

THE **FINISH LINE**

Wycliffe®
Bible Translators

AFRICA

BULONGISH*; Africa (6,000)

The Bulongish people live in an area dominated by another major religion. They love their language and actively use it.

- » **Rejoice** that a team is translating the New Testament into Bulongish and is within a few years of the finish line!
- » Last year the team spent time checking the translated texts in the community to ensure they are communicating well and sound natural. **Pray** that those who listened to the Scriptures will be drawn to Christ and the living water he provides.
- » **Lift up** the translation team as they work with a consultant to make final checks of each New Testament book. The consultant checks for accuracy, clarity and naturalness, and looks for omissions, extraneous thoughts or possible misconceptions.
- » **Ask the Lord** to keep the team and consultant healthy and alert and to fill them with wisdom.
- » **Pray** that soon the Bulongish will say with the psalmist “The very essence of your words is truth ...” (Ps. 119:160a, NLT).

ETHNOS360 – ETHNOS360.ORG

FLAME*; Africa

Last year ended with the Flame New Testament being typeset by MiDi Bible in Switzerland, working remotely via the internet with the translation team in Africa.

- » **Pray** for a timely typesetting completion so it can be sent to South Korea for printing. **Ask the Lord** to help the designers and printing firm produce beautiful New Testaments that will attract readers in this primarily Muslim group.

» **Ask God** to protect the books as they go through customs and are transported back to the language area during the rainy season, which presents extra challenges.

» **Lift up** those planning for a dedication the second half of the year. **Pray** that many will hear about it and come out of curiosity and interest.

» **Pray** that three new translators who joined the team in 2017 will be inspired to continue on to translate the Old Testament. Many Old Testament stories have special impact in Muslim cultures.

» **Pray** that many Flame will say with the prophet Jeremiah, “When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart’s delight ...” (Jer. 15:16a, NLT).

GHERMA*; Africa (20,000)

This project is in a community that is 99.9 percent Muslim. The area has a high level of illiteracy and a high early childhood mortality rate.

» Through literacy and translation, the community can be opened up as people are enabled to read and write in their mother tongue. **Pray** for literacy efforts to be successful and that people will love to read, write and learn. This opens up their hearts and minds to the Scriptures.

» **Lift up** the translation team as they focus on moving the New Testament through the final checks. They hope to complete typesetting the manuscript by the end of this year. **Ask the Lord** to fill them with power, alertness and wisdom.

» **Claim** God’s promise in Isaiah 55:11 over the Scriptures as they reach the Gherma: “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).

RUPAIQA*; 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.

- » **Praise the Lord** that a local association of Rupaiqa speakers, whose members belong to the majority religion, 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 relationship with the God who made them.
- » Interpersonal problems and a lack of personnel are delaying this program. **Pray** for reconciliation and that local people will commit themselves to the project and be willing to do a final revision so the Bible can be printed and recorded.
- » **Pray** for a replacement to be found for the national church leader who has been overseeing the project for almost 30 years. He is tired and wants to pass on his work. It will be difficult to replace him, and several people might be needed to do what he has been doing.
- » **Claim** God's power and protection over the Rupaiqa project. "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16, NLT).

ANGOLA

NYANEKA-MWILA; Angola (600,000)

The team is drafting Exodus and community testing Luke. The consultant is rechecking Genesis, Matthew, Mark and Philippians in order to prepare them for publication.

- » **Pray** that the publication of four Bible books will move forward unhindered.
- » **Ask the Lord** to grant church leaders wisdom as they incorporate mother-tongue Scriptures into their ministries.
- » **Praise the Lord** for providing consultants to help the team refine drafted Bible books.
- » **Pray** for God to use upcoming training seminars to further equip the translators to produce high-quality translation and for his Word to refresh their spirits.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

SONGO; Angola (50,000)

The Songo translators are pleased to report that all New Testament books have been team checked and community tested. They also team checked 70 percent of Psalms. Their focus is now on completing consultant checks to have everything ready for publication. They expect to have the New Testament and the book of Genesis in their language by the end of this year. To

accomplish this, they need to increase the local church commitment, which has been low.

- » **Praise the Lord** that all the New Testament books are at an advanced stage.
- » **Pray** that God would use the Scripture to bring healing to the Songo culture.
- » **Ask God** to strengthen the Bible Society of Angola. They are dedicated to making this project successful and locally owned.
- » **Pray** for an encouraging relationship among the Bible Society of Angola and the local churches as they work together.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ANGOLA; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

BENIN

AJA; Benin (910,000)

The final review and testing of the New Testament books has been on hold for over two years due to a shortage of finances of the Bible Society of Benin, who had previously covered many of the expenses.

- » **Ask Jehovah-Jireh** to provide for the Bible Society so that the New Testament can be completed.
- » When funding comes in, **pray** for the testing team to get good feedback as they go into villages, city neighborhoods and churches to complete comprehension checking of the New Testament.
- » The specialists who review the New Testament for accuracy have not been able to meet for three years because of the funding shortage. **Lift them up** as, Lord providing, they review three years' worth of translation work.
- » **Pray** that the final pre-publication work will be completed well by the translators, and that the United Bible Societies' translation consultant will have time available to do the final formal consultant check for the New Testament.

ALLIANCE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE IN AJA; BIBLE SOCIETY OF BENIN; SIL

BIALI; Benin (104,080)

Praise God, the Lord helped MiDi Bible in Switzerland complete typesetting the New Testament last year.

- » **Lift up** the printing firm, that all the equipment will work well and the books produced will have clear print and durable binding. **Ask God** to protect the books as they are transported to the Biali area in northern Benin.
- » **Pray** for those planning a dedication in April/May to involve many in the community and for excitement to build as they anticipate the arrival of God's Word.

» A newly founded local association recorded the New Testament and Genesis late last year. **Pray** that it will be available by the dedication.

» **Ask the Lord** to anoint literacy and Scripture engagement efforts so that many Biali will experience the impact of God's Word in their lives.

SIL

IDAASHA; Benin (101,000)

The translators drafted and team checked several New Testament books. In June 2016, Togolese translation consultant Samuel Kpagheri checked the book of James with the Idaasha language translators in Benin.

» **Praise God!** Last year 22 new facilitators had 12 days of training on mother-tongue literacy.

» **Pray** that these facilitators will impact their community, and that through their work, God will "accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Eph. 3:20b, NLT).

» **Praise the Lord!** Thanks to team members' work last year on a literacy primer, many Idaasha are learning to read and write in their heart language.

» **Pray** that more people would see the importance of literacy skills in helping to raise standards of living and to develop healthy communities.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; WYCLIFFE BENIN

MONKOLÉ; Benin (25,000)

The Monkolé New Testament was published in 2007 and a translation committee now has the Old Testament in draft form.

» **Ask Jehovah-Jireh** to provide quality time for a consultant to check the drafts for accuracy and naturalness. The team also needs stable electricity and adequate internet service for their translation work. One member of the team will be away April-July; **pray** that the others will make excellent progress.

» During the hot season months of March to May, the translators will test some of the books in communities for comprehension. **Pray** for good health, extra strength and that people will be available to help them.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to use the New Testament and Old Testament books already available to impact people's lives and that more and more Monkolé will hunger and thirst for God's Word.

SIM INTERNATIONAL — SIM.ORG

NATENI; Benin (66,000)

The Nateni New Testament will soon cross the finish line! Typesetting was completed last year by MiDi

Bible in Switzerland and the books are at a printing company.

» **Pray** for functional printers, a smooth book-binding process, and secure packing and shipping of the New Testaments to the language area.

» **Lift up** the committee planning a dedication for April/May, that it would all be to God's glory.

» **Pray** that an audio recording of the New Testament, plus Genesis and Exodus, will be also be available at the dedication. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to impact the Nateni as they listen to and read God's Word.

» The team would like to publish portions of the Old Testament. **Lift them up** as they finish testing, checking and preparing Genesis and Exodus for publication.

» **Pray** that ongoing Scripture use and literacy efforts will be anointed by God so that the Nateni will grow in their relationship with Christ.

SIL

YOM; Benin (300,000)

The Yom translation team is focused on the details of preparing the whole Bible for publication.

» **Pray** they will finish revising the New Testament, published in 1986, by the end of June in order to send the complete manuscript for page layout.

» **Ask the Lord** to give each person on the team stamina and wisdom. Pray also for stable internet and electricity.

» **Praise God** for MiDi Bible 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)

Last year was pivotal in making preparations for the entire Bible to be checked by a consultant and approved for publication.

» **Pray** that the remaining manuscript checking will be completed soon. **Ask the Lord** to give those proofreading the text keen eyes and alert minds.

» **Lift up** the printing process, that it will go smoothly and the Bibles will have durable binding with clear print.

» **Thank the Lord** for two events held at the end of 2017 to promote the Bible to Kalanga speakers. **Pray** for successful ongoing community events publicizing the Bible.

» **Pray** that many Kalanga speakers will be inspired to know God and his Word better through having the complete Bible in their heart language.

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

BURKINA FASO

DYAN; Burkina Faso (15,000)

Praise God, the entire New Testament is drafted! The translation team is forging ahead checking the drafts, revising them and having a consultant check them.

- » **Pray** for good progress in the translation work so the team can complete the New Testament as planned by the end of 2019.
- » **Pray** for a consultant to be available to check the Scriptures.
- » Several members of the team have battled malaria or dengue fever, and one team member was in an accident. **Ask God** to protect the team and give them good health. **Pray** that their families will also be well.
- » Internet connectivity has been very poor, slowing down the work. **Pray** for steady and strong internet connections so God's Word can reach the Dyan sooner rather than later.
- » **Pray** for continued local ownership and for God to prepare the hearts of the Dyan so they will use and apply the Scriptures to their lives.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

CAMEROON

AGHEM; Cameroon (60,000)

Typesetting a New Testament — laying it out digitally for printing — is a tedious and detailed task.

- » **Ask the Lord** to fill the Aghem team with energy, alertness and wisdom as they make formatting decisions about columns, pictures, maps and fonts. 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 books as they are packed and shipped to Cameroon and the language area.
- » **Pray** that God will prepare Aghem hearts so that they eagerly look forward to having the New Testament in their own hands. **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).

» **Pray** that God would use literacy classes to equip the Aghem to use and apply God's Word to their lives.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG

ALVARE*; Cameroon (8,500)

The translation team works under difficult conditions. The area is politically insecure and the team's consultant and exegete are far away from the team.

- » **Pray** that the team will persevere in consistently using a system of consultant notes available in Paratext, a computer software program. This allows them to pre-process books with a consultant via the internet before a face-to-face consultation.
- » **Lift up** the need for good internet connections and functioning computers. This impacts communications and progress greatly.
- » The team is pushing forward vigorously to get as much done as possible this year and next. **Ask the Lord** to keep them and their families healthy and to fill them with joy and wisdom as they move the books of 1-2 Timothy, Hebrews and 1-2 Thessalonians through a consultant check. These books will be followed by Romans, Colossians, Philemon, James, 1 John and Jude. **Pray** for God's special anointing!
- » **Pray** for both political and spiritual peace in the Alvare region.

AWING; Cameroon (20,000)

The translation team has worked hard to prepare the New Testament for typesetting. Thank the Lord for their commitment and perseverance!

- » **Lift up** the team and the typesetting specialist as they work through the stages of selecting illustrations and maps to include, formatting the text and repeatedly proofreading the manuscript to catch any errors. **Ask the Lord** to keep them alert and strong, and to fill them with wisdom.
- » **Praise the Lord** that the "JESUS" film is available in Awing. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint each showing so that many come to Christ. **Pray** that they will then hunger for the Scriptures.
- » **Pray** for literacy classes to produce a host of readers, ready to use the New Testament.
- » **Pray** for the printing process to move forward seamlessly and that people will work together for a glorious and unified dedication.

