



THE FINISH LINE

AMERICAS

AMERICAS

Americas

ABUAHOI*; Americas

Give praise, the audio recording of the New Testament — key to reaching the Abuahei — is finished and available on both Android and iOS phones! It has been well-received.

Prayer points:

- » To put the recording on MegaVoice players (hand-held, solar-powered digital audio players) as soon as possible.
- » Interest and support for a printed version to grow as the team moves forward to produce one.
- » God's guidance regarding translating the Old Testament. Some interest has been expressed.
- » The Abuahei to proclaim with the psalmist, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105, NLT).

CREVICE*; Americas

Over the years, our spiritual enemy has discouraged this project with repeated obstacles. Through prayer, God is having the victory — the New Testament manuscript went to typesetting in the latter part of 2020!

Prayer points:

- » Completion of the typesetting; it's an intense process, and each person needs good health and stamina.
- » God's strength and functioning equipment for the technicians so they can finalize the audio recording with excellent results.
- » Crevice hearts to be prepared to receive the Scriptures in their own language; God to touch many people through his Word, bringing hope and eternal life.

UNABEL*; Americas (1,800)

Due to travel restrictions because of COVID-19, the Unabel translation team could not work together last year which delayed preparations of the New Testament for publication. Praise the Lord that the main Unabel translator now serves as president of the Unabel Association. Although this new position reduced his time available for translation, it provided a unique opportunity to help the Unabel communities, especially during COVID-19.

Prayer points:

- » God's protection over the Unabel and other language communities in the area from COVID-19.
- » COVID-19 infections to diminish so that the team can resume preparing the New Testament for publication.
- » Community read-throughs of Scripture portions to encourage believers and bring understanding and acceptance of the gospel by unbelievers.
- » Wisdom and unity for the translation team as they prepare the final text, maps, glossary of terms, footnotes, illustrations and cross references for typesetting.
- » Families of the translators to remain healthy so the team can focus on the work. They would like to be ready to typeset the New Testament by the end of 2021.

Brazil

JARAWARA; Brazil (210)

Rejoice that no one is hidden from God. He saw each person before they were born, including those in isolated, small groups. Praise God for the Jarawara team's perseverance through the years. The New Testament was typeset and printed last year!

Prayer points:

- » Good distribution of the New Testament to the community.
- » God to shield the Jarawara from COVID-19; they are a very small group.
- » Christians to grow in Christ as they apply the Scriptures to their lives.

- » Team members to be able to work together to translate Old Testament portions so people can learn about God's love for his people throughout history. COVID-19 prevented this last year.

SIL

PACAAS NOVOS; Brazil (4,000)

Working under COVID-19 restrictions last year presented a huge challenge for the translation team located in Germany and Brazil. Praise God they were able to connect and work on 2 Corinthians and Hebrews via WhatsApp.

Prayer points:

- » For the two team members in Germany to be able to travel to Brazil this spring, and for all team members to be available to work on the comprehension check of 2 Corinthians and Hebrews.
- » Completion of the final checks of the New Testament, including ensuring that passages common to more than one Gospel match correctly and that key biblical terms are consistently translated throughout the text. They would like to turn in the manuscript for printing this year.
- » Good health for the team and their families.

ETHNOS360

Colombia

CACUA; Colombia (220)

The Cacua, a small group of people located in the southeast jungle area of Colombia, received the New Testament in 2004! This sparked their desire for the full extent of God's Word so a team has been working on the Old Testament with a completion goal of 2023. Rejoice that even though they couldn't reach their translation goals for 2020 because of COVID-19 and a health concern of the consultant, they were still able to finish consultant checks of 28 books.

Prayer points:

- » The team to develop a strategy so they can work together virtually when necessary.
- » Effective Scripture engagement activities with communities along the main river.
- » Good health for the translation team and the consultant.
- » Good collaboration, effective teamwork and accurate and faithful translations.

FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALIZED PEOPLE GROUPS; SIL

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

COVID-19 hit this project hard last year. Although they hoped to typeset both New Testaments, the Mountain team was unable to complete the final read-through of the New Testament before the pandemic hit. In addition, isolation without access to consistent cell service resulted in infrequent communication among the Headwater team members. Praise God, however, that team members in the U.S. completed other necessary checks leading to typesetting.

