

THE **FINISH LINE**

Wycliffe®
BibleTranslators

EUROPE

LEZGI; Russia (670,000)

The translation team has been working hard to prepare the Lezgi New Testament for the publishing department. It is an intense time for each person involved.

- » A critical need is to find a second exegetical advisor. An exegete is someone who ensures faithfulness of the translation to the biblical text. Since the Bible has 66 books, this is a tremendous amount of text for one person to check. **Ask God** to provide a second exegete and to fill both with wisdom and endurance.
- » **Intercede** for the consultant who, in addition to her consulting role, has helped with exegetical checks. She needs good health and extra strength.
- » A few Scripture books are already published; **pray** for effective channels of distribution. This is a difficult task in an area dominated by another major religion.
- » **Pray** for leaders of the local churches to understand the importance of Bible translation into people's mother tongue and come to value and use it themselves.

INSTITUTE FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION — IBT.ORG.RU

ASIA

ASHAK*; Asia (25,000,000)

Praise God! The Bible was presented to government dignitaries in the capital city of this country last summer. After receiving their Bible for the first time, responses included: "When I got this Bible in my hand I almost cry. We were waiting for this moment for a long time!" "I'm delighted, the day has come that believers have awaited for years." "We got our book! We are

reading parts for the first time and learning many things we didn't know. We now recognize where we haven't been walking in God's ways."

- » **Pray** for ongoing efforts to develop Bible-related media products and for effective distribution of items that have been released.
- » **Ask God** to bring together everything needed to record these Scriptures in audio — plans, finances, equipment, personnel and government permission. **Pray** that the recording process will go smoothly.
- » **Pray** for widespread interest in the Scriptures, and that those who are spiritually hungry will be able to access them.
- » **Lift up** the need to find suitable partners and establish networks so that printed copies of the Bible will be available to Ashak speakers around the world.

ATIANGA*; Asia

God answered many prayers! The Atianga Bible was dedicated to God's glory in a large city outside the country. Atianga speakers there were deeply grateful to receive the Bible in their heart language. They testified how God's Word is touching their lives.

- » **Ask the Lord** to open doors to officially import the Bible into the country.
- » **Praise God** that the book of Proverbs in Atianga has been officially imported. **Pray** for it and other Scripture portions to reach potential readers.
- » **Give thanks**, many believers are using various Bible apps to access God's Word in their language. **Pray** that these apps will go viral and that many more will want to read and listen to the Bible in this way.
- » **Pray** for a team to form that can develop multi-media Scripture engagement activities in Atianga which will help people to value and apply God's Word to their lives.

DUGARI*; Asia

The Dugari people received the New Testament in 2004 and a team has been working to provide the Old Testament, along with a revised New Testament, as one complete Bible.

- » **Praise God** for people's enthusiasm for the New Testament and provisional versions of Old Testament books that are available in various digital formats and apps.
- » **Give thanks** for steady progress made in recent years on the Old Testament — all books have been drafted and most of the material has been checked by a consultant.
- » **Lift up** the team as they press forward to revise the existing New Testament and put it together with the Old Testament. Key terms must be checked for consistency and supplemental material prepared. They would like to publish the whole Bible in 2019.
- » **Pray** for stamina, wisdom and good health for the team, and protection for the mother-tongue translators who work under difficult conditions. May the Holy Spirit deepen their faith and love for Christ.
- » **Pray** that the Dugari people will experience God's presence as they apply Scripture to their lives while they await the complete Bible in their language.

IRATA*; Asia

A team has been working since 2000 to translate the New Testament into Irata, a language spoken by several million people.

- » **Thank the Lord** for giving the team perseverance and insights to complete drafts of all New Testament books in the face of many challenges over the years.
- » **Pray** for special wisdom and strength to achieve their high goals for this year: have a consultant finish checking the remaining New Testament books, revise the four Gospels that were already published and finalize key terms and cross references used throughout the texts.
- » **Pray** that one day many Irata people will say with the psalmist, "The very essence of your words is truth" (Ps. 119:160a, NLT).

JAPA*; Asia

The Japa translation team has high goals for 2018. They want to revise Mark, Luke, 1-2 Timothy, 1-2 Thessalonians, Titus, Philemon and 1-2 Peter.

- » **Ask the Lord** to keep them healthy and spiritually strong, and to fill them with wisdom as they seek to ensure these books are accurately translated and sound natural to Japa speakers.

» They would also like to record the New Testament this year. **Pray** for God to provide readers with strong, clear voices and that the equipment will work well.

- » **Lift up** the mother-tongue translator, praying for him to have a personal relationship with Christ.
- » **Pray** for the small body of believers to be strong and full of wisdom as they share their faith. **Pray** that the flock will grow in their knowledge of God and will reach out to those in their community.

SIARES*; Asia

Praise God for technology that has enabled hundreds of Siares speakers to download an Android app that features three Gospels, Acts, several Epistles, and significant portions of the Old Testament. Secret believers now have access to vital Scriptures to help them grow spiritually and strengthen their faith.

