The translation team is focused on finishing an audio recording of the Scriptures, which will be key in reaching the Abuahoi.

- Due to the departure last year of the main speaker in the recording, a new speaker was enlisted. He is from a different dialect area, which added challenges to the project. **Ask God** to provide time and a smooth and uninterrupted workflow so the recording can be completed.

- Because the translation team represents several dialects of Abuahoi, there are inconsistencies in spelling. **Lift up** the team as they check close to 9,000 words and ensure they use the approved spellings for each.

- **Ask Jehovah-jireh** to raise up finances for MegaVoice players — hand-held, solar-powered, digital audio players — primary tools for people to listen to the recorded Scriptures.

- **Pray** for the Wycliffe team in the project, that they will continue to encounter goodwill among community leaders and that God will meet their financial needs as they get older.

The translation team is also focused on finishing the Crevice translation.

- **Ask God** to strengthen the Crevice translation team spiritually and physically.

- **Pray** that the Word will fall on fertile soil and produce a great harvest of righteousness as the Crevice listen to and read it.

**AMERICAS**

**ABUAHOI*; Americas**

The translation team is working on finishing the Scriptures in the Abuahoi language. Last year, the main speaker left the project, and a new speaker was enlisted from a different dialect area. The team is facing challenges due to the differences in dialect, and they are working to ensure a smooth and uninterrupted workflow for the recording.

- Because the translation team represents several dialects of Abuahoi, there are inconsistencies in spelling. The team is asking for prayers to lift up the team as they check close to 9,000 words and use the approved spellings for each.

- They are also asking for financial support to raise funds for MegaVoice players — hand-held, solar-powered, digital audio players — which are primary tools for people to listen to the recorded Scriptures.

- The team is praying for continued goodwill among community leaders and financial support as they continue the project.

**UNABEL*; Americas (1,800)**

A couple on the translation team had an unexpected six-month medical leave last year, but praise God, they were able to rejoin the team and handle pending consultant questions on several books plus begin checks on parallel passages in the Gospels. **Pray** for divine wisdom as the team resolves spelling issues so that the text of the New Testament can be finalized.
» **Ask the Lord** to provide good feedback as the New Testament is read through aloud in three villages to see if it is clear and sounds natural. **Pray** for spiritual fruit in the hearts of those who hear it.

» **Lift up** the need for participants who will finalize the New Testament. **Pray** they would have good health and be unified.

» **Ask God** to guide the team as they take the following steps to prepare the text for publication: checking punctuation and consistent use of key terms, and deciding on maps, illustrations and glossary terms to include. **Pray** for God to protect the team and the process from attacks from the enemy.

**BRAZIL**

**BORÔRO; Brazil (1,390)**

The Borôro program has been a challenging one, with very few Christians to take the lead.

» **Praise God,** by his enabling and with the prayers of many, a recording of the entire New Testament will be completed this year, along with 29 Old Testament stories. An audio version could have great impact in this primarily oral society. **Pray** for strong, clear voices and stable technology to complete the project.

» **Lift up** the translation team as they finalize the written text of the New Testament so that it can be published, primarily in digital format. Since many Borôro have smartphones, they would like to combine the digital print version with the recorded audio so that people can listen while they read the words.

» **Ask God’s Spirit** to anoint distribution and evangelism trips by the Borôro believers and a local Brazilian pastor to other villages so many Borôro might come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

» **Pray** that the Borôro will understand that if they become followers of Jesus, they will not lose their cultural identity, a myth that has been taught them for years.

**SIL**

**JARAWARA; Brazil (210)**

Give thanks that no one is hidden from God. He saw each person before they were born, including those in isolated, small groups. Each day of their lives is recorded in his book.

» **Praise God** for the perseverance he has granted this team through the years. They are working on consultant checks of the last New Testament books, and several local translators are drafting Old Testament portions.

» **Lift** the team up, asking God to fill them with wisdom, strength and joy as they press on. **Pray** that the consultant checks will be completed soon.