Prayer points:

- » Receipt of a printed rough draft of the New Testament for the Headwater team members in the community to complete the necessary final read-through checks.
- » A good distribution plan for the Mountain New Testament among all the communities.
- » Interest and joy among the Mountain people upon receiving their New Testament, and anticipation in the Headwater communities for the day they will receive theirs.

FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALIZED PEOPLE GROUPS; SIL

WOUNAAN MEU; Colombia (4,000)

The Wounaan in Panama received their New Testament in 1988. However, the Wounaan in Colombia use a different alphabet, and believers and pastors there asked for the Scriptures in a version they can understand. Praise God for the printing of the Wounaan New Testament using the alternative alphabet last year and for the joyful reception among displaced Wounaan in the capital city of Colombia. Several among them demonstrated how easy it was to read the Bible in their language.

Prayer points:

- » Wide distribution of the New Testament when travel restrictions from COVID-19 are lifted; continued joyful reception and active use.
- » God's guidance on plans to translate the Old Testament. Interest is high, but with communities of Wounaan speakers in both Panama and Colombia, coordination of the project is complicated.
- » Unity among all those involved in the Old Testament project.

SIL

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 translation team is working to revise the New Testaments they received in their languages years ago and complete new translations of the Old Testament to produce full, updated Bibles. Team members are working diligently in their own communities, occasionally traveling to the capital city to work together.

Prayer points:

- » Safe travel and good health, joy and concentration in the work as the teams press forward to complete the translations.
- » Continued good community cooperation among authorities, health providers and the indigenous communities.
- » Wisdom for the translators on when to consult more broadly on changes they are making as they revise the New Testaments.
- » Wide use of the existing Scriptures in homes, churches and communities, leading to hope, eternal life and freedom from fear and bondage to false beliefs.

MAYAN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION; SEED COMPANY; SIL

Mexico

GUERRERO AMUZGO; Mexico (30,000)

Most Amuzgo work in the fields, and many seek help from incantations and supernatural elements. The local church believes that the full Bible in Amuzgo will deliver people from traditional religion.

Prayer points:

- » Health of the translation team: Erica, Sylvia and especially Barcimeo. Barcimeo has been receiving dialysis for diabetes since 2019, and he had his lower leg amputated last September. Barcimeo's deep desire has been to live to see the entire Bible in his language.
- » Strength and wisdom as the team works with a consultant to check each book.
- » Endurance to complete the Old Testament translation and New Testament revision. "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he [God] will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit" (Ephesians 3:16, NLT).

SEED COMPANY; UNIÓN NACIONAL DE TRADUCTORES INDÍGENAS

SAN JUAN CHINANTEC*; Mexico (3,000)

Thank the Lord that although the main translator is severely diabetic, God has answered the prayers of many and miraculously blessed him with enough strength and energy to complete the New Testament in San Juan Chinantec! Those who know him attest, "He gets more done these days than lots of healthy people!" The translation team has also completed and printed a primer to teach Chinantec communities how to read their language. The team hopes to complete an audio recording of the New Testament in 2021.

Prayer points:

- » God to call the right people to read the parts for the recording of the New Testament.
- » Wisdom for the timing of the New Testament recording in light of COVID-19 limitations.
- » Many Chinantec people to learn to read their own language through the new primer, so they can read the New Testament and other materials in their own language.
- » The Holy Spirit to use this New Testament to change many lives for God's glory.

SIL

HUICHOL; Mexico (20,000)

Thank God that the Huichol Bibles were shipped to Mexico three months before they were expected! Due to COVID-19 limiting crowd gatherings, a small thanksgiving celebration took place. The long-awaited treasures were distributed throughout the Sierra Madre mountains to the hands and hearts of those who have waited with eager expectation to have all of God's Word in their language. This was a miracle! The entire Bible has also been recorded and a portion has been uploaded to the internet.

Prayer points:

- » Dynamic transformation in the lives of the people as they read God's Word and surrender to Jesus.
- » Local Huichol churches to lead the way in implementing Scripture engagement practices.
- » Successful uploading of the remainder of the Bible to the internet.
- » The Lord to open the eyes of the Huichol as they listen to and read his Word in their language: "Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions" (Psalm 119:18, NLT).