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BABANKI; Cameroon (15,280)

Several New Testament translation projects in Cameroon are almost at the finish line, including the Babanki. Praise the Lord!

- » As the team awaits the arrival of the books from the overseas printing firm, they have strategically organized numerous literacy workshops to train 1,000 more Babanki to read and write the language. **Pray** that the new readers will be some of the first to buy New Testaments and share them with their families.
- » **Ask God** to anoint other activities designed to teach the people how to engage with Scripture in practical ways that impact their lives and culture.
- » **Pray** that many Babanki will attend the dedication — those in surrounding communities, government leaders, church officials and young people too. **Lift up** the Babanki people to the Lord, asking him to draw each one into a transforming relationship with Christ.

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BUWAL; Cameroon (20,000)

The Buwal live in the far north region of Cameroon where subversive elements are active.

- » **Ask God** to protect the people, the translation team and project staff as they travel in the area for their work. **Pray** for those who oppose the gospel to come to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- » **Lift up** the translation team leader as he guides the team, asking God to give him good health and wisdom.
- » Each of the New Testament books is being checked for accuracy by a consultant. **Pray** for God to fill the consultant with clarity and wisdom.
- » **Praise God** for the Buwal translators' fervent commitment to serve the Lord under difficult circumstances. **Ask him** to sustain and encourage them and their families as they pursue a work of highest eternal value.

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KARANG; Cameroon (18,000)

Consultant checking is a requirement for every Bible translation. A consultant thoroughly goes over the translation with the team, checking for accuracy, clarity and naturalness, and looking for omissions, extraneous thoughts or possible misconceptions. Translation progress in Cameroon slowed down last year due to a lack of consultants.

» **Ask God** to raise up more consultants to serve the Bible translation movement.

» **Lift up** the Karang team as they endeavor to complete the translation this year and turn it over to the Karang Language Committee to bring it to the printing stage.

» **Pray** for successful completion of an audio version of the New Testament and that the team can soon have it, along with a reading version, available on android phones. The printed book will follow soon after.

» **Pray** that God's Word, in different formats, will burn into Karang hearts and they will realize that "the very essence of your words is truth. ..." (Ps. 119:160, NLT).

SIL

MBEMBE; Cameroon (60,000)

Anticipation is growing as the community prepares for a dedication and holds literacy classes. The New Testaments are being printed and shipped to Cameroon from South Korea. Because shipping time can vary, a date for the dedication will be set once the books are in the country.

» **Praise the Lord** for his hand on the translation team through many years of dedicated work!

» **Ask the Lord** to protect the books as they are shipped and then transported to the language area. **Pray** for unity among those planning the dedication and that many will attend.

» **Give thanks** that the "JESUS" film has been recorded. **Pray** that many will come to know Jesus personally as they view the film and develop a love for the Scriptures.

» **Lift up** the Muslim community in the area which is open to the gospel. **Pray** that the story of Jesus, in print or media, will draw their interest.

» **Ask the Lord** to help those working on a dictionary, which raises interest in and gives prestige to the language.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

MH*; Cameroon (10,500)

The principal MH translator will finish university in June this year and return to his home area and family.

» **Ask the Lord** to increase his understanding of translation principles and practice so he can become a consultant-in-training sometime in the next two years.

» **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to guide the team as they determine the best sequence of preparations for checking books with a consultant.

» **Ask God** to provide consistent internet coverage in order to send and receive Paratext files with the remote consultant. (Paratext is a software program that allows translators to evaluate the accuracy and consistency of a translation draft.)

» **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to comfort and encourage each member of the team as they work under adverse and stressful circumstances.

MISAJE CLUSTER PROJECT – Chung, Kemedzung, Mungog, Naami, Nchane and Saari languages; Cameroon (46,200)

The Misaje Cluster project is under Cameroonian leadership and includes a total of 23 translators and 15 staff members. The team has made good progress and reviewed the book of Romans in the six languages. The New Testament consultant checking is at 68 percent for four teams and 62 percent for two teams.

» **Lift up** the consultant checking process, as the team checks for accuracy, clearness, naturalness and possible omissions or misconceptions in the translation.

» **Pray** for Cameroon. Sociopolitical instability in the northwest and southwest regions could spread unless a spirit of submissiveness grows in the hearts of those who seek solutions to the challenges they face.

» **Ask God** to make the Misaje Cluster team passionate followers of Jesus and godly examples to others.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

NDOP CLUSTER PROJECT – Bambalang and Bamunka languages; Cameroon (60,000)

The Bambalang New Testament will be dedicated and delivered to Bambalang communities in 2018! Thank the Lord for this great milestone.

» **Pray** that the dedication will glorify God and motivate people to buy and use God's life-giving Word. **Lift up** ongoing Scripture engagement activities, asking the Lord to use them to draw many into the Scriptures.

» **Thank the Lord** for all of the partners who have worked on and supported the translation of the New Testament since 1997.

» The Bamunka New Testament team has several steps still to complete. **Ask God** to fill them with energy, strength and wisdom as they move the final books through a consultant check. They also need to finalize the marking of tones and some checks and read-throughs by members of the community.

» **Ask the Lord** to guide both teams as they consider starting Old Testament translation.

» **Pray** for God's Word to effectively permeate these communities and cultures for God's glory.

INTERCHURCH COMMITTEES OF BAMBALANG AND BAMUNKA; SIL; WYCLIFFE CANADA; WYCLIFFE UK

NGOMBALE; Cameroon (105,000)

The translation team has been pressing to finalize checks of the New Testament books in order to do a final read-through in the community to make sure the text sounds natural and is understood correctly.

» **Pray** for excellent feedback from the community so they can make any modifications necessary before it goes to typesetting.

» **Lift up** the team as they work with a typesetter to format the New Testament. **Ask the Lord** to renew their strength and keep them alert as they make decisions about columns, fonts and page layout, and as they proofread the manuscript multiple times. **Pray** that their families will be healthy so they can stay focused.

» **Ask God** to anoint literacy and Scripture engagement activities so that many Ngombale will be ready and eager to use the New Testament.

» **Pray** that pastors will joyfully embrace and use the Scriptures in their heart language.

» **Pray** for the community to come together to plan for a dedication after the books are printed and shipped back from South Korea.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG

NUGUNU; Cameroon (40,000)

Nugunu is the language of the Gunu people. Most Nugunu speakers attend church but few understand the foreign language used, so their understanding of Christianity is distorted. Many Christians still practice animistic rituals and are afraid of sorcery.

» **Praise the Lord!** The Nugunu New Testament translation was completed and a dedication took place on December 2 last year.

» **Pray** that the community will use the New Testaments and that Gunu lives will continue to be transformed by God's Word.

» **Pray** that literacy activities will continue in the community during the following years so people are ready to read Scripture.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to make clear to this precious community that he has given them everything they need for a godly life (2 Pet. 1:3).

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

NULIBIE; Cameroon (6,400)

The Nulibie translation team finished drafting the entire New Testament and has been working hard to complete consultant checks of each book.

- » As they prepare the manuscript for printing, **ask the Lord** to guide decisions they make about fonts to use, pictures and maps, and whether to include a glossary of terms. **Pray** the result will be a New Testament that is easy to handle and read.
- » **Pray** for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books.
- » **Ask Jehovah-Jireh** to provide the finances necessary to bring the project to completion.
- » **Pray** for the translation committee to press forward with literacy and Scripture engagement activities up to the dedication and beyond so that many Nulibie are equipped to use the Scriptures and apply them to their lives.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG

OROKO; Cameroon (106,000)

The translation team made amazing progress last year. A consultant completed checking the New Testament, decisions were made about formatting and extra items to include to help readers' comprehension, a representative group of church and community leaders read through the entire New Testament and Genesis, and typesetting was completed.

- » **Thank the Lord** for his hand on the team and that the New Testaments plus Genesis are being printed. **Ask God** to watch over the printing process and protect the books as they are transported back to Cameroon and the language area.
- » **Pray** for all the logistics to fall in place to launch the Oroko New Testament around November this year.
- » **Lift up** reading seminars taking place, that people might be excited about reading and use the New Testaments.
- » **Pray** for widespread use of the "JESUS" film and that many Oroko would come to Christ through it and through God's Word in their heart language.

WORLD TEAM – GLOBAL.WORLDTEAM.ORG

PANA; Cameroon (100,000)

Pana speakers live where Central African Republic, Cameroon and Chad border each other, but the translation project is being carried out in Cameroon.

- » **Thank the Lord** that the New Testament is completely drafted. The books are now being checked by a consultant to make sure they are translated accurately, a key step in the translation process.

» **Lift up** the team leader as he does most of the remaining work of checking. It takes concentration, a keen mind and wisdom. **Pray** for the Lord to keep him and his family well.

- » **Pray** that typesetting will go smoothly and that computers and printers will work without any glitches.
- » **Pray** for excellent attendance at literacy and Scripture engagement activities so that many people are equipped to read and write their language and read the Scriptures.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG

PINYIN; Cameroon (24,600)

The "JESUS" film depicts the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus using text from the Gospel of Luke. It is a powerful evangelistic tool and has been translated into more than 1,500 languages worldwide.

- » **Praise the Lord**, the film is now available in Pinyin! Together with the newly published New Testament, it will be launched in a dedication event.
- » **Pray** for God to powerfully use the film and the Scriptures to transform both individuals and whole communities. **Ask God** to help those who follow up showings of the film by training people to engage with the Scriptures.
- » **Pray** for pastors to use the Pinyin Scriptures in their services and in discipleship.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in Pinyin hearts so they treasure God's Word. **Pray** that they will be a people "whose God is the Lord" (Ps.144:15, NLT).

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG

TCHOUVOK; Cameroon (15,000)

The Tchouvok community is in the far north region of Cameroon where subversive elements are active.

- » **Ask God** to protect the people and for those who oppose the gospel to come to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- » **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to grant the translation team leader determination, good health and wisdom as he guides the team.
- » **Pray** that all the consultant checks of the New Testament books can be completed soon so the typesetting process can begin.
- » **Pray** for God's peace, "which exceeds anything we can understand" (Phil. 4:7, NLT), to be the anchor for the translators as they run the finishing stretch towards completing the New Testament for the Tchouvok people.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG

TUNEN; Cameroon (79,700)

Literacy efforts are key to helping people thrive in their society and preparing them to read the Scriptures. The Tunen team has mobilized many in the community to attend workshops where they learn to read.

- » **Pray** for God's anointing on these efforts, resulting in people eager for the coming Scriptures.
- » As the team finishes typesetting the New Testament, **ask the Lord** to guide them to any corrections needing to be made before it is sent for printing in South Korea.
- » **Ask God** to watch over the printing presses, the binding machines and the finished New Testaments as they are transported back to Cameroon.
- » **Pray** for God's provision of funds needed to cover typesetting, printing and dedication expenses.
- » **Pray** that the Tunen will say with the prophet Jeremiah, "When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight ... " (Jer. 15:16a, NLT).

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG

VUTÉ; Cameroon (20,000)

The translation team has been working hard to complete and publish the Old Testament lectionary series in Vuté.

- » **Give thanks**, part of the lectionary was published early in 2018. **Lift up** Pastor Paul as he checks the other parts to ensure they are biblically accurate. **Pray** for those checking for spelling, punctuation and other features, that each one will do their job excellently and in good time.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint this series from the Old Testament so that people will be drawn to Christ as they hear the Scriptures in their heart language.
- » **Lift up** the need for good leaders for listening groups that will help people regularly listen to and discuss the audio Scriptures prepared by Faith Comes By Hearing. **Pray** that the Vuté will encounter Jesus as they listen.

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS – LBT.ORG

YAMBETTA; Cameroon (8,000)

The Yambetta community dedicated their New Testament on November 25, 2017. They are now engaged and enthusiastic about using the translated Scripture in their churches and in their homes.

