers so it can officially be brought into the country. Pray that it might be formally presented to local authorities, inspiring acceptance for the translation and a thirst for God’s Word. Lift up a team developing projects to get people more engaged with Scripture, asking God to give them success.
**DAY 3: ELO; Asia**

“But the word of God cannot be chained” (2 Timothy 2:9, NLT). Thank the Lord that in an area where the mother-tongue translators have stood before authorities and been threatened, the New Testament and several Old Testament books have been completed and published. A private celebration was held with a few believers. Ask the Lord to protect copies as they are mailed to the country and personally distributed. Praise the Lord that these Scriptures are also available in audio form, along with two booklets of simplified stories of Jesus’ miracles and parables. The Elo can access these materials on their phones, tablets, Proclaimers (digital players preloaded with an audio Bible recording) and a website. Pray for the Holy Spirit to use the Word, in all these formats, to give eternal life, hope and courage to the Elo. Pray for God’s protection over the Elo translators as they concentrate on evangelism, Scripture engagement activities and literacy.

**DAY 4: LAB; Asia (18,000,000)**

Early last year, the Lab Bible (including both the Old and New Testaments) was printed, launched and very quickly sold out. Praise God for a great response to it, and for a corresponding smartphone app that was created just for this translation! Later in the year, the translation team oversaw the printing of a second edition Bible as well as a special student’s edition. Thank the Lord for a dramatized audio recording of the New Testament too, and pray that it will be well received. With an audio version completed, pray for successful integration and synchronization of the text and audio in a new version of the smartphone app, which has been very popular among the Lab people. Pray especially for wide distribution of these Lab Scripture materials, and ask God to work through each one of them as they are used in Scripture engagement activities among the community.

**DAY 5: 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**

**DAY 6: BUAMU LAA; 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**
DAY 7: 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 Alvare New Testament.

DAY 8: 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

DAY 9: 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.
DAY 10: **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**

DAY 11: **HADIYYA; Ethiopia (595,107)**

*Thank the Lord* for his strength given 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.

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

DAY 12: **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.
DAY 13: **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 Builsa churches — along with friends in the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S. — who gave towards publication costs. *Pray* for funds to complete 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 — GILLBT.ORG

DAY 14: **SEMANDANG/KUALAN;** Indonesia (100,000)

Last year the translation team worked non-stop in order to have the New Testament with Old Testament portions ready for printing in January 2017. A team of Semandang speakers spent several months reading and rereading the text to be sure it was clear and natural sounding. They revised the text appropriately and pored over formatting options to decide how to lay it out for printing. *Thank the*
Lord for infusing them with strength so they could complete their task! Give praise to God for a church in Wyoming and other partners who generously gave toward printing costs. Pray as the books are printed, that the finished product will be excellent quality and for the books to be delivered safely, undamaged and in time for a June celebration. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in Semandang hearts so they treasure God’s Word and are a people “whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 144:15, NLT).

NEW TRIBES MISSION — NTM.ORG

DAY 15: HUICHOL; Mexico (20,000)
The Huichol people have had the New Testament since 1967. In its wake, more than 30 indigenous churches have sprung up. In April 2006, Huichol believers wrote, “Help us so that we can have the Old Testament. We are willing to do the work.” Thank the Lord for nine mother-tongue translators who have worked hard and are now refining and improving the Old Testament books as they progress through the consultant checking phase. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill them and the consultant with energy, wisdom and perseverance. Rejoice that many new believers are being baptized and new local churches are being established. A shaman who had been struggling with drunkenness approached a theological education class that a local pastor and translator was teaching. The shaman asked, “How much do I need to pay to become a Christian?” When he was told he did not have to pay because Jesus had already paid for everyone, he and his family professed their belief and burned their fetishes. Praise the Lord! This is the fifth shaman to convert in the past two years. Pray for these individuals and their families as they grow in their walk with Christ.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