» **Pray** that Jarawara believers will apply the Scriptures they already have in their daily lives and be encouraged in their faith. **Pray** that more in the community will come to know the Savior who loves them and died for them.

**CHILE**

**RAPA NUI; Easter Island, Chile (4,547)**

The Rapa Nui New Testament translation was approved in 2013, but unexpected challenges arose in arranging for its publication.

» **Praise God,** publishing details were finally worked out, and by the grace of God the Rapa Nui New Testament was printed last year in South Korea. Also, Faith Comes By Hearing produced an audio edition, and both the print and audio versions were dedicated October 13, 2018, in a joyous celebration on Easter Island! The event was organized by the Chilean Bible Society, Faith Comes by Hearing, and the Municipal Department of Art and Culture of Rapa Nui.

» **Pray** that those who have printed and audio versions would use them and hear God speaking. **Pray** that they will put their trust in Christ alone for salvation and be transformed.

» **Lift up** those who respond to the Scriptures in their heart language, that they would share with others what they are learning and encourage people to get copies and become true followers of Christ.

» **Ask God** to fulfill his promise in Isaiah 55:11: “It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it” (NLT).

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF CHILE; SIL**

**COLOMBIA**

**CHOCÓ CLUSTER PROJECT — **Headwater* and Mountain* languages; Colombia (47,300)**

The two translation teams worked hard last year and completed revising Mark, John, Acts and Hebrews, along with checking several books with local speakers to ensure they were clear and sounded natural.

» **Lift up** the teams as they answer remaining consultant questions and check Acts in their communities the early part of this year. **Pray** for helpful feedback from community members as they hear the book of Acts read aloud.

» **Thank the Lord** for Paratext software, a tool useful in evaluating the accuracy and consistency of translation drafts, to check their New Testaments. **Pray** that these checks will reveal any final improvements needing to be made in the manuscripts.

» **Ask the Lord** for good health, perseverance and participation from the believers during these processes.
» Pray that God would speed the work along and that there would be great enthusiasm for the publication of the Scriptures in these two languages.

FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALIZED PEOPLE; SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

**WOUNAAN MEU; Colombia (4,000)**

A New Testament for the Wounaan in Panama was completed in 1988. However, the Wounaan in Colombia use a different alphabet, and believers and pastors there have been asking for the Scriptures in a version they can understand.

» Lift up the Wounaan people as they review a final draft of the New Testament. Typesetting is on hold until the community gives their feedback. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give them wisdom and agreement as to what changes they would like made. Pray for good understanding between all the parties involved and that only necessary changes in the Scriptures would be proposed.

» Ask God to keep interest among the Wounaan in having the Word in their language strong and that pastors and missionaries working with the people will be an encouragement to them.

» Ask the Holy Spirit to work in Wounaan hearts so they treasure God’s Word and will be a people “whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 144:15b, NLT).

**GUATEMALA**

**GUATEMALA CLUSTER PROJECT — Achi, Awakateko, Ixil, Jakalteko, K’iche’, Mam, Pokomchi’ and Tz’utujil languages; Guatemala (2,321,480)**

The Guatemala Cluster Project serves eight Mayan language communities. Each community has the New Testament, but soon they hope to have the full Bible!

» Four times a year, team members travel to the capital city to work together for two intense weeks. Pray for God to keep them safe as they travel over the mountainous roads and to fill them with energy, concentration and joy as they work to complete the remaining 17 books: Job plus Jeremiah through Malachi.

» Ask the Holy Spirit to protect the teams from disunity or other disruptions from the enemy.

» Thank the Lord that different denominations are involved in the process and that the teams enjoy good relationships with government departments and local communities.

» Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare people in these language communities to encounter the living God and be set free from fear and bondage to false beliefs. Pray for believers to be a testimony of love, peace and hope to their families and communities.

**MEXICO**

**SAN JUAN CHINANTEC*; Mexico (3,000)**

Because the main translator in this project is diabetic, he experiences numbness in his fingertips, and the light from his computer screen hurts his eyes. He and the other translator live in separate locations and work by Skype. Due to his health problems, they can only work limited hours.