- » **Pray** for God's provision for literacy classes and language development.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare "good soil" and hungry hearts so that as the Yambetta use God's Word, they will "hear God's word, cling to it, and ... produce a huge harvest" (Luke 8:15, NLT).

» **Ask God** to provide the financial resources necessary to initiate the translation of the Old Testament in the upcoming years.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

YEMBA; Cameroon (300,000)

Give praise, the Yemba New Testament was dedicated in Dschang, West Region, on October 28 last year.

- » **Pray** that the printed New Testaments will be widely distributed and transform both individuals and whole communities.
- » **Thank the Lord** that literacy classes are well attended. **Pray** that this will result in more Yemba reading and applying God's Word to their lives.
- » The "JESUS" film is being shown around the language area. **Lift up** the team doing follow-up with those who commit their lives to the Lord.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – CABTAL.ORG; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

ZAVAR*; Cameroon (10,500)

Last year the translation team reorganized their schedule for working with a consultant in order to move ahead with more clarity. Thank the Lord for leading the team members to more effective ways to work!

- » **Pray** that an additional consultant will be available to speed the work along.
- » **Praise the Lord** for Paratext, a translation software program with tools to check for consistent spelling and quality of the translation in order to produce a consistent, accurate and readable text. **Pray** the team will utilize these tools fully as they prepare books for the consultant to check.
- » **Ask God** to provide stable electricity and internet connections so the team members can communicate clearly with one another between face-to-face sessions.
- » **Pray** for focus and strength as they work with the consultant on 1-2 Timothy, Matthew, Philipians, Colossians, Philemon, James and 1-2 Peter. They want to make excellent progress so the Zavar can receive God's Word sooner rather than later.
- » **Pray** against subversive activities in the area and that God's name will be lifted up amidst it all.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

BANDA-LINDA; Central African Republic (183,000)

Last year the team acquired new computer skills at several workshops that helped them to format and print an annual calendar and a day planner for 2018 with Scripture verses. In April this year, the team hopes to start a New Testament dedication committee which will assist with the planning and preparations for the event.

- » **Pray** for the different Central African Republic translation teams that hope to participate in a dictionary-making workshop in Bangui in March 2018.
- » **Intercede** for the people who will be involved in the New Testament dedication committee, that they can glorify the Lord in everything they do.
- » **Pray** for the teams as they publish the booklets of 1-2 Timothy and Revelation.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare the hearts of the people of three remote Banda-Linda villages, which the team will visit with the published New Testaments.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

BOKOTO; Central African Republic (130,000)

Praise the Lord! The Bokoto community has actively supported the three-person New Testament translation team. Their work has not been easy due to difficulties along the way, and sometimes the team has needed to hide in the forest during months of rebel occupation. But because they see the great need for God's Word, they have continued translating the New Testament. Another difficulty that the team faces is the nonfunctioning BGAN tool — a portable satellite terminal which connects laptops and phones to broadband internet in remote locations.

- » **Ask God** to keep the team and the community safe and to help them finish the New Testament translation.
- » **Ask the Lord** to provide an alternative to the BGAN communication tool.
- » **Lift up** the Bokoto churches, asking God to enrich them in Christ as they support the Scripture translation project in prayer and await God's Word in their own heart language.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

DAGBA; Central African Republic/Chad (44,000)

Dagba speakers live along the borderland region of the Central African Republic and Chad. About 10,000

migrated to southern Chad, and a number of churches exist there.

- » **Rejoice** that last year the Dagba New Testament was completed and 5,000 copies were printed!
- » A dedication was scheduled in Chad for the end of 2017. **Pray** for wide and effective distribution and that copies will reach the Dagba in both countries.
- » **Pray** that many Dagba will be transformed by God's Word and say with the psalmist, "I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure" (Ps. 119:162, NLT).

BIBLES INTERNATIONAL — BIBLESINT.ORG

GBEYA; Central African Republic (200,000)

The translation team is based in the capital city due to unrest in their language area. They have not been able to travel to the Gbeya community, which slows down the work.

- » **Pray** for peace so that the team can return to live in their homeland. **Lift up** the 70 literacy teachers who have discontinued classes due to the unrest; pray that classes might begin again.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to use Scripture portions in the lives of church leaders as they await the arrival of the full New Testament. Their positive support is key to acceptance and use of the Gbeya Scriptures.
- » **Pray** that some team members might be able to participate in two workshops: one to work on a Gbeya dictionary (this gives prestige to the language and enhances its use), and one on "Healing the Wounds of Trauma," which addresses their experiences in the last four years of violence.
- » **Lift up** the translation team as they prepare the New Testament for printing. They are thoroughly checking the text, writing book introductions, and choosing and inserting illustrations. They would like to hold a dedication next year.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

KABA; Central African Republic (83,000)

Praise the Lord, the last translated books of the New Testament were consultant checked last year! The Kaba community and pastors are eagerly anticipating the completed book.

- » **Ask God** to provide a new translator to take the empty slot created when one member was promoted to a key administrative role in the Bible translation organization.
- » **Pray** that the revised orthography will be approved soon by a local university and that more changes are not necessary.

» Literacy books have been prepared since 2004 but classes could not be held due to political instability in the region. **Pray** for peace and that four pilot classes in four different villages can be held this year.

» **Lift up** the need for good, clear voices to be found to record the New Testament and for the recording to be excellent. This greatly increases the audience for the Scriptures.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

MPYEMO; Central African Republic (29,000)

Twenty-eight individuals took a literacy course to become fluent readers in their mother tongue. The first time a Mpyemo pastor preached in his own language, a great number of women came up after worship to thank him. The team rejoices over this positive feedback and is encouraged to keep working.

» **Give thanks** to God for the consultant's checks of the books of Acts and Galatians and for the drafting of Romans. **Pray** that the message of these books will draw Mpyemo people to the Lord.

» The team is experiencing several challenges: the condition of the roads isn't good, travel costs have increased and the security situation is difficult. **Ask the Lord** to use these challenges for the good of Bible translation and to protect them, as well as all Mpyemo speakers.

» **Ask God** to deliver the Mpyemo area from witchcraft, which has long had a hold on their culture. **Pray** that Jesus will deliver many people from the consequences of this practice and lead them to trust God instead.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

NGBUGU; Central African Republic (95,000)

Ongoing violence in the area where the Ngbugu live causes instability in all areas of life, including the translation program and in the lives of the translators and their families.

» **Intercede** for the country, asking the Lord to lead to sustainable solutions. **Pray** that a safe place to show the "JESUS" film can be found so that the story of Jesus can penetrate the darkness.

» **Thank the Lord** that despite the violence, the three-person translation team perseveres in their work in the capital.

» **Ask the Lord** to give the team unprecedented progress as they check the final books with a consultant and work on projects with displaced members of their language community. They hope to have the manuscript ready for printing by the end of 2018.

» **Pray** for professional enrichment as they attend a dictionary-making workshop. Dictionaries give prestige to the language and provide more options in word choice for the translators.

» **Ask God** to anoint plans for a workshop on marketing and Scripture distribution with leaders of various denominations so they can effectively distribute the New Testaments when they arrive.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

NZAKARA; Central African Republic (50,000)

The team is going through the final steps of preparing the New Testament — creating a glossary, selecting illustrations and checking parallel passages. They hope to begin typesetting soon, either locally or in neighboring Cameroon.

» The situation continues to be tense in the Nzakara language region. **Pray** for peace and that the translators can return to their homes and communities.

» **Pray** for good synergy in the team with a new member and that they will complement one another.

» **Ask God** to give the team wisdom as they work through Hebrews, James and Revelation with community revisers to make sure the texts sound natural and are easily understood.

» **Pray** that the team can participate in a dictionary-making workshop in March. This process will help them enhance the translation with just the right Nzakara word for different contexts and to find enriching synonyms.

» **Pray** that a literacy committee can be formed and trained.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

CHAD

GARAP; Chad (12,000)

Give thanks to God! The Garap New Testament has been printed in South Korea and will arrive in Chad in 2018. Once the books are in the country, a dedication date will be set.

» **Ask God** to protect the books as they are shipped back to Chad and for safe passage through customs.

» **Lift up** those who are preparing for a dedication, that it might glorify God, be a time of great joy and motivate people to get copies of the Scripture.

» **Pray** that God will lead the team in how to effectively distribute the New Testaments.

» **Lift up** ongoing literacy and Scripture engagement activities, that more and more people will be equipped to read and apply the Scriptures to their lives.

» **Pray** for the translation team as they work to translate the Old Testament. May the Holy Spirit give them courage, wisdom and perseverance.

SIL

GUERGUIKO; Chad (13,000)

An exegete on the team, who ensures faithfulness of the translation to the biblical text, returned to Chad in October 2017 and will stay until the project is completed. This is a big answer to prayer.

» **Give thanks**, the team has grown a lot in their ability to produce a high quality translation. Lift them up as they work with a consultant to finish checking Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, 2 Timothy and Jude.

» **Pray** for alertness and wisdom as the team runs all 27 New Testament books through checks to standardize parallel passages, key terms, spelling and other items.

» **Ask God** to arrange plans to typeset the New Testament by the end of 2018, and to provide funds for typesetting and printing.

» **Intercede** for the health of the translators and their families; they battled health challenges last year.

» **Lift up** the country of Chad, asking for continued peace so that translation work is not hindered.

SIL

MANGO; Chad (108,000)

Last year was a very productive year for the Mango project. The “JESUS” film recording in the Mango language was finished and the team consultant checked all the books of the New Testament. Praise the Lord!

» The team will travel to Yaoundé, Cameroon, for typesetting in mid-2018. **Pray** for wisdom and skill so they may work accurately and efficiently.

» **Ask God** to provide the finances needed for the typesetting and printing processes, for good participation from the community and for churches to foster ownership of the project.

» **Ask God** for the Mango Literacy Program to continue developing so many people will be prepared to receive the New Testament.

» **Pray** for peace in Chad so the work will move forward seamlessly.

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

MIGAAMA; Chad (20,000)

Rejoice that in spite of team members living in three different locations in Chad, they have made good progress in the translation.

» **Ask the Lord** to continue to give them excellent progress so they can complete consultant checks of the last books: Colossians, 1-2 Peter, Hebrews and Revelation.

» **Lift up** the main exegete, who ensures faithfulness of the translation to the biblical text. She needs wisdom in balancing work with the Migaama project and other responsibilities in Chad.

» **Pray** for the team as they begin to check through all the New Testament books to standardize key terms and parallel passages. Ideally they would like all members of the translation team to be involved. This is a challenge when they live in three different places.

» **Pray** for peace in Chad so nothing hinders the completion of the Migaama New Testament.

SIL

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

BAKWÉ; Côte d'Ivoire (13,000)

Last year was profitable for the translation team. A consultant checked the last book of the New Testament and the team prepared book introductions and a glossary and completed final computer checks on each book.

» **Give thanks** that a literacy seminar was also held for Bakwé teachers and pastors. Ask God to raise up many readers through courses being held this year.

» The “JESUS” film is now available in Bakwé. **Pray** that many will come into God’s kingdom through hearing Jesus speak their language and seeing his life, death and resurrection on their behalf.

» **Lift up** the team as they prepare the New Testament for publication. **Ask God** to oversee each step of the process, including printing.

» **Pray** that the Bakwé will grow in their sense of ownership of the project and that God’s Word will be used by and build up the church.

SIL

KRU CLUSTER PROJECT — Gagnoa Bété, Godié and Guibéroua Bété languages; Côte d'Ivoire (130,000)

These three language groups in the Kru Cluster are close to the finish line! The teams have finished drafting all the books of the New Testament and have had various books checked by a consultant. As they see the translation nearing completion, they are

working to promote literacy in the churches. The Godié team is excited about the production of the “JESUS” film, which is based on Luke’s Gospel. In preparation for showing it, they are mobilizing people for a massive mother-tongue literacy training. In the Bété Guibéroua area, the Bible translation project has strengthened a spirit of cooperation among the church communities.