- » **Pray** for other books to be completed soon, so they also can be downloaded.
- » **Pray** for the development of an iPhone app, and for audio recordings to be made for both platforms.
- » **Pray** that the Siares will read the Scriptures and that the Holy Spirit would open their eyes to the source of truth and life. **Ask God** to radically transform Siares believers by these biblical truths.
- » **Pray** for God to raise up another mother-tongue translator.
- » A number of books need to be checked for comprehension and approved by a consultant, but it is difficult to find personnel to help test the drafted Scriptures to see if they are clear and sound natural to Siares speakers. **Ask God** to provide the help needed.

TUGUTIL; Asia (8,000)

Last year a translation consultant checked and approved the Tugutil translation of Matthew, Romans 12-16 and 2 Corinthians 1-6. The Tugutil Bible app was also updated with the newly checked portions.

- » **Praise the Lord**, before the end of the year the translator traveled to the interior part of the country with printed copies of Matthew and Romans! He also began to check the books of Luke and Acts with Tugutil speakers to make sure they sounded natural and were clear.
- » **Pray** that the translator can make two more trips this year to the village area. He would like to complete the comprehension check of Luke and part of Acts before the end of the year. Once Luke and Acts are finished and checked by a consultant, the New Testament will be prepared for printing!

» **Ask the Lord** to raise up new personnel to join the translation team. More discipleship and Scripture engagement activities could take place if the team had additional members.

ETHNOS360 — ETHNOS360.ORG

EAST MEDITERRANEAN

ARAMAIC*; East Mediterranean (1,000,000)

The Aramaic team suffered the loss of two valued members in the last two years. Dr. Randy, the accuracy checker for the project, was called home to heaven. He had been involved in Bible translation for decades and his life has had impact in those around him. In July 2016, the team's lead translator, Homer, also passed away.

» **Praise God** that despite these losses, the team is making final checks of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers before preparing them for digital publication.

» **Give thanks** to the Lord for the lives and dedicated work of Dr. Randy and Homer.

» The new lead translator suffers from a herniated disc that was touching the sciatic nerve causing severe discomfort and numbness in his foot. He has found relief through exercises but limps and his foot is still numb. **Thank the Lord** for his commitment under adverse circumstances and **pray** for relief and grace.

» **Lift up** this precious team, so they can courageously face problems like sickness, conflict and spiritual opposition that threaten their work.

[SEED COMPANY](http://SEEDCOMPANY) — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

ARAMAIC M-NORTH*; East Mediterranean (1,000,000)

The Aramaic M-North team is working arduously to finish translating the Old Testament. The draft of Nehemiah is now complete and revisions of Numbers and Psalms have also been completed.

» **Thank the Lord** that from his European location, lead translator Samuel meets those traveling through who speak this dialect. Visitors help him review drafted Scripture and make suggestions and corrections. **Pray** for improved health for Samuel.

» **Ask God** to guide and direct the team members as they work on the translation of Isaiah and finish an audio recording of the New Testament.

» **Pray** for clear direction, discernment and leading for the future of this project until all the previously drafted books are ready for publication.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare the hearts of those who will read God's life-giving Word.

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SURYOYO*; East Mediterranean (500,000)

The Suryoyo Old Testament is underway. The team has reviewed Leviticus and Numbers, to have them ready for publication. Deuteronomy is at the publication stage, and Isaiah is at the drafting step. The book of Psalms has become a priority for the translator. Suryoyo believers are eager to get the revised copies of Psalms so they can use them in teaching at home and in church.

» **Ask the Lord** to grant the team clarity of mind as they review Scripture drafts in preparation for publication.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to guide the community so they will effectively use the Psalms in teaching and worship.

» **Pray** for God to clearly lead and give wisdom to those involved with the Suryoyo project so the work can continue.

[ARAMAIC BIBLE TRANSLATION](http://ARAMAICBIBLE) — ARAMAICBIBLE.ORG; [SEED COMPANY](http://SEEDCOMPANY) — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

INDONESIA

DELA; Indonesia (7,000)

The Dela team is working on the translation of a Bible dictionary, songs and church liturgy. The project advisor, Thresia, is studying for her Ph.D. in Australia so she's unable to work on the final revision of the New Testament and Genesis with the team. In the meantime, the translators work diligently to finish the Bible dictionary and translate songs and hymns. Church leaders and pastors have asked the team to translate Scripture portions that are used for the church liturgy on Sunday mornings.

» **Pray** that Dela speakers will spend more time reading Scripture and developing a hunger for the Word of God.

» **Ask God** to grant wisdom and insight to Thresia, the team advisor, as she conducts research and writes her thesis.

» **Ask the Lord** to give the Dela translators strength, stamina and health, and to prevent discouragement as they wait to complete the New Testament and Genesis. **Ask him** to give them joy in their ongoing work and help them persevere.

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LOLE; Indonesia (20,000)

Each year, the Reformed denomination in Timor designates the month of May as Culture and Language Emphasis Month. During May, every local church is encouraged to hold Sunday services in the primary language of the congregation, instead of in Indonesian. This includes songs, hymns and the Sunday liturgical readings. A young woman named Yanti — an experienced translator for another team — helped the Lole translators revise Luke, 2 Corinthians and Revelation.