SEED COMPANY; SIL

SOUTHWESTERN TLAXIACO MIXTEC; Mexico (7,340)

Praise the Lord for a great start to recording the New Testament in Mixtec last year. The team will continue recording after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Now the translation team is meticulously checking the spelling of all the words in the New Testament, an especially tedious and challenging process in this language because tones and spellings change depending on context.

Prayer points:

- » The completion of the audio recording of the New Testament in Southwestern Tlaxiaco Mixtec.
- » Alertness and wisdom for the translation team as they check the New Testament.
- » Active participation in Scripture engagement by the Southwestern Tlaxiaco Mixtec community.
- » Encouragement for local believers to use Scripture in response to those who are searching for answers during the COVID crisis.
- » Preparation of the Mixtec communities to receive God's Word: "I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure" (Psalm 119:162, NLT).

SIL

EASTERN HIGHLAND OTOMÍ; Mexico (100,000)

Thank the Lord that a consultant has been working with the Eastern Highland Otomí translation team to review each book for accuracy, understandability and natural flow. The team is also preparing an audio recording of the Bible to reach even more people with the Word of God in Otomí.

Prayer points:

- » God to touch people's hearts as they use the Scriptures and learn to appreciate their Father in the language of their hearts.
- » That time lost due to COVID-19 would be redeemed as the work continues.
- » The audio version of the Otomí Bible to be fully funded by local efforts and outside supporters.

UNIÓN NACIONAL DE TRADUCTORES INDÍGENAS

TREE*; Mexico (10,000)

Last year, the translation team distributed an audio edition of the Tree New Testament on MegaVoice players which are hand-held, solar-powered digital audio players. These allow people to listen to the Scriptures wherever they are. Although the New Testament manuscript is ready to be published, the team lacks funding.

Prayer points:

- » Formation of listening groups all over the mountains of the Tree area so that many will hear God's Word.
- » The Holy Spirit to move the hearts of the Tree people to receive God's truth.

- » Wisdom and creative ideas for the community as they look for resources and means to print the New Testament.
- » A new National Union of Indigenous Translators (UNTI) representative to oversee the project. The person in charge was reassigned to another location.

SIL; UNIÓN NACIONAL DE TRADUCTORES INDÍGENAS

ALOÁPAM ZAPOTEC; Mexico (3,400)

Give thanks that the New Testament was typeset last year. COVID-19 caused some setbacks to timeframes, but the translation team hopes to hold a dedication ceremony this year!

Prayer points:

- » A smooth printing process and shipment of the New Testaments to the Zapotec language communities.
- » Creative preparations for a Christ-honoring dedication that draws many to attend and hear God's life-giving Word. Pray that they will "hunger and thirst for righteousness" so they can be filled (Matthew 5:6, NIV).
- » The gospel to be clearly understood as Zapotec communities engage with the Scriptures for the first time in their own language.

SIL

Paraguay

ÑANDEVA; Paraguay (2,270)

The Ñandeva profess Christianity, but they have limited Bible knowledge. They believe in a "Big, Good Spirit" and invoke the power of lesser spirits to solve problems or cure diseases. In addition, personal differences among church members have impacted the translation team. God's Word in their language will bring knowledge, peace and reconciliation. Give praise for the completion of the New Testament draft.

Prayer points:

- » Diligence and strength for the translation team as they work through consultant checks.
- » Unity among believers in the Ñandeva community. "How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!" (Psalm 133:1, NLT).
- » Hearts prepared to encounter the living God and be set free from fear and bondage to false beliefs. For believers to be a testimony of love, peace and hope.
- » Believers to take active roles in promoting the use of the Scriptures in Ñandeva as well as actively using it themselves.

LATINOAMERICANOS EN TRADUCCIÓN Y ALFABETIZACIÓN; SEED COMPANY

TOBA; Paraguay (900)

Although most Toba consider themselves Christian, without God's Word in their language, Christianity is a foreign religion. They need Scripture to understand and know the God who loves them. Last year, translators completed consulting sessions for 1-2 Corinthians and Revelation! Mennonite Friends and other organizations in the Paraguayan Chaco have committed to fund the printing of 2,000 copies of the Toba New Testament. Church leaders in the Toba community eagerly await the complete New Testament to use in evangelism and discipleship.