» **Pray** that more church leaders will take an interest in the translation projects and promote the New Testaments being produced.

» **Ask God** to bring many people to attend the literacy classes in order to prepare them for receiving the New Testaments in their own languages.

» **Lift up** the lives of the translation team members, that they will be a good testimony in the community.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

LORON; Côte d’Ivoire/Burkina Faso (10,000)

Loron is a border language with speakers in both Côte d’Ivoire and Burkina Faso. They have had portions of Scripture since 1985, but a team is now working to provide the full New Testament.

» **Thank the Lord** that the team finalized drafts of the Gospel of John and Revelation last year. **Pray** that as people read and listen to these books to ensure they sound natural and are clear, that the rich truths in them will penetrate their hearts and draw them to Christ.

» **Ask God** to fill the team with energy and inspiration as they work on Paul’s epistles to the churches this year: Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and 1-2 Thessalonians. **Pray** for good progress and that the team members’ hearts will be blessed as they work so closely with God’s Word.

ETHNOS360 – ETHNOS360.ORG

NYARAFOLO; Côte d’Ivoire (60,000)

The advance in the Nyarafolo project is outstanding! The books of Leviticus, Ephesians and Philippians have been checked. That leaves only the last half of the Psalms for the Old Testament portions that the team hopes to have ready for printing, along with the New Testament, by the end of 2018. The team also hopes to have the audio version of Genesis loaded onto MegaVoice devices (small handheld MP3 players used as audio Bibles) to sell and to have the “JESUS” film dubbed in Nyarafolo. Literacy groups are being taught in three villages, in addition to some individual sessions.

» **Ask God** to grant good health to all the team members.

» **Pray** that the team can find the necessary consultants to check all of the books.

» Pastors are already using each printed portion for preaching and individuals are reading their copies too. **Pray** that the church will grow in the understanding of the Good News and how to truly follow the Lord.

» **Pray** that the audio version will get into the hands of those who cannot yet read.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; WORLDVENTURE – WORLDVENTURE.COM

PALAKA; Côte d’Ivoire (9,000)

The Palaka live in the very northern part of Côte d’Ivoire. Another major religion is dominant in the area. The translation project suffered a major setback last year when a co-translator unexpectedly died.

» **Lift up** three men — Daniel, Remi and Jean Paul — who are being trained to be part of the team. It’s a steep learning curve. **Ask God** to give them special gifts and skills for translation work.

» **Pray** for a successful check by the consultant this year on the books of Mark, 2 Timothy, Philippians and Philemon.

» **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with energy and wisdom as they work on the Gospel of Luke and 2 Corinthians during the second half of the year. If time and health permit, they will translate 1-2 Peter as well.

» As these Scriptures are tested and reviewed by Palaka speakers to ensure they are easy to understand and sound natural, **pray** that they will penetrate Palaka hearts and bring them into relationship with Christ.

ETHNOS360 – ETHNOS360.ORG

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

BUDU-KOYA; Democratic Republic of the Congo (96,000)

In spite of challenging circumstances, the Budu-Koya team completed consultant checks on 1-2 Corinthians and Revelation last year.

» **Ask the Lord** to keep the team energized and healthy as they work on the final books needing to be checked: the Gospels of Matthew and John.

» When the books are approved, the team will use a computer program to run technical checks, making sure punctuation, spelling and other items are consistent throughout the New Testament. They will also select illustrations, write introductions and put together a glossary to include. **Pray** for the Lord to uphold and guide them in these final steps so that the New Testament will be easy to understand and use.

» **Ask God** to give a deep desire for his Word to the Budu-Koya people so they can say with the prophet Jeremiah, “His word burns in my heart like a fire” (Jer. 20:9b, NLT).

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

BUDU-NITA; Democratic Republic of the Congo (169,700)

A consultant check of each Scripture book is necessary before a New Testament can be published. A consultant goes over the translation with the team, checking for accuracy, clarity and naturalness, and looking for omissions, extraneous thoughts or possible misconceptions.

» **Praise God** for providing a resident consultant for this project. He checked Romans and Revelation last year and will check Galatians and Philippians this year. **Ask the Lord** to give him strength and wisdom.

» **Uphold** the team as they complete translating 1-2 Corinthians. These are difficult books and they need the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

» **Ask God** to supply all the spiritual and physical resources the team needs to finish the translation, including physical health for the families, reliable equipment for their work and power from the Holy Spirit.

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

BUNGOFU CLUSTER—Budja, Fulu, Ngombe North and Ngombe South languages; Democratic Republic of the Congo (677,00)

The BuNgoFu team hopes to complete the New Testament in these four languages by the end of 2020. The project is facing funding challenges, but the team is eager to continue working.

» **Pray** that the local communities will take ownership of the project.

» **Ask God** for good health for the translators and their families and to provide for their needs as they work toward the completion of the project.

» **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).

CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — SUKISA BOYINGA; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

FULIIRU; Democratic Republic of the Congo (400,000)

Preparing the whole Bible for publication is incredibly detailed work, but a high-quality Bible translation is well worth it.

» **Give praise** that last year the consultants carefully checked the Fuliiru Bible and the team finalized key terms and parallel passages.

» **Lift up** the team as they read aloud each book of the Bible to see if any final improvements need to be made before it is published. **Pray** that this extended time in God’s Holy Word will renew them even as they exert themselves for the task.

» The Bible cannot be typeset until half the publication costs have been raised in-country and from other sources. **Ask Jehovah-Jireh** to inspire the team with ideas to raise funds and to touch people’s hearts with generosity so this Bible can move forward.

» The team would like to make an audio recording of the Bible with the help of Faith Comes By Hearing. **Pray** for God to oversee the details and to provide readers with strong, clear voices for this project.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to draw many Fuliiru to himself through the Scriptures.

SIL

KOMO; Democratic Republic of the Congo (614,000)

Due to insecurities in the region, the translation team works a long way from the center of their language area.

» **Praise the Lord**, the team was able to travel to their homeland last year to conduct community checks and confirm that the translated Scriptures are clear. **Pray** that they will be able to continue to make visits to check the remaining books.

» **Thank the Lord** that a consultant checked Matthew, Titus, Philemon and Revelation last year.

» **Ask the Lord** to keep the team alert and healthy as they prepare the New Testament for publication. This includes running computer checks on the text, writing introductions to each book, compiling a glossary and index, and selecting illustrations and maps.

» **Pray** for the Komo to hunger for God’s Word and proclaim with the psalmist, “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path” (Ps. 119:105, NLT).

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

LIKA; Democratic Republic of the Congo (80,000)

God gave excellent progress to the Lika translation team last year; they were able to finish consultant checks of all the New Testament books!

- » **Give praise** to God for his mercy and grace to the team.
- » **Pray** that the team will have ongoing perseverance, alertness and wisdom as they move the New Testament through pre-publication steps: running computer checks of punctuation, spelling and key terms, writing introductions to each book, selecting maps and illustrations to include, and preparing a glossary and index. The goal is to provide a clear and accurate New Testament with resources that increase the reader's understanding.
- » **Pray** for these final steps to come together in good order and for a successful printing.
- » **Lift up** the Lika people, that they will hunger and thirst for God's Word.

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

OMI; Democratic Republic of the Congo (155,000)

The translation team has only two translators now, but they finished consultant checks of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1-3 John and Revelation last year.

- » **Thank the Lord** for these valiant translators who, despite medical problems, eagerly pressed on to finish the New Testament. **Give thanks** for the consultants also, one of whom is a native speaker of a closely-related language, which is a great help in checking.
- » **Pray** for consultants to be available this year so the team can finish well and soon. They have four big books left to be checked: Romans, 1-2 Corinthians and Hebrews. **Ask the Lord** to encourage them and keep them healthy.
- » **Pray** the team will have strong relationships with local Catholic and Protestant churches, so God will be glorified and the Scriptures will reach more people.

SIL

TEMBO; Democratic Republic of the Congo (150,000)

Praise the Lord, the Batembo people now have the New Testament in their heart language! Hundreds of people gathered in a dedication and celebration ceremony on Oct. 7, 2017, in the town of Goma. There was singing, dancing and a joyful processional to receive the first box of New Testaments.

» **Thank the Lord** for protecting them and for the team's perseverance as they translated God's Word through years of danger and insecurity in their area due to war.

» **Ask God** to continue to protect them and give them strength and good health as they travel to distribute the 10,000 printed copies of the New Testament.

» **Pray** that God's Word, now in the Tembo language, will transform lives and communities, bringing them hope and eternal life.

SIL

UBANGI CLUSTER PROJECT – Mono, Ngbandi-Ngiri and Pagabete languages; Democratic Republic of the Congo (354,000)

Praise God that the three Ubangi New Testaments will soon be prepared for printing! The project was paused last year due to an organizational management review, so there was little progress during the year. The teams are waiting for a system to receive funds to be put in place so they can bring the remaining books checked by their language communities to completion.

- » **Pray** for the project administrators as they work together with church leaders and the communities so they can take ownership of the project.
- » **Ask the Lord** for the team to resume the work in order to send the manuscripts to Yaoundé, Cameroon, for typesetting.
- » The teams are hoping for a public dedication service of the three New Testaments in early 2019. **Pray** for this to become a reality.
- » **Ask God** to prepare the hearts of the Mono, Ngbandi-Ngiri and Pagabete people so that when they receive God's Word, they will say with the psalmist, "I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure" (Ps. 119:162, NLT).

CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY – SUKISA BOYINGA; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

EAST AFRICA

MOROGORO CLUSTER PROJECT – Arew* and Omaraz* languages; East Africa (1,126,000)

Last year a missionary from a partner mission agency organized and sponsored a national Scripture impact seminar for translators from almost every translation project in the country. The focus was reaching followers of the majority religion with the gospel using translated vernacular Scriptures. The Arew team attended a lexicography training, which helped them to search for more vocabulary with the purpose of

developing an Arew dictionary. This will not only be useful to them, but also to the community they serve. The Omaraz team moved Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon through various steps of the translation process.

» **Ask God** to help the Arew team members apply what they learned at the Scripture impact seminar. **Pray** for guidance in establishing good relationships with followers of the majority religion and sharing the gospel with them through mother-tongue Scripture.

» **Ask the Lord** to help the Omaraz team as they endeavor to ensure that every New Testament book is translated accurately, clearly and naturally.

» **Praise the Lord!** Over 75 percent of the Omaraz New Testament has been checked for accuracy and 71 percent has been consultant checked. **Pray** that the team will continue accomplishing every goal set with patience, love and perseverance.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

FA D'AMBU; Equatorial Guinea (9,500)

The Fa d'Ambu team has made good progress. They met all their goals last year and keep working arduously. Pastor Norberto continues to shepherd the flock of Fa d'Ambu Christians on Annobón Island.

» **Praise the Lord**, nearly every person on the island who owns a cellphone has downloaded the audiovisual Scripture app of the book of Jonah.

» A consultant checked Matthew for accuracy, the final New Testament book drafted in Fa d'Ambu. **Pray** for the Lord's guidance as he and the translator work their way through other books.

» **Thank God** that the team was able to publish and record a Bible-based AIDS educational book. AIDS is a problem that needs to be addressed in the Fa d'Ambu society, and the team is hopeful that Scripture contained in this booklet will be a good start in dealing with this topic.

» **Give thanks** for the immediate positive response from viewers as the AIDS cellphone app began spreading to hundreds of mother-tongue speakers.

PROMOTORA ESPAÑOLA DE LINGÜÍSTICA; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

ETHIOPIA

AARI; Ethiopia (290,000)

The Aari received the New Testament in their heart language in 1997. Soon they will receive the Old Testament also, along with a revised New Testament!