DAY 16: LIBRES MIXTEC; Mexico (11,500)
Hallelujah, the Libres Mixtec New Testament was sent to South Korea for printing last year! Ask God to guide the committee planning a dedication celebration in 2017. Pray for God’s protection over the books as they are shipped to Mexico and go through customs. Pray for successful distribution of both the printed and audio New Testaments. It is also available on the internet and will soon be distributed via cellphones, CDs, MP3 players, Proclaimers (digital players preloaded with an audio Bible recording) and MegaVoice players (handheld solar powered digital audio players). Ask the Holy Spirit to transform lives through God’s Word. Lift up the translation team as they continue translating difficult passages of the Old Testament. Pray for God’s provision of funds and for peace and safety amidst ongoing security concerns in the area.
DAY 17: 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 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.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

DAY 18: CHO CHIN; Myanmar (30,000)

Typesetting the Cho Chin Old Testament has proven difficult as some words are very long and the typesetter must decide how to treat them in the layout of the text. Often they are split from one line to the next. Pray for wisdom for those involved in the typesetting process, and ask God to provide solutions to these layout challenges. Ultimately, pray for a good result in the look of the printed text. Pray too for God’s blessing of good health upon the Cho Chin translator who has not felt well. Ask God to give him strength and endurance to finish the work. Praise God, the Scripture dedication will likely take place this year.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR — BSMYANMAR.ORG

DAY 19: 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.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG
DAY 20: DOROMU-KOKI; Papua New Guinea (1,800)

Give thanks! The Doromu-Koki New Testament is in the typesetting phase and a dedication celebration is planned for the last half of 2018. Praise God that the “JESUS” film has been recorded with plans to also audio record the complete New Testament. Please pray that the Doromu-Koki people will be excited about their New Testament and treasure and use it when it comes. Pray also for the planning of Scripture application and leadership training courses, as well as Scripture use activities in the community. Ask God’s Spirit to prepare fertile soil among the Doromu-Koki so that as they read and hear God’s Word it will take root and grow.

DAY 21: GUMAWANA; Papua New Guinea (500)

Praise God for progress the Gumawana team has made on the New Testament translation, despite the death of one of the main translators in 2015. Give thanks for God’s faithfulness and the translation team’s perseverance for over 10 years. Lift them up in prayer, asking God to keep them healthy and safe from all harm. A critical need is for boat transportation to the Amphlett Islands where the translation project takes place. One member of the team lives in the U.S. and makes trips to work onsite with the team. This is difficult, however, with no regular boats. Ask God to provide a boat each time he needs one. Pray for continued training of new, younger members of the translation team.
DAY 22: MBORENA KAM; Papua New Guinea (2,100)
In March of 2015, the Mborena Kam translation team decided that to adequately check the naturalness of the New Testament text and to overcome final spelling and grammar issues, they would complete a New Testament audio recording and use it as a resource in their final check of the New Testament. *Praise God* for the team’s creativity in overcoming obstacles in translation. The team is now in the last months of recording and editing the text. *Ask the Lord* to enable team members to complete their goals despite illness, weather and other circumstances that could prevent them from doing so. *Pray* for a smooth printing process and that the New Testament books will be ready for a July dedication. *Pray* for wide distribution of the published books and that the hearts of the Mborena Kam people will be open to hear the Word of God in their own language.

DAY 23: AYTA CLUSTER PROJECT — Abellen, Ambala and Mag-Indi languages; Philippines (10,200)
*Give glory to God!* The Abellen and Mag-Indi translation teams have finished the remaining books of the New Testament that need to be checked by consultants. Both teams have worked through many difficulties to translate these books. *Praise the Lord* for excellent help they have received from mentors and consultants. As the teams work on revising and making sure the New Testaments are ready for publication, *pray* that God would grant them wisdom as they review the manuscripts within the community. *Pray* also that they would be able to make time for both the New Testament projects and Scripture engagement activities. *Ask the Lord* to use this translation work to open the hearts of the Abellen and Mag-Indi people. *Lift up* the Ambala team as they press forward to complete more books.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

DAY 24: BANTOANON; Philippines (80,000)
*Thank the Lord* for his faithfulness to this project over the years. The Bantoanon New Testament with Genesis and Exodus will be dedicated in April! *Pray* for a successful printing of the Scriptures and a hymn book, and for the preparation of digital files of Scripture on voice recorders and mobile phones. The team would also like to record all the songs in the hymn book on CD and publish the Bantoanon-English dictionary on a mobile phone app. These projects enhance use of the language and of God’s Word. Two members of the team are retiring this year and returning to their home country. *Ask the Lord* to provide employment for the mother-tongue translators and for churches to
actively promote the Scriptures. Pray for God’s guidance regarding future translation of the Old Testament. Intercede for the Bantoanon, that they will treasure Christ and his Word.