» Pray for improved health and spiritual encouragement for the main translator.

» Praise the Lord for great progress on Matthew, Mark and Romans.

» The New Testament is being recorded to reach those who cannot read or who learn better orally. Ask the Lord to raise up readers who will read clearly and with expression, thinking of the meaning as they read.

» Pray for God to prepare “good soil” so that when the Chintantecs receive God’s Word, they will “hear God’s word, cling to it, and … produce a huge harvest” (Luke 8:15b, NLT).

**HUICHOL; Mexico (20,000)**

The Huichol translation team has made steady progress! Last year Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Habakkuk were approved by a consultant and read aloud in some communities. As a result, improvements were implemented. Also, people have been reading Old Testament books posted to the internet and downloaded to their cellphones, and that process revealed corrections needed in other books.

» Praise God for helpful feedback that will make the final published Bibles more clear, accurate and natural sounding.

» Rejoice that Huichols are downloading translated Scripture text, audio and video from the internet and listening on their cellphones. Pray for great spiritual fruit.

» Pray for a successful recording of the Old Testament and correction of any remaining errors and misunderstandings in the text.

» The team is working hard to revise the New Testament, published in 1988, so it can be recorded and published together with the Old Testament as one book. Pray for efficient manuscript editing and typesetting.
SANTA ROSA MIXTEC*; Mexico (26,000)

God was faithful to the translation team last year. They typeset the New Testament and sent it to South Korea for printing!

- **Pray** for the printing process to move forward seamlessly and for protection over the books as they are shipped back to Mexico.
- **Ask the Lord** for guidance as to the best time to hold dedications in the village area. **Pray** for positive reception to the printed and audio Scriptures and that many will come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- **Lift up** the need for many Mixtecs to work in the 20 towns who speak this language to encourage engagement with the Scriptures, including how to use the internet and apps to access Scripture and other language materials.
- **Pray** for a stable security situation in the area so people can live and travel without problems.
- **Ask God** to raise up more Mixtecs to help the translation team provide additional portions of the Old Testament.

SIL

TONAC MIXTEC*; Mexico (50,000)

March 18, 2018, was a significant day for Tonac Mixtec speakers. Normally quiet and stoic, the Tonac Mixtec smiled, laughed and hugged each other as they celebrated receiving the New Testament in their own language. Over 600 people attended the dedication that was filled with speeches, music and Scripture readings. The six tiny Mixtec congregations who organized the celebration slaughtered two steers and provided half a ton of tortillas for the crowd to feast on.

- **Pray** for wide distribution of the New Testaments and 200 devices with audio Scriptures among the mountainous Mixtec villages.
- **Thank the Lord** that the New Testament is also available on the internet and in audio form. **Pray** for hundreds of Mixtecs to use these tools and be transformed by the message of God’s love and grace.
- A special dedication was held May 2, 2018, in a U.S. city with 3,000 Mixtec speakers. Up to 10,000 speakers live in the U.S. **Pray** that they will get physical copies or access to the Scriptures online.
- **Praise God** that his light is penetrating the darkness. This project took years during which two missionary pilots lost their lives and are buried on a local hill, and the initial Wycliffe member died from complications of an injury sustained in the village. God was faithful, and his Word is offering hope and eternal life. **Pray** for a great harvest!

MECHOACÁN MIXTEC; Mexico (8,500)

God gave strength and amazing progress to the translation team last year. A consultant check of the New Testament was completed, a thorough read-through by Mixtec speakers ensured that the text was clear and sounded natural, and the manuscript was recorded.

**Give thanks** for God’s hand on the team as they diligently pressed forward.

**Thank the Lord** for consultants who made sure it was an accurate and high-quality translation.

**Pray** for alert and wise minds as the New Testament is typeset. This process involves numerous decisions about formatting and appearance as well as detailed proofreadings. **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with faith as they trust Jehovah-jireh to provide finances for publication costs and audio devices for people to listen to the New Testament.