» **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with extra energy, wisdom and a love for God's Word to carry them through the arduous task of typesetting the Bible. Typesetting is a detailed job for any length book, but especially so when it involves a full Bible.

» **Pray** for the Lord to give the team keen eyes as they proofread the complete manuscript multiple times to catch any errors.

» **Lift up** the printing process, that God would guide every aspect – functional printers, a smooth book-binding process, and safe shipment of the Bibles back to Ethiopia.

THE ETHIOPIA EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS, THE ETHIOPIAN KALE HIWOT CHURCH, THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

BAISO; Ethiopia (10,350)

A local church is providing an office for the Baiso translation team as they work. The team checked Mark, the five "T books" (1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy and Titus) and Philemon. They have also back translated and consultant checked the Gospel of Luke.

» **Pray** for wisdom as they draft seven short epistles (James through Jude), team check the last half of Mark and community test Luke and John.

» **Praise God** that the government is developing Baiso as a language in the classrooms. This will help prepare people to receive the Scriptures in their own language.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

DIRAYTA; Ethiopia (142,750)

The translation team worked hard and finished all consultant checks of the New Testament by the end of 2017.

» **Lift them up** as they review the entire manuscript, checking for any details to fix before it is typeset. This includes checking punctuation and spelling, and making sure that key terms have been consistently translated in each book.

» As it is sent for typesetting, **intercede** for the team. They need to make many decisions about formatting and they need good health, alertness, wisdom and keen eyes for proofreading.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare fertile soil in Dirayta lives so they will receive God's Word with joy and satisfaction.

ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTH WEST SYNOD; FINNISH LUTHERAN MISSION; LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS; SIL

ETHIOPIA CLUSTER PROJECT — Dawro, Gamo and Gofa languages; Ethiopia (1,236,000)

The Dawro, Gamo and Gofa people are eagerly awaiting the Old Testament in their heart languages. It will provide the foundation needed to understand New Testament concepts and teachings. There has been good progress as the team reviewed previous work, finalizing key terms and concepts. They also converted Latin script versions of the Dawro, Gamo and Gofa Old Testaments to Ethiopic script versions and started reviewing them. They are preparing everything for typesetting.

- » **Ask God** to keep the translators, consultants and other team members and their families healthy and safe as they continue working on this project.
- » The Gofa region is experiencing a severe drought. Water shortages are a serious threat to people and livestock. **Pray** for abundant rain so the Gofa peoples' physical thirst is satisfied.
- » **Pray** that they also will seek the living water, Jesus Christ.

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

HADIYYA; Ethiopia (595,100)

In 2016 the consultant checks of the Old Testament were completed but two significant challenges remained: a church financial partner was going to discontinue their funding in 2017, and a complete revision of the New Testament — which had been used for over 20 years — needed to be done so it could be included with the Old Testament.

- » **Thank the Lord** for helping the team make significant progress in the revision. A consultant checked most of the books, which have also been tested in the community for comprehension.
- » **Lift up** the team this year as they finish the consultant checks of the few remaining books and then begin to prepare the entire Bible for publication. They need endurance, wisdom and good health.
- » **Pray** that the Bible can be sent for printing soon and for God to oversee each step of the printing process.
- » **Ask God** to provide the resources needed for the printing.

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

KAFA; Ethiopia (834,000)

The Kafa Bible is getting closer to the finish line. Last year they made revisions in Genesis through Song of Solomon, cross-references were entered for the entire

Bible and quotation marks were checked and revised in Genesis through Isaiah.

- » **Praise God**, Genesis through Deuteronomy has been sent to a typesetter. **Lift up** the team as they prepare the remainder of the Old Testament for publication. It's a detailed, strenuous task.
- » **Pray** for a speedy and accurate revision of the Kafa New Testament to include with the Old Testament. They also need to complete checks on spelling and punctuation.
- » **Ask God** to open the way for a joint publishing agreement between the two organizations involved. This is important for acceptance of the translation by the Kafa people.
- » **Pray** for 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 complete Kambaata Bible is nearing the finish line!

- » **Give thanks** for progress the team has made in revising the New Testament, which has been in use for 20 years. They want to include this revision with the Old Testament. **Praise God** a Bible Society consultant has checked a number of books.
- » **Ask the Lord** to encourage the team daily as they work with the consultant to complete the task. They need wisdom and strength.
- » **Pray** for the team to remain productive and joyful in the midst of challenges. They are trusting God to provide the resources needed for printing the Bible.
- » 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 — Konta, Oyda and Melo languages; Ethiopia (156,200)

The Konta, Oyda and Melo teams are moving forward at a good pace. They are proofreading their New Testament manuscripts multiple times before the New Testaments are typeset and sent for printing. During the Oyda community testing, some translators noticed young people taking interest in their language. This encouraged them to keep working diligently.

- » **Ask God** to grant stamina to the teams for the remaining steps.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to grant the translators sharp eyes as they read their translations for remaining errors and to give them energy to bring their projects to completion. **Pray** that these efforts will result in clear and accurate renderings of Scripture.

» **Rejoice** that Konta, Oyda and Melo speakers are eager to receive Scripture. May they have “ears to hear” (Mark 4:23b, NLT) so they can understand the gospel.

» **Pray** for the young people in the Oyda community as they take interest in their language. **Ask God** to use the New Testament translation process as a way to reach them so they will “write [his commands] deep within [their] heart” (Prov. 7:3, NLT).

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

KONSO; Ethiopia (242,000)

The translation team diligently pressed forward last year to finish consultant checks of the Konso Old Testament and revised New Testament.

» **Lift up** the team as they focus this year on preparing the 66 books for printing, a massive task. **Pray** for wisdom as they check for spelling, consistent translation of key terms and parallel passages, and make formatting decisions.

» **Ask the Lord** to give the team members and their families good health and clear minds.

» **Pray** that the detailed nature of these tasks will not overshadow the blessing the Holy Spirit wants to pour out as they work closely with God’s Word.

» **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)

Due to the sincere prayers of many, a sample copy of the Majang New Testament arrived from Korea on the last day of March 2017. The team checked it and sent it back to the Korean Bible Society who completed the printing process.

» **Praise God**, the books arrived safely back in Ethiopia and the language area and a celebration was held the very end of 2017, on December 27.

Thank the Lord that Majang believers now have access to God’s Word for teaching, preaching and discipleship!

» The team is focused now on translating the Old Testament. **Ask God** to grant them stamina for these lengthy books; they are working on Genesis, Exodus and Leviticus this year.

» **Pray** that God will “accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” (Eph. 3:20, NLT) in the hearts and lives of the Majang as they read and use God’s Word.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

ME’EN; Ethiopia (151,500)

The Me’en team has been working arduously in proofreading and preparing the New Testament so it can be passed to the Bible Society of Ethiopia, who will perform a spot check and overall manuscript checking of the texts. After that, they expect to have all the text ready for printing.

» **Pray** for the Bible Society of Ethiopia as they check and examine the manuscript.

» **Ask God** for a successful, error-free printing process.

» **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to prepare the Me’en people to eagerly receive God’s Word and be transformed in their hearts and lives.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

NORTH GUMUZ; Ethiopia (219,000)

The team is drafting the book of Psalms, which the local congregations have specifically requested. The Psalms – along with Old Testament stories – will help increase people’s biblical knowledge and pave the way for acceptance and use of the upcoming New Testament. The team is also moving forward with producing the “JESUS” film in their language. This will involve several workshops to adapt the script from Luke’s Gospel, followed by the recording. Local churches are becoming more interested in what God is doing in their midst and they sense an ownership of the project.

» **Ask God** that the film will not only make the Good News available in an attractive way but also increase the community’s spiritual thirst.

» **Intercede** for completion of all planned translation-related activities and for the continued success of this work.

» **Pray** that mother-tongue Bible texts will speak compellingly to people in audio and electronic formats.

ETHIOPIA BIBLE SOCIETY; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

SAHO; Ethiopia (230,000)

The Saho community is growing more grateful for God and his Word. When a drought threatened their crops, they prayed. God answered and they rejoiced! They believe God's Word serves as a guide. This teaches them to remain faithful and to trust that the Lord's providence is always on their side. Translators are pleased with the progress they have made. They are confident that God is working to ensure that the Saho people will have their New Testament soon. The Saho churches continue to show support for the translation project and assured the team that their prayers and support will continue until the translation is completed.

- » **Thank God** for sending rain to this area, allowing the Saho community to have satisfactory crops. **Pray** for them to receive spiritual nourishment as well.
- » **Praise the Lord** for bringing stability to the Saho region and less tension along the border. **Pray** for peace between Ethiopia and neighboring communities.
- » **Ask God** to give the Saho translators and consultants wisdom as they continue making progress in the translation.

ETHIOPIAN BIBLE SOCIETY; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

SHEKKACHO; Ethiopia (80,000)

The Shekkacho people live in the mountainous southwestern part of Ethiopia. Praise God, the New Testament was proofread and sent to the printers last year.

- » **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.
- » **Ask God** to lead the team's decision regarding the best time and place to hold a dedication celebration. Lift up the need for funding to cover these costs.
- » **Ask God** to help the team successfully implement literacy and Scripture engagement activities.

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

XAMTANGA; Ethiopia (300,000)

The Xamtanga New Testament is getting closer to the finish line! The team has been working countless hours on proofreading the text and making sure that oral Bible stories are error-free and ready to record. Solomon, a reviewer, has helped with reading drafted Bible books for eight years. He's happy to see his efforts paying off as the New

Testament nears publication. The team is thankful for government officials who support Bible translation. A representative expressed joy in helping further translation work.

- » **Praise God** for the enthusiasm that is growing in the team and in the community as the translation project nears completion.
- » **Pray** for smooth publication and typesetting processes and for unity as the team works with church leaders to plan the New Testament dedication.
- » **Ask God** to give the team patience and diligence in these final steps and to protect them from obstacles and delays.
- » **Pray** that Xamtanga speakers will grow spiritually through having access to Scripture.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

GHANA

AVATIME; Ghana (24,000)

Last year, the Avatime New Testament was ready to print but the project lacked funds for the printing. Many people prayed and the Lord provided! An organization funded the printing in South Korea and shipped the New Testaments to Ghana. The Avatime New Testament was also recorded June and July 2017. The team intensified their focus on literacy classes in towns and villages to prepare the Avatime people to receive the New Testaments. Now, a new goal has been set, to have the Avatime Old Testament.

- » **Pray** for the team as they make arrangements to dedicate the New Testament early this year.
- » **Praise God** for his provision of the funds to print the New Testament.
- » **Pray** for the Avatime communities, churches, pastors and those in the urban cities and towns to catch a vision for translating the Avatime Old Testament project and get involved in financially supporting it themselves.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION – GILLBT.ORG; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

BULI; Ghana (191,500)

The Buli New Testament was dedicated in 1996. The first edition of 5,000 copies sold out quickly and an additional 5,000 were printed in 2000. These also sold out! However, an audio version and the "JESUS" film in Buli soon became available.

» **Rejoice**, the Buli now have the full Bible! Dedications were held in February this year in three locations: two in prominent towns of the language area, and one in Accra, the capital. The programs included speeches, joyful music, prayers of dedication and sales (over 1,200 total).

» **Thank the Lord** for faithful servants, translators/pastors Albert Adekaldu and Daniel Ayarik. They shared their hearts in the Accra dedication, telling of accidents while traveling, illness that affected their eyes, searching for the best words and phrases, and they praised God for his strength, protection and provision.

» **Ask the Lord** to multiply the impact of a broad literacy program that for over 20 years has developed a full set of literacy materials along with materials for teaching Buli in the schools. **Pray** that the new Bibles will soon become worn by people eagerly using them and applying God's Word to their lives.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION – GILLBT.ORG

KAAKYE; Ghana (80,000)

God speaks Kaakye! The "JESUS" film, based on the Gospel of Luke, was recorded last year after the team completed checking the book with consultants. Now they can hear Jesus' words in their own language.