DAY 25: TATAR; Russia (5,600,000)

Praise the Lord! The first ever full Tatar Bible was printed last year and on May 26, 2016, it was officially presented to representatives of the government, academic community and Orthodox Church. On June 11-12, churches also celebrated the momentous occasion. Thank the Lord for the more than 30 workers directly involved in the project. The current team worked on the Bible for 23 years. Ask God to raise up many readers among the Tatars so their lives can be transformed by the Word. Thank him that the local Academy of Sciences gave their official stamp of approval to the Bible. This is extremely important in this Muslim region and makes it possible to distribute the Bible openly. Pray for further development of the new Tatar website, a strategic tool for disseminating the Scriptures.

INSTITUTE FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION — IBT.ORG.RU

DAY 26: NORTH MALAITA CLUSTER PROJECT — Baeggu and Fataleka languages; Solomon Islands (12,600)

Praise God! The Baeggu translation team sent the New Testament to be typeset at the end of 2016. Pray that there will be no complications so it can be printed and a dedication can take place this year. The Fataleka New Testament is at the printers and the team hopes that copies will reach the language area by June. They are hard at work preparing for a dedication ceremony. Pray for both translation teams as they schedule audio recordings of the New Testaments with Faith Comes By Hearing and production of the “JESUS” film. Ask the Lord to give them stamina, good health and clear minds. Thank the Lord that the teams are nearing the completion of their labors. Pray that the Baeggu and Fataleka people will feed on God’s Word in their heart languages, receive Jesus and grow in him.

DAY 27: 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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DAY 28: LAHU SI; Thailand (30,000)

Give thanks! On February 13, 2016, 300 Lahu Si people and about 75 guests from a number of countries gathered together to celebrate and dedicate the New Testament in the Lahu Si language. They combined this ceremony and their New Year’s celebration with dancing, costumes, songs, instruments and food — all in traditional Lahu Si style. Praise the Lord that the Lahu Si were able to read, preach from and distribute God’s Word in their own language! Ask God for spiritual revival among the Lahu Si and that his Word would go out with power and transform lives. Pray that obstacles and strongholds would fall as the people apply his Word to their lives. Pray also that the Word will reach across all political boundaries. Lift up the translation committee in prayer as they discuss and plan for an Old Testament translation project.

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DAY 29: *PRAI*; Thailand (20,000)

Reaching the finish line of a translation project involves a number of stages. *Praise the Lord*, last year the translation team finished translating the final books of the New Testament and a consultant checked them for accuracy and clarity. The next steps are 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 need to decide on illustrations and footnotes to include with the text. In addition, a committee will read through the entire manuscript to make sure it sounds natural and to find any places needing improvement. *Pray* for God to infuse the team with strength, perseverance and alertness in the important details of each step. *Ask the Lord* to raise up excellent readers with strong, clear voices to produce an audio version of the New Testament that will increase the impact of the Scriptures.

DAY 30: *AMBRYM, SOUTHEAST*; Vanuatu (3,700)

*Rejoice!* On May 16, 2016, the Southeast Ambrym New Testament and Old Testament portions were dedicated and distributed. People from different islands and denominations worshipped joyfully together, celebrating the Word of God becoming available to them in their culture and language. One of the translators shared, “No longer is he the foreign colonial God of the English or French. He’s the personal God of the Southeast Ambrym people.” *Praise the Lord* that after the service, people rushed to purchase the printed and audio New Testaments in their heart language. *Pray* that the new believers will use their Bibles regularly and soak up every word. *Ask God* to send his Word out to produce fruit in this area and to prosper everywhere it goes.
THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR THESE 30 TRANSLATION PROJECTS.

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The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.

— Psalm 145:18 (NLT)