Prayer points:

- » God to provide the local organizations with the funds they committed to for printing the New Testament.
- » Vitality and strong communication skills for Scripture engagement teams as they help the Toba learn to access Scripture in print and through media.
- » God will "... accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think," (Ephesians 3:20, NLT) as the Toba receive his Word.
- » Wisdom for the Old Testament translation team to begin in 2022.

LATINOAMERICANOS EN TRADUCCIÓN Y ALFABETIZACIÓN; SEED COMPANY

Peru

EASTERN APURÍMAC QUECHUA; Peru (218,000)

Due to a new accelerated deadline, the Eastern Apurímac Quechua translation team pushed especially hard last year to complete the Old Testament and revise the New Testament by the end of 2020. The government imposed a strict quarantine for COVID-19, so the five translators could not meet in person for several months and only a few had adequate internet access. God encouraged them, however, by providing funds for their salaries and modest internet access through 2020 so they could continue to press forward.

Prayer points:

- » The whole Bible to be ready for publication and printing costs funded by early 2021.
- » The printed Bibles to reach Peru before the end of October 2021 so they can be dedicated before the rainy season begins.
- » Funding for ongoing Scripture engagement efforts by AIDIA, the local Scripture promotion organization, so that the translated Scriptures will be well-used and have maximum impact on people's lives.

PERUVIAN BIBLE SOCIETY; SIL; THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF APURIMAC

QUECHUA CLUSTER PROJECT — North Conchucos and South Conchucos languages; Peru (500,000)

Praise the Lord for the publication and delivery of the North and South Conchucos Bibles to Peru. Rejoice that despite the postponement of the Bible dedications planned for 2020 due to COVID-19 quarantines, local Quechua missions have worked diligently to promote Scripture engagement digitally, via Facebook, radio, YouTube and cellphone apps.

Prayer points:

- » Effective distribution of the Bibles to all North and South Conchucos Quechua speaking communities.
- » Hundreds of Quechuas to access the digital copies of the Scriptures as well as the many other digital Scripture engagement options.
- » God's wisdom and encouragement for the local Quechua missions as they strive to ensure that the translated Scriptures reach all churches and homes and touch the hearts of the people.

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 and a revised New Testament. This Bible will serve Ticunas in more than 160 communities.

Prayer points:

- » Good communications and internet for team members in Arizona, Michigan and Peru as the Bible is typeset. Wisdom in making decisions about formatting, columns, pictures and extra helps to include.
- » An excellent printing job with good binding to hold up in jungle heat and humidity.
- » God's guidance in selecting the best time to hold a dedication.
- » Ticuna hearts to be fertile soil as they receive God's Word.

SIL

United States

CROW; United States (4,280)

The main translator on the Crow New Testament died in 2020. Several steps remain to complete the New Testament and send it for printing.

Prayer points:

- » All powerful God to raise up a group of young people interested in finishing the New Testament. This is a critical need.
- » Production of a recording of all the Scriptures that have been finished, which could have great spiritual impact on Crow people.
- » God's inspiration for creative thinking about how the translated Scriptures can be used in other forms — as dramas, stories, on phones and on the internet.
- » Community members to develop materials and actively promote and train others in Scripture engagement activities.

HAWAII PIDGIN; United States (600,000)

The Hawaii Pidgin New Testament was published in 2000 and sold over 95,000 copies. Praise God, the complete Hawaii Pidgin Bible is now in bookstores in Hawaii. One bookstore sold out their entire stock in two days! Well over 1,000 people are using the phone app version of the Bible on both Android and iPhone platforms.

Prayer points:

- » The Hawaii Pidgin Bible will speak powerfully to the hearts of Pidgin speakers and make them strong in God's Word, especially those that might not normally set foot in a church. Prison, youth and radio ministries are effectively using it.
- » Churches in Hawaii to actively minister to Hawaii Pidgin speakers that live near each church.
- » Downloads of the phone app version of the Bible to go viral and impact Hawaii Pidgin speakers across the U.S.
- » An excellent audio version of the Bible which is set to begin recording in March with Faith Comes By Hearing.
- » Wisdom and shared vision for Christian leaders from different backgrounds who are giving their time and talents to see the Hawaii Pidgin Bible impact individuals, families and communities.

SIL