» **Pray** that seeing and hearing Jesus speak to them in their heart language will draw many to Christ and into churches where they can grow and mature.

» A critical need to complete the New Testament is for consultants to be available to check drafts that are ready, to ensure they are accurate and sound natural. **Ask Almighty God** to provide consultants, as well as funding to finish the project.

» **Intercede** for the churches in the area, that they will be more involved and participate in the translation project and Scripture promotion activities.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION – GILLBT.ORG

NYALOTA CLUSTER PROJECT – Logba, Nyangobo and Tafi languages; Ghana (18,300)

The consultant checking and testing of the remaining New Testament books is steadily making progress. Matthew, Luke and half of the book of Acts have been consultant checked and approved for publication.

» **Ask God** to provide reviewers and consultants to work consistently on the books drafted by the translators.

» **Pray** for God's protection over all the teams working in the Nyalota Cluster project.

» **Ask the Lord** to create a desire for him within the hearts of the Nyalota Cluster people so they will be eager to hear his Word.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY, AND BIBLE TRANSLATION – GILLBT.ORG; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

VAGLA; Ghana (16,000)

The Vagla translation project experienced numerous spiritual attacks through the years but God has the victory. The Vagla Bible will be dedicated to the glory of God by mid-2018.

» **Pray** that the Bible will be well used in both churches and homes, transforming lives and communities.

» The project team is holding Bible studies and workshops to train pastors and readers in how to use the Bible, especially parts that are new to them – cross references, footnotes, maps and a glossary. **Pray** that the people will engage even more enthusiastically with the Scriptures as they use these tools.

» The Vagla dictionary is being upgraded so it is more useful and current. **Lift up** the translators as they work on it. Dictionaries are powerful and valuable tools that give people pride in their language.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION – GILLBT.ORG

KENYA

COASTAL CLUSTER PROJECT – Digo, Duruma and Pokomo languages; Kenya (618,000)

Elechi, a translator from the Digo team, spoke about the project at a church missions event. He played several recorded New Testament portions over a speaker. Listeners were excited to hear Digo passages in audio format. Elechi was delighted to see the positive responses of the community. Duruma church leaders attended a Scripture-use workshop where they learned how to use music, drama, Bible stories, film and media tools as means of plugging people into God's Word. The Pokomo team is further ahead of its translation schedule than originally planned.

» **Pray** for the Pokomo, Digo and Duruma teams to achieve their set goals. **Ask God** to provide consultants to check drafted Bible books. **Pray** that each team's efforts will result in high-quality renderings of Bible books.

» **Ask God** to refresh the translators' minds when they feel weary. **Pray** for health and energy for them and their families.

» **Thank God** for giving Duruma church leaders fresh insight in a Scripture-use workshop. **Pray** that Duruma believers will learn to apply Scripture to their lives.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY – BTLKENYA.ORG; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

GIRYAMA; Kenya (751,500)

Typesetting of the Giryama New Testament was completed late last year and sent to South Korea to be printed.

» **Ask the Lord** to protect the books as they are shipped to Kenya, go through customs and are brought by truck to the community area. The translation team would like to hold a dedication early this year.

» The Giryama churches and Bible Translation & Literacy, the national Bible translation association, need to raise 50 percent of the publication costs. **Pray** for creativity, generosity and faith as they look for ways to do this.

» **Pray** that the dedication will give glory to God and draw people into a relationship with Christ and his Word. **Pray** for the Giryama church to 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 & LITERACY KENYA – BTLKENYA.ORG

ILCHAMUS; Kenya (30,000)

The recording and editing of the “JESUS” film was completed last year. Now the Ilchamus community is able to watch it in their mother tongue! The team has completed drafting all the New Testament books and has also drafted Bible study materials based on Luke’s Gospel. This year, the translators will focus on the remaining processes for the completion of the New Testament.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to make Jesus’ words and deeds come alive in a fresh way for people when they see him portrayed on the screen speaking their own Ilchamus language.

» **Pray** for the consultants to complete the remaining consultant checking work by the end of 2018.

» **Pray** that God will help congregations grow in spiritual maturity as Christians become more firmly grounded in their faith. **Ask him** to anoint church leaders to use translated Scripture in winning the lost and discipling believers.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY – BTLKENYA.ORG; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

RENDILLE; Kenya (60,000)

The team community tested Matthew, Luke, John and Acts and checked supplemental materials including glossary, pictures, maps and introductory text for the Rendille New Testament. They are now working on the typesetting stage and plan to have it ready for printing soon. The dedication of the New Testament will hopefully take place in mid-year.

» **Thank God** that he kept the translators and their families healthy, and that community reviews and testing were successful. **Pray** for continued translation victories.

» **Praise God** for the Rendille project as it nears completion. **Pray** that the completion process will go well and on schedule.

» The team has a heavy workload in typesetting the New Testament and completing a final review. **Ask God** to give translators, consultants and the typesetter the focus and wisdom needed to complete this work.

AFRICA INLAND MISSION – EU.AIMINT.ORG; BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

SAMBURU; Kenya (160,000)

During 2017, the Samburu team completed the consultant checking of all the New Testament books! They hope to complete the typesetting work by the end of 2018. They also translated and published 300 copies of a Bible study booklet. This is the first Bible study material produced in the Samburu language. They also have SD cards available that contain Samburu audio Scripture, the “JESUS” film, Bible stories and hymns. David, one of the translators, noticed that the people of the villages show great interest in acquiring them.

» The Samburu team finished all consultant checks of the New Testament books. **Praise God** for this exciting milestone. **Pray** for them as they begin the typesetting process.

» As they get closer to the completion of the project, **ask the Lord** to prepare the hearts of the Samburu people to receive their New Testament.

» **Praise Jesus** for the impact that the SD cards are having in the Samburu people. They’ve begun to realize the importance of Scripture in their lives.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY – BTLKENYA.ORG; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

THARAKA; Kenya (112,000)

The team distributed a trial version of the Bible. They completed the final checks of a wordlist, continued reviewing key biblical terms and worked on parallel passages in the Gospels. As the translators work to get

the final manuscript typeset and ready for publication, they are getting closer to the finish line!

» **Ask God** to provide food for the Tharaka people. Drought continues to bring hunger and hard times and many have food supply challenges. **Pray** for rains during the growing season.

» **Pray** for the physical welfare of the translators. This critical time of final Scripture checking is painstaking and exhausting.

» **Thank the Lord** for all that the team has accomplished in recent months. **Pray** for the upcoming Scripture publication and distribution.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY – BTLKENYA.ORG; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

MALAWI

ELHOMWE; Malawi (1,000,000)

Last year, a choir with several Elhomwe speakers was involved in a car accident. Several of them did not survive, and others were seriously injured and now live with some lifelong disabilities. The translators ministered to them using the New Testament in Elhomwe. The team has been working hard translating a Bible study booklet into Elhomwe and will work with two other ministries to establish Bible study groups.

» **Pray** that the Word will touch the hearts of the affected family members and will give them comfort and peace as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

» **Ask God** to grant the translators wisdom, discernment and unity as they translate the Old Testament books.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MALAWI; REFORMED MISSION LEAGUE; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

LAMBYA; Malawi (60,000)

When the New Testament in Lambya was launched in 2016, the translation team was already immersed in translating the Old Testament.

» A major setback occurred when the coordinator and team leader of the project suddenly passed away in May 2017. He had significant input into the translation process. **Ask God** to raise up people to fill his various responsibilities, both in coordination and technical input.

» **Thank the Lord** that a consultant has checked several Old Testament books and that the team has received training on a new edition of Paratext, a specialized computer software program. This increases their ability to check spelling and consistent use of key biblical terms and make other technical checks.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill the team each day and give them power to persevere in this immense task.

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

MOZAMBIQUE

AKOTI; Mozambique (97,000)

In recent years about 1,400 Akoti people and neighboring groups have committed their lives to Jesus, been baptized and currently participate in local fellowships.

» **Pray** for God to grant them strength and encouragement as they get to know more of Jesus and build a relationship with him.

» **Praise the Lord!** The community responded well to a Scripture radio broadcast. This encourages the team to continue working persistently to complete the New Testament and Old Testament portions.

» **Lift up** the team as they work towards recording the “JESUS” film. They lack an editor and a trained recordist. **Ask the Lord** to provide personnel so it can be completed.

» **Ask God** to give the team the endurance they need – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually – to see their work completed.

» **Pray** for several new translators to be called to serve in this project.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

MEETTO; Mozambique (1,200,000)

The team made good progress! They are checking Acts, 1-2 Corinthians and are community testing two more New Testament books. The team has also distributed a Sunday lectionary and the Lord’s Prayer. Copies of Paul’s Epistles are leading Meetto speakers to Christ. New believers are meeting together to study God’s Word and encourage one another.

» **Praise the Lord** that churches are using Bible readings and printed Scripture materials.

» **Pray** for his Word to sink deep into Meetto speakers’ hearts. May they experience the joy of growing in a relationship with him.

» **Praise the Father** for providing rain to the Meetto region.

» **Ask God** to meet the translators’ needs so they can stay focused on their valuable task.

» **Pray** for wisdom for the translation committee members as they guide the team.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

NYUNGWE; Mozambique (420,000)

By the end of last year, the whole New Testament, Genesis and Exodus were consultant checked. The team helped local education partners to launch reading skills development programs in three districts serving over 300 Nyungwe-speaking schools and surrounding communities. Little Zebra Books (a Christian nonprofit organization that serves African communities through the development, production and distribution of books in African languages) provided publishing support for thousands of illustrated copies of parables for children. A volunteer team is nearly independently running children's reading groups in many neighborhoods of Tete City and other adjacent areas.

- » **Praise God** that all of the Nyungwe New Testament — plus portions of the Old Testament — came through all the stages of the translation process and were approved for publication.
- » **Lift up** the translators as they prepare for the Scriptures to be dedicated and handed over to the local churches.
- » **Pray** for the typesetting, printing and shipping to happen on schedule, so the Scriptures will arrive on time for dedication in October 2018.
- » **Pray** for the process of getting one partner's approval to continue translating the rest of the Old Testament.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

NAMIBIA

KHOEKHOEGOWAB; Namibia (251,200)

The finish line is in sight! The last three Old Testament books are in draft stage and the translators continue working hard to finish their task. The team is proud to work alongside Valerie, a translator who has been involved with Bible translation for 14 years. Thank God for her commitment to making God's name known among the nations.

- » **Praise the Lord!** Eighty-eight percent of the Khoekhoegowab Bible is completed.
- » **Give thanks to God** for bringing the translation team this far, and ask him to grant them stamina as they complete the draft of the remaining three Old Testament books.
- » **Pray** that the Khoekhoegowab will be transformed by the living Word of God, Jesus Christ, as they receive the written Word.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

NIGER

WESTERN NIGER FULFULDE; Niger (500,000)

Last year was a productive year for the translation team. They finished the final consultant checks of the New Testament and used a computer software program to make sure that spelling, punctuation and similar passages in different Gospels were accurate and consistent.

- » **Thank the Lord** that typesetting was also completed with team members communicating much of the time between two countries by Skype. God enabled them to conquer the challenges of preparing the manuscript in two different scripts — Roman and Ajami. This will reach a broader audience with the Scriptures.
- » **Lift up** the dedication in prayer, that the day and everything leading up to it will be “all for the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31b, NLT).
- » **Intercede** for the translation team. They would like to immediately start working on the Old Testament. They have a good start as they have already translated Genesis and Proverbs. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to renew their strength and fill them with a continuing passion for giving the whole Scriptures to their language community.