**Pray** that every Mixtec family in this area of the state of Oaxaca will come to know the God who created them and grow in their faith through the Scriptures in Mechoacán Mixtec.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; UNIÓN NACIONAL DE TRADUCTORES INDÍGENAS

SOUTHWESTERN TLAXIACO MIXTEC; Mexico (7,340)

Last year the translation team finished comprehension checking of Genesis and several important steps in preparing Matthew, 1 Corinthians, Philemon and Jude for a final review.

- **Lift up** the team as they review the entire text and prepare it for printing. They need to make sure there are no errors and that it is clear and sounds natural. **Ask the Lord** to keep them alert and fill them with wisdom.
- **Pray** for the believers to take more active roles in promoting the use of the Scriptures in Mixtec as well as actively using it themselves.
- **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill the team with creative ideas for helping people gain fluency in reading the Scriptures and to supply readers for recording the New Testament. **Pray** that the recording process will result in a deeper awareness of the power of God’s Word in their language.

SIL

NORTHERN TEPEHUAN; Mexico (6,200)

2018 was an amazing year for the Northern Tepehuan translation team. Working together with a layout specialist, the New Testament was typeset, printed and presented to the Northern Tepehuan community!

- **Rejoice** that Tepehuan speakers can now enjoy God’s Word in their language and grow in their faith.
- **Pray** that the printed Word and the audio recordings of the New Testament will be received well and be widely distributed.
- **Lift up** the Tepehuan men God has chosen to lead the church as they take steps of faith in the face of many challenges.
» Pray for the Tepehuan church to stand strong in the face of great opposition. Join the apostle Paul as he said, “I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources [God] will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit” (Ephesians 3:16, NLT).

ETHNOS360 — ETHNOS360.ORG

TREE*; Mexico (10,000)
The team rejoices that an audio recording of the Tree New Testament was produced last year with the help of Faith Comes By Hearing. “It was a unique experience for those who helped us record,” Fernando, one of the translators, writes. Some of the New Testament narrators learned to read in Tree! “This has been a blessing in their lives,” he said. “We hope they’ll continue to read the Scriptures and that their lives will be transformed.”

» The New Testaments will be printed in Mexico this year, and a dedication of both the print and audio versions will be held when they’re available. Ask the Lord to raise up funds to cover publication costs.

» Pray for a smooth and careful printing job so that copies will be durable and have clear print.

» Thank the Lord for MegaVoice players, which are hand-held digital audio players that are solar powered. These allow people to listen to the Scriptures wherever they are. Pray for listening groups to be formed all over the mountains of the Tree area.

» Pray that God will “accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20b, NLT) in the hearts of the Tree people as they read and listen to his Word.

ETHNOS360 — ETHNOS360.ORG

NORTHERN ISTMUS ZAPOTEC*; Mexico (5,720)
Praise the Lord, the Northern Isthmus Zapotec New Testament has crossed the finish line and is now being distributed! Give thanks for God’s hand on each step last year as the New Testament was proofread, typeset, printed in South Korea and safely shipped back to Mexico.

» Pray for wide distribution throughout the language area and in hard-to-reach communities and ranches in the mountains where Zapotec speakers live. Pray for churches to be enthusiastic about taking the New Testament to these smaller communities so people can finally understand its message and turn to Christ.

» Ask God to protect new believers as well as those who travel to these remote communities. They are sometimes ridiculed for their faith. In addition, the communities are rebuilding after devastating earthquakes last year. Pray for relief from aftershocks and that God will become a sure foundation for each person.

» Pray for the churches to come together to organize a public presentation of the New Testament to attract interest in God’s Word in the people’s language.

SIL

PARAGUAY

TOBA; Paraguay (900)
A Toba translator named Julian testified, “When I thought about quitting my job as a Bible translator because there was a lot of criticism, I learned that the Apostle Paul suffered while bringing the Word of God to others, and now I remain content. The Word of God is very important for my life. I want to teach all the community when the entire New Testament is finished. I look forward to that day when we have the Bible in our language with great joy.”