SIL; SIM INTERNATIONAL — SIM.ORG

NIGERIA

DADIYA; Nigeria (30,000)

A local government leader who follows the majority religion said that his appreciation of the Dadiya language has grown because of the annual Christian conventions. At the latest of these conventions, participants witnessed spiritual impact due to the Bible translation project as they saw Christian camaraderie in action.

- » **Pray** for the team as they push to complete consultant checks for remaining Epistles and review books a consultant checked earlier. They are steadily moving toward the finish line.
- » **Ask the Lord** to enable good working relations between the project committee and translators.
- » **Pray** for work to be completed on the Bible translation guesthouse.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

DUKAWA; NIGERIA (73,000)

Because God's people prayed, the Dukawa translation team completed all the goals they had for last year and the New Testament was dedicated on January 6, 2018!

» **Pray** for effective distribution channels and transformed lives as people read and listen to God's Word in printed and recorded formats.

» **Thank the Lord** for all the faithful prayer warriors who have interceded for the project, including The Finish Line prayer partners.

» **Give praise** for a large group of Dukawa pastors and their wives who occasionally gather in all-night prayer meetings for the translation, the "JESUS" film and discipleship groups.

» **Lift up** a team of western Dukawa speakers as they organize themselves to adapt this Dukawa translation to their language. The languages differ about 25 percent. **Pray** that the computer programs available to help will function properly so this other group can receive God's Word sooner rather than later.

SIL

EHUGBO; Nigeria (40,000)

Team checks and back translation of all New Testament books are finished. The Ehugbo translators are motivated to finish the consultant checking of the remaining New Testament books as soon as possible. The translation has resulted in the Ehugbo people's deep appreciation and a better understanding of God's Word. A local nondenominational organization of women is a strong partner in Bible translation, but they face serious and disturbing persecution from some men in the community that hindered them from meeting to worship and help the team.

» **Pray** for the women as they face all the attacks of the enemy.

» **Thank God** for the association of local pastors reaching various congregations with the gospel.

» **Praise God** that the team checks and back translation of the New Testament are complete. Availability of consultants to approve books for publication is a crucial need. **Ask God** to send consultants to check the remaining books.

» **Give glory to God** for providing a power generator so the distribution of the "JESUS" film will not be affected by power issues anymore.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

IKA; Nigeria (345,000)

The team has worked hard in the accuracy read-through of the whole Bible and now it is complete! Typesetting is underway and the Scriptures will be sent for printing soon.

» **Intercede** for the team members as they work on the final stages of this project. Ask God to prepare them to minister to other language groups using the experience and training they've gained.

» **Ask the Lord** to empower Josiah, one of the church leaders, as he encourages cultural expression through art. **Pray** for ethnoarts to impact people with the gospel.

» **Pray** for the training of church leaders and evangelists and for the Lord's blessings on Ika believers, that God will renew their strength to continue living as salt and light in their circles of influence.

» **Thank the Lord** for the missionary zeal of the Ika. For 10 years they have faithfully prayed for a neighboring group to receive God's Word, and they are seeing glimmers of hope as they pray.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

KUTEB; Nigeria (100,000)

The Kuteb people have had the New Testament in their language for a number of years and now they have portions of the Old Testament also! Last year, the revised New Testament with Old Testament portions was sent to print. The printed Scriptures arrived in port safely and are being distributed.

» **Pray** for these Scriptures to have a powerful impact in the communities. **Pray** that they will cause local congregations to grow in faith, as well as discernment about traditional religious practices that many still rely on.

» **Ask the Lord** to create a greater hunger for his Word within the Kuteb people.

NIGERIA BIBLE TRANSLATION TRUST

LOKAA; Nigeria (350,000)

Last year Erasmus, a former Lokaa translator, was called to heaven. His passing and funeral service brought increased awareness of the project and caused more Lokaa speakers to support it. Since Erasmus passed away, the community where he grew up has shown a new spirit in coming alongside the work. Healthy church growth is evident in the local community. People regularly ask for copies of the translated New Testament.

» **Thank God** for the life and work of Erasmus.

» **Praise the Lord** that the Lokaa people have the printed New Testament. **Pray** for Scripture apps to soon be available on cellphones and for people to engage with God's Word and be set free from fears they live with.

» **Lift up** the translation team as they press forward to finish the Old Testament and promote mother-tongue literacy.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

RIGWE; Nigeria (40,000)

Many Rigwe people see the importance of mother-tongue Scripture. An audio New Testament was dedicated last year, and its popularity keeps growing. Now several congregations of different denominations are using it for evangelism and Bible studies, stirring ongoing local interest in reading God's Word.

- » **Praise God** that people are using the audio New Testament and that many of them stop by the translation office asking the team to start literacy classes.
- » **Pray** that God will help the translators as they continue checking Old Testament books.
- » Rigwe people live under many adversities — economic hardship, bondage to traditions, and political instability. **Ask the Lord** to show them that he is adequate to meet every spiritual and physical need.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

VILI; Republic of the Congo (50,000)

Last year the translation team worked through the first drafts of each New Testament book with the members giving input and looking for ways to improve the text. A consultant also checked 10 books.

- » There are five members of the team, all from very different backgrounds. **Pray** for good communication and a spirit of unity.
- » **Lift up** a committee of revisers who will check the Scriptures in the communities. **Pray** for feedback that will ensure the translation speaks clearly and naturally. And as they review the Scriptures, **ask the Lord** to open their eyes to his truths.
- » **Pray** that the Vili will fully engage with Scripture portions already available, promote them in the community, and hold literacy classes as they await the full New Testament in the future.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF CONGO; SIL

SENEGAL

NDUT; Senegal (43,000)

The goal of this project is to provide the New Testament in Ndut along with selected Old Testament passages to be used in a mini Old Testament compilation book and in a lectionary for churches.

- » **Give thanks** that last year the team did a careful study of Romans, Galatians and Hebrews in order to arrive at their proper meaning and interpretation, and finished a consultant check of seven books. They also published a booklet with 11 Psalms and

released a recording with readings of these psalms accompanied by songs based on them written in a traditional style.

- » **Pray** that Ndut people from all parts of the community would have the opportunity to watch the newly recorded "JESUS" film and realize the importance of the message for them. **Ask God** to provide people to explain the gospel further to those who have watched the film and want to know more.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill the team with energy and wisdom as they work on the remaining books of the New Testament and Old Testament passages.
- » **Pray** especially as they work on 1-2 Corinthians, two books particularly difficult to translate.

SIL

ONIYAN; Senegal (20,000)

The Oniyan New Testament plus Genesis volume was dedicated on January 28, 2017. "It's a gift!" exclaimed one of the Bible Institute students when he held the book for the first time. The excitement was evident and this encouraged the team as they distributed the printed and digital Scripture along with a worship songbook. Local church leaders, song composers and singers each received a copy of the songbook at the dedication. Now they use it to promote interest in singing and creating Scripture-based songs. The songbook also helps the community to deepen their understanding and use of God's Word in Oniyan.

- » **Praise the Lord** for the printing and distribution of the Oniyan New Testament and Genesis, both in audio and print formats. **Thank him** for the visible collaboration of his multi-national church in this project.
- » **Pray** for increased engagement of local people with his Word in their language and for their continued spiritual growth.
- » **Ask God** that several committed individuals will take on the task of promoting and selling the materials.
- » **Pray** for a safe distribution of the items in the greater Dakar area.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

WAMEY; Senegal (18,000)

The team community tested, back translated and consultant checked Hebrews, the last book left in the Waméy New Testament! They finished writing footnotes, book introductions, illustrations and a glossary. They also completed the dubbing of the "JESUS" film and held a workshop where 53 songs were created and recorded from the New Testament in Waméy. Jim, a mission worker, is involved with planting Baptist churches in the area. He reported how much

the Lord is maturing the small groups of believers he's been working with. He estimates 12 new churches in the area!

» **Praise God** for his faithfulness. One of the translators has had several requests for SD cards of the "JESUS" film in Guinea-Conakry, Senegal and Gambia. **Ask** for the Lord's direction in the showing and follow-up of the "JESUS" film in Waméy by the translators and various church and mission partners.

» **Pray** for effective Scripture promotion activities this year and that New Testament dedications will be held in December 2018 or January 2019 in Guinea and Senegal.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

SOUTH SUDAN

BAKÁ; South Sudan (37,000)

Hallelujah! Over 7,000 people attended the dedication of the Baká New Testament on March 12, 2017, in Maridi, a central town of the Baká. When the first box of Baká New Testaments was opened, the congregation cheered. They excitedly came forward to buy their copies — everyone from bishops and church elders to young mothers carrying little ones on their hips. Everyone was excited to see, touch and read the Baká Bible; even the teenage boy selling the Bibles couldn't wait to flip open the pages.

» **Thank the Lord** for his mercy and grace through 37 years of interruptions and setbacks, including civil war and unrest. Challenges characterized the project — working from a refugee camp in the Congo with Baká refugees, numerous moves and evacuations, and looting. The final consultant checks were by a pregnant Kenyan consultant on bedrest in her home in Kenya, using Skype to communicate. God is sovereign and brings his will to completion!

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to powerfully draw people to himself through the New Testament and through the "JESUS" film in Baká. On three consecutive nights during the weekend dedication celebrations, the film was shown to over a thousand people. All were mesmerized by hearing Jesus Christ speak in Baká.

SIL

DIDINGA; South Sudan (60,000)

When it was first announced that the Didinga New Testament with Old Testament portions was completed, three Didinga young men came from a Uganda refugee camp asking for a Bible and other printed Scripture materials. They wanted to use them in their prayer times and to teach the Didinga in the camp.

» **Praise the Lord**, the Didinga don't have to wait any longer — the New Testament with Old Testament portions will be dedicated in early 2018! Distribution to all the refugee camps where Didinga live will be one focus. **Pray** that the Scriptures will bring them eternal hope and peace.

» The "JESUS" film in Didinga and an audio recording of the New Testament are also now available. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to use these tools to draw more people to Christ.

» Political insecurity and severe hunger have caused some Didinga to flee their home area. Life is unstable and fear is a way of life. **Pray** for many Didinga to grab onto God's Word and say, "the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled" (Rom. 15:4b, NLT).

SIL

GBAYA; South Sudan (16,000)

Gbaya is a tonal language, with each vowel having five possible tones. As a result, the same three or four letter combinations can sometimes have four to five different tone combinations, each with its own meaning.

» **Thank the Lord** for a computer software program that helps the linguists when they are proofreading to spot where the wrong tone is marked for the intended meaning. Having the right tone is essential to making sure the Scriptures are translated accurately.

» **Give praise** that in spite of war and insecurities, the translation team persevered, making trips to safe areas to work. The New Testament, along with Genesis, Exodus, Ruth and Jonah, is scheduled for typesetting in early 2018.

» **Ask God** to fill the typesetting team with energy, alertness and wisdom as they format the manuscript and proofread it multiple times. **Pray** for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books.

» **Pray** for the churches and communities to work together in planning for a dedication. May the Gbaya soon enjoy the treasures of God's Word and find comfort in his love for them.

SIL

KELIKO; South Sudan (70,000)

Due to war in the language area, many Keliko have fled to northern Uganda and live in refugee camps. The translation team has worked in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, removed from both the language area and the Keliko in Uganda. Through all the challenges, with the grace of God, translation work continued.

- » **Thank the Lord** for these courageous men and women who pressed on in spite of inconvenience and life-threatening circumstances. One team member said, “Praise God for keeping us alive.”
- » Miraculously, God allowed the team to complete the typesetting of the New Testament last year and it was sent for printing.
- » **Pray** for a speedy and smooth printing process and for safe shipment of the books back to a location free from danger.
- » **Lift up** those planning for a dedication and distribution under challenging circumstances.
- » **Pray** for the team as they record the “JESUS” film in Keliko and make an audio recording of the New Testament. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint these projects and draw many people to the Lord, giving them eternal hope.
- » **Pray** for success as the team seeks to launch a website and use social media to share God’s love and Word with Keliko speakers.

SIL

TENNET; South Sudan (10,000)

In a trauma healing workshop that the translation team and other Tennet speakers attended, participants cast their traumatic experiences from war, family issues and refugee life at the foot of the cross and jubilantly recognized the release and freedom that God’s Word and his Spirit can give.

- » **Pray** for peace in South Sudan. There is widespread fighting and tension.
- » **Lift up** the translation team as they press forward to finish typesetting the New Testament along with Genesis, Exodus, Ruth and Jonah.
- » **Pray** for a smooth printing process in South Korea and that the books will arrive safely back in South Sudan. Tennet community members would like to hold dedications in Juba, the capital, and three villages in the language area. **Ask God’s Spirit** to anoint these occasions, bringing glory to God and hope to the people.
- » **Ask God** to guide community and church leaders as they plan for sustainable literacy and Scripture engagement programs in the midst of war and limited travel.

SIL

TANZANIA

BURUNGE; Tanzania (13,000)

Two Burunge pastors were trained in translation principles from 2002 to 2004, and in 2005 they began to translate the Scriptures into their heart language.

» **Praise God**, on Aug. 23, 2017, these pastors led a procession beginning the dedication of the Burunge New Testament! People sang, danced and carried a box of New Testaments through the crowd. Burunge Scriptures were read, the first New Testaments were distributed and speeches were given while the community responded with excitement.

» One Burunge man said, “I thank God that we’ve got the Bible. This is indeed the Word of God, so now what is needed is for every person to take the Bible and read it, to know everything that it says.” **Pray** that this man’s desire will come true and that Burunge lives will be transformed by the love and grace of Christ.

» **Ask God** to raise up many readers through literacy classes. **Thank him** that the “JESUS” film in Burunge is having an impact on people, including those from another major religion.

SIL

MBEYA A CLUSTER PROJECT – Kinga, Nyakyusa-Ngonde and Vwanji languages; Tanzania (1,223,000)

While Kinga translators Saul and Zakayo were reviewing the final draft of Hebrews and Galatians with pastors and church leaders in their community, they found out that Hebrews especially challenged some of their traditional thinking on law and grace.

- » **Pray** that the whole Kinga community can open their eyes to these truths. The Vwanji team is working on John and Revelation.
- » **Give thanks to God!** The Kinga and Nyakyusa languages are now in pre-publication checks for their completed New Testaments.
- » **Praise the Lord** for new Nyakyusa-Ngonde mother-tongue preschool classes, for the commitment of literacy teachers and for positive feedback from language communities.
- » **Pray** for God to give the translators and consultants good health, wisdom and focus to face the difficult and detailed work needed to complete the final checks on the Kinga, Nyakyusa-Ngonde and Vwanji New Testaments.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

MBEYA B CLUSTER PROJECT – Malila, Ndali and Sangu languages; Tanzania (360,000)

The Malila team tested Hebrews in the community and was very excited to hear their response. Lukas, a Malila translator, reported: “They were very happy to see that the Word of God is written in Malila.” He called it a great blessing to his people.

» **Ask God** to heal Joshua, the 3-year-old son of Mponzi, the Sangu translator, who was paralyzed after a fall. After two months in the hospital, he has regained some speech and some movement in his limbs.

» **Thank God** for the community's appreciation for the Malilia Scriptures.

» The Usangu region has been experiencing a serious drought. **Pray** that its effects on the Sangu translators and the community won't be devastating.

» **Praise God** for the Sangu team's good progress as they community tested, team checked and had reviewers go through several New Testament books.

» **Pray** that the Ndali can continue the work and keep up with their plans as much as possible.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

MBEYA C CLUSTER PROJECT – Bena, Nyiha and Safwa languages; Tanzania (1,454,000)

The Safwa speakers enjoy listening to Scripture recordings of the books of Ruth, Jonah and Mark on Storytellers, small devices with sufficient volume for a small group of listeners. They are happy that Safwa people from their own area narrated the stories. They said, "Safwa food should be cooked by a Safwa person." As a result of listening to God's Word on the Storyteller, a least two people started attending church.

» **Pray** for wisdom as the team tests the draft of the book of Matthew in a Safwa community.

» **Praise God** for the Nyiha team's good progress on Matthew's Gospel.

» **Ask the Lord** to provide a local radio station that will allow Bena Scripture broadcasts.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

NGONI; Tanzania (312,000)

Last year, the team consultant checked John, 1 Corinthians and Revelation and now expects to finish the New Testament by checking the book of Mathew. They will then focus on typesetting and sending the work for publication. They also plan to work on the "JESUS" film and record the audio New Testament. The team is very encouraged and is looking forward to accomplishing all the goals they have set for completing the New Testament and then continuing to translate the Old Testament.

» **Give thanks to God** for the progress with consultant checks that have already taken place in this language.

» **Ask the Lord** to provide the necessary funds to cover the costs of the tasks ahead and to make it possible to reach these objectives.

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

YAO; Tanzania (29,000)

Last year the team finished the consultant checking of Matthew, John and Revelation. Now all the New Testament books are at the pre-publication stage. The Lord is faithful! The team expects to start work on the translation of the "JESUS" film and record the audio New Testament soon. The Yao project gives team members opportunities to meet with people of different ages and backgrounds. It especially opens doors to more interactions with followers of another major religion and leads to conversations about the Bible and Jesus the Messiah.

» **Thank God** that the whole New Testament is at the pre-publication stage, which is a significant milestone. **Commit** the typesetting process into his hands.

» **Ask the Lord** to enable the team to prepare the "JESUS" film in their language. **Pray** that this presentation of Christ's words and deeds will soon be available for the Yao community.

» **Pray** that many people will find Jesus through the interactions among the team members and the community.

LIFE MINISTRY TANZANIA; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

TOGO

KABIYÉ; Togo (975,000)

Give God praise, the translation team has drafted almost all the books of the Old Testament!

» **Lift up** the team as they press through the other stages of the translation process – a check by other team members and speakers in the community to make sure the text sounds natural and clear, and a consultant check to ensure it is accurate.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to protect the team. Last year one of the translators had a serious accident but God saved his life.

» **Thank the Lord** for providing a man to handle the administrative tasks in the project and organize Scripture engagement activities. **Pray** for him as he receives further training, and for more opportunities to engage people with the Scriptures.

» **Ask the Lord** to sustain the literacy class teachers as they teach people how to read and write their mother tongue. May many come to a saving knowledge of Christ through reading God's Word.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCRIPTURES IN KABIYÉ;
BIBLE SOCIETY OF TOGO; SIL

LAMA; Togo (117,000)

Praise God for the translation team's progress last year on the Old Testament. They drafted numerous books, checked 1-2 Kings with a consultant and published the book of Proverbs.

» **Pray** for physical and spiritual protection for the team, the literacy teachers and members of the translation association's board.

» **Ask God** to fill the team and consultants with wisdom and strength as they check the translated books.

» **Pray** for creativity for the Scripture engagement coordinator as he helps his people apply the Scriptures to their lives.

» **Pray** that one day many people will acknowledge with the prophet Jeremiah, "When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight ... " (Jer. 15:16a, NLT).

SIL

UGANDA

LUGUNGU; Uganda (49,000)

Thank God for enabling the completion of the Lugungu New Testament translation. The New Testaments arrived in Uganda last year in November and were dedicated on November 17! We rejoice for God's faithfulness to the translation team who finished this work in their lifetime.

» **Pray** that the Lugungu New Testament will be rapidly distributed and God's Word will transform people's lives.

» **Lift up** the church and community, that they will grow stronger in their faith in the living God. The people are praying for the start and continuation of translation of the Old Testament. **Pray** for the funding they will need for the Old Testament translation work to move forward.

» **Ask God** to use the Lugungu New Testament to transform the lives of the people and bring a lasting unity among the community.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

LUGWERE; Uganda (621,000)

On July 29, 2017, the long awaited Lugwere New Testament and "JESUS" film were launched at the Budaka Saza grounds in the Budaka district of eastern Uganda. Between 15,000 to 20,000 people from different faith backgrounds and walks of life attended, excited to witness the launch of God's Word in their mother tongue. The president of Uganda was the chief guest and several partnering organizations participated also.

» **Praise God** for this amazing attendance and the joy people expressed at having God's Word in their heart language. More than 500 copies of the New Testament sold that day.

» **Thank the Lord** that over 10,000 people remained behind after the dedication ceremony to watch the "JESUS" film.

» **Give praise** that many churches and communities worked together to prepare the launch.

» **Pray** that as people use God's Word, whole families and communities will be transformed.

» **Lift up** the translation team as they are now fully immersed in translating the Old Testament. **Ask God** to fill them with wisdom, good health and a continuing passion to see all of God's Word in their heart language.

SIL

WEST AFRICA

RAMA*; West Africa (60,000)

During 2017 meetings were held between the translation team, the community and linguistic consultants to discuss the way the Rama language is written. The linguistic discoveries made during the year dramatically improved the comprehensibility of the New Testament and made it easier to read.

» **Thank the Lord** that the text was improved due to these discoveries and that it could be typeset last year.

» **Pray** for a glorious dedication in January 2019, with many among the community participating. **Pray** that the celebration might draw interest among those whose hearts are open to the message of the gospel.

» The focus of the project now turns to promoting use of the New Testament, literacy and preparing to translate the Old Testament. **Ask God** to direct these plans for his glory and the growth of his kingdom.

» **Pray** that the Rama churches' desire to produce an interdenominational songbook will come to fruition. Praise the Lord for a great sense of unity among the churches.

» **Lift up** the national government, that they can find funding to extend the scope of community literacy classes.

SAHELANGUE*; West Africa (2,000,000)

This project will provide the full Bible in Arabic script for a major group in four countries of the Sahel and it is very close to the finish line!

» **Ask God** to protect the shipping container of Bibles as it travels from South Korea to Africa, and for a quick release at customs.

» The people have waited so long for this Bible; **ask the Holy Spirit** to give them patience and a continued zeal for God's Word as they wait. **Lift up** those planning a dedication.

» Eleven of the proofreaders in the project made significant faith goals concerning the number of Bibles each one will distribute. Because less than 1 percent in the language group are Christian, opposition is probable. **Ask the Lord** to keep believers safe and allow them to travel in the area.

» **Pray** that plans to develop a smart phone app will be successful so that the people can download the Bible.

» A number of workshops on how to engage with the Scriptures are planned. **Pray** for great participation and that the Scriptures will bring hope and eternal life to these people.

ZAMBIA

NKOYA; Zambia (146,000)

Thank the Lord for the progress made last year! The translator and the consultant accomplished many vital tasks. They checked cross references and footnotes, chose 70 illustrations and maps to place throughout the Old and New Testaments, wrote and translated several items for a glossary, continued checking key terms and worked hard to prepare the Old Testament books for publication.

» **Pray** for more people to be involved in accomplishing the goals set in the finalization of this project.

» **Ask** for the Lord's protection and guidance to remove all obstacles as the Nkoya Old Testament project nears completion.

» **Pray** for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ZAMBIA; INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD;
SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

SOLI; Zambia (54,400)

The Soli team is nearing completion of the New Testament. The book of Acts is being back translated and consultant checked. The team is also reading through all the final drafts of the New Testament books to ensure clarity in the translation. A program broadcasts the reading of the Soli Bible.

» **Pray** that the Soli New Testament will soon be printed and distributed among the community.

» **Thank God** for using the translation and Soli radio broadcasts to interest people in reading Soli literature. **Pray** that they will accept God's Word with joy and be transformed by it.

» **Praise the Lord** for the translators, who are faithfully serving in the mission to bring his Word to Soli people.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ZAMBIA; SEED COMPANY –
THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; THEWORDFORTHEWORLD

*A complete list of all projects, sorted by area of the world,
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