» Give thanks for God’s hand on the translators as they forge ahead. Last year they suffered floods and had limited time with their consultant; this year they will have more time with him.

» Ask the Holy Spirit to keep the team spiritually healthy and give them wisdom when confronted with distractions.

» Pray for clear understanding from the Holy Spirit so they can accurately translate the Word of God.

LATINOAMERICANOS EN TRADUCCIÓN Y ALFABETIZACIÓN; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

ALOÁPAM ZAPOTEC; Mexico (3,400)
The Aloápam Zapotec project is getting closer to the finish line. Last year the translation team made an audio recording of the New Testament! This will have special impact for those who learn best orally or cannot read.

» Intercede for the team as they finalize the printed text. Pray that they will find any corrections to be made as they use Paratext, a software program, to check for consistent punctuation marks and the correct orthography in each verse. They would like to send the New Testament for typesetting this year.

» Pray that God will provide good readers with strong, clear voices to record the books of Ruth and Esther and attach them to an Old Testament summary already recorded.

» Ask God to imprint his Word on the team’s lives as they press forward to give God’s precious Word to Aloápam Zapotec speakers.

SIL

LATINOAMERICANOS EN TRADUCCIÓN Y ALFABETIZACIÓN; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

THE FINISH LINE 2019: AMERICAS

5

*name changed

WYCLIFFE.ORG
AMBO-PASCO QUECHUA; Peru (90,000)

On the bright, sunny day of July 7, 2018, the Ambo-Pasco Quechua New Testament was dedicated in the district capital town of Ambo. Praise God!

» Praise God for the numerous Quechus who attended the ceremony in the soccer stadium, with many participating in advance in a joyous parade through the town streets.

» Rejoice that many New Testaments have been sold, and 200 Proclaimers (digital players preloaded with the audio New Testament) were distributed the previous year throughout the region, courtesy of Faith Comes By Hearing. Ask the Holy Spirit to impact Quechua lives as they listen to and read God’s Word.

» Thank the Lord that the celebration was an interdenominational event, highly unusual among the churches in that area. Pray that the joy and unity people experienced that day will blossom into ongoing efforts to use God’s Word in both their churches and homes as well as work together to promote it in communities all across this area of the Andes.

» Give praise to God for his hand on the translation team through the years, including years of terrorism and health issues. “If God is for us, who can ever be against us?” (Romans 8:31b, NLT).

SIL

QUECHUA CLUSTER PROJECT — Margos, Huamalies, Huaylas, North Conchucos, South Conchucos and Huacaybamba languages; Peru (950,000)

This project, which will provide the whole Bible for six Quechua language communities, is amazingly close to the finish line.

» Thank the Lord for helping the typesetter in Michigan complete the print-ready digital copy of all six Bibles. Lift up the woman in Peru proofing each copy to make sure formatting and punctuation are correct. She needs perseverance, strength and good eyes for this tedious but crucial job.

» Pray each Bible moves through the publication process smoothly and arrives safely to the people. Ask God to provide funds needed for dedicating and distributing the Bibles.

» Pray for the Bibles to be received with great fanfare and celebration.

» Intercede for local Quechua speakers so they might creatively and diligently distribute the Bibles and reach the furthest villages in each mountainous language area.

» Ask God to work in the hearts of Quechua authorities, religious leaders, churches and schools so they will use and treasure their copies of God’s Word.

SIL

TICUNA; Peru/Brazil/Colombia (51,000)

The Ticuna New Testament was first published in 1986 in two versions, one for the Ticunas in the Spanish-speaking countries of Colombia and Peru and another for those in the Portuguese-speaking country of Brazil. It has been reprinted twice. A translation team is now nearing completion of the Old Testament along with a revised New Testament. This Bible will serve Ticunas in more than 160 communities.

» Give thanks, a read-through of the entire Old Testament was completed last year in the community, giving valuable feedback for finalizing the manuscript.

» Pray for the team working part of the year remotely in Arizona and Peru as they run systematic checks on the Bible to ensure consistent spelling, punctuation and other details. They hope to turn it over for typesetting by the end of the year. Pray for keen eyes, good health and that any changes needing to be made are found.

» Praise God for vibrant churches among the Ticunas in Peru and Brazil who are eager to receive the full Bible in their language!

SIL

SURINAME

SURINAME JAVANESE; Suriname (60,000)

The wait is over, the Suriname Javanese now have the full Bible to read and treasure! It was dedicated in a joyful celebration on August 10, 2018, in a large sports complex. This date also commemorates when the Javanese first arrived in Suriname.

» Praise God for the many denominations that worked together toward this day. Speeches by the chairman of the Suriname Bible Society, the Minister of Home Affairs and the global translation adviser with the United Bible Societies were interspersed with traditional Javanese dancing, singing and a play to illustrate the need for the translation. Church leaders from seven denominations were among those who blessed and dedicated the Bible. Copies were presented to the eight members of the translation team, government representatives and representatives of the community.

» Pray for great thirst among the Suriname Javanese to read or listen to the printed and audio Scriptures and apply them to their lives.

» There are a total of 90,000 Suriname Javanese speakers; 30,000 of those speakers live in the Netherlands. Pray that this new Bible in their heart language will be used by those in the Netherlands — in print, audio and via copies on the internet.

SURINAME BIBLE SOCIETY — SURINAMEBIBLESOCIETY.ORG
UNITED STATES
CROW; United States (4,280)
The main translator on the Crow New Testament has had to leave the project to care for his wife, who suffered a stroke several years ago and whose health continues to deteriorate.

» Pray for God, in his creative and powerful way, to raise up others to finish the New Testament.
» There is great interest in recording the Scriptures. Local schools have some Crow immersion classes that will use the Scriptures when completed. Ask the Lord to clear the way and to provide readers with good, clear voices to read the parts.
» Praise the Lord for a Facebook ad campaign last year linking to an internet page with books of the Bible already available. During a short time, more than 700 visits were made to the Crow Scripture page!
» Pray for the Holy Spirit to use portions of the New Testament already in print and audio forms to bring hope and eternal life to the Crow.

HAWAII PIDGIN; United States (600,000)
Joe, one of the team’s translators, is 90 years old and has served on the Hawaii Pidgin translation team since the beginning of the project. The New Testament was published in 2000, and the team continued to translate the Old Testament.

» Praise the Lord, the team finished a third and final proofreading of the Bible at the end of last year. It was a tedious and time-consuming task, but it resulted in an improved translation.
» Give thanks that God blessed the team with strength to press on with their work and gave consistent internet access. From Oklahoma, Joe was able to connect with translators in Hawaii, consultants in other locations and a proofreader in Arizona.
» Pray for an excellent print job, resulting in quality books with strong binding.
» A smartphone version of the Scriptures may be released this year. Pray that Hawaii Pidgin speakers will quickly access it and be transformed as they read God’s Word! Ask the Holy Spirit to impact lives as the full Scriptures become available digitally, in print, on the smartphone app and on an audio recording.

CENTRAL SIBERIAN YUPIK; United States/Eastern Russia (1,400)
After many years, Central Siberian Yupik speakers now have the New Testament in their language!

» Praise God that two New Testaments were produced — one in Cyrillic script for Russian Yupik speakers and one in Roman script for American Yupik speakers. The books were dedicated to God’s glory and purposes last September in three locations — two on St. Lawrence Island and one on the Alaska mainland. Joy was evident as people held God’s Word in their language for the first time.
» Give thanks for one married couple and two women who, as a team, persevered through incredible challenges over the years. They encountered multiple serious health issues and worked in a very isolated location.
» Thank the Lord for Faith Comes By Hearing, who recorded the New Testament. It is available now on the internet, smartphones and radio.
» Pray that God’s Word, in printed and audio forms, will have a transforming result in the lives of the Yupik people.

SIL