- » **Ask the Lord** to increase Lole speakers' desire for the Bible in their language. **Ask him** to build excitement as Scripture nears completion.
- » **Pray** for two volunteers to discuss Scripture during the revision sessions with the team advisor and the rest of the team.
- » **Thank God** for giving strength, stamina and health to each team member, and for their translation progress.

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RIKOU; Indonesia (10,000)

The Rikou project has made good progress. The team consultant checked the book of Hebrews and approved the text for publication. They finished reading through the New Testament, marking writing system and punctuation issues that need correction. The finish line is near as only Genesis 1 to 36 remain to be checked.

- » **Pray** for the Hebrews' check participants to apply what they have learned. **Ask God** to prepare the community to read and use Scripture when it is ready.
- » **Ask God** for wisdom, strength and unity in preparing the Genesis text for consultant check.
- » **Pray** for the Kupang Translation Center, which took over the responsibility of this project at the beginning of this year.

KUPANG TRANSLATION CENTER

SEKO PADANG; Indonesia (5,000)

The translation team made good progress last year as they head for the finish line. The Gospel of Luke and 1 Corinthians were checked by a consultant and with local speakers, and the Indonesian Bible Society checked Luke, 1-2 Corinthians and 2 Peter.

- » **Lift up** the team as they put all the New Testament books through a final revision process. **Ask the Lord** to give them wisdom as they review material translated earlier in the project.
- » **Pray** they might be able to project how long it will take to see the New Testament through

the publication process in order to plan when a dedication might be held.

- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to guide the team as they consider several potential activities: an orthography conference, an audio recording of the New Testament and a teacher training workshop on how to read and write Seko Padang.

INDONESIAN BIBLE SOCIETY; TORAJAN CHURCH SYNOD

SEMANDANG/KUALAN; Indonesia (100,000)

Twenty years of hard work culminated on June 25, 2017, when the Semandang/Kualan New Testament with Old Testament portions was dedicated in the village of Tanjung Maju. Excitement was mixed with tears as the translation team and churches remembered several valued members of the beginning translation team who didn't live to see the day of dedication of their new Bible.

- » **Praise God** that almost 2,000 people attended the service and all 500 available copies of the New Testament were distributed that day. Joy at having God's Word was evident on everyone's face.
- » **Give thanks** that a second shipment of 3,500 New Testaments arrived several months later. **Pray** that God's Word will be loved and read, and become a vital part in the Semandang/Kualan church.
- » **Lift up** the team members as they continue on to draft Old Testament books. This year they are working on the book of Daniel.
- » **Ask God** to provide a team of fluent readers to help make the audio files for a digital Scripture app in Semandang.

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TADO; Indonesia (5,000)

Thank the Lord that Tado speakers already have the books of Mark, Luke, Acts, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy and Titus.

- » As the translation team pushes ahead, **pray** that these printed books will impact Tado lives and many will come into God's kingdom as a result. **Give thanks** that the local Salvation Army church supports the team's efforts and uses these printed Scriptures in their services once a month.
- » **Praise the Lord** that the translation team members and some others have accepted the Lord and are being disciplined in Bible studies by the project manager. **Lift them up** for continuing spiritual growth.
- » **Ask God** to give health and wisdom to the project manager as he facilitates two translation programs in different locations: Central Sulawesi and West Sulawesi.

KARTIDAYA

MALAYSIA

BAU BIDAYUH; Malaysia (50,000)

Praise God for his faithfulness. The New Testament was completed last year and is now being typeset.

- » **Ask the Lord** to oversee every detail of the typesetting and publication process and to fill the team with strength and wisdom for the task.
- » **Thank the Lord** for the expertise of Faith Comes By Hearing as they help the team record the New Testament. **Pray** for readers with strong, clear voices and for the equipment to work well.
- » **Lift up** the team as they continue to translate Old Testament passages and Psalms to include in the church readings book. This is one more opportunity to have the Scriptures regularly used.
- » **Pray** for the New Testament, in printed and recorded forms, to impact the lives of many and help the Bau Bidayuh grow towards the knowledge of Jesus.

SIL

KIMARAGANG; Malaysia (25,000)

Praise God, by the middle of 2018 the team expects to complete the consultant check for the entire New Testament!

- » **Pray** for excellent progress and inspiration January through June as the team does final editing of the text to make sure it's the best possible translation. **Ask God** to give them wisdom in translating key terms such as "believe" and "grace."
- » **Pray** for health and stamina for each team member: Anama has a hyperactive thyroid, Osong battles stomach problems, a support member lost a sister, and the exegete is not strong.
- » **Give praise** that the translation has been adapted to another dialect. **Pray** for that group to accept the translation.
- » **Thank the Lord** for a Catholic priest willing to help with the revision and checking. This will encourage usage of the translation by the Catholic Kimaragang people.
- » **Pray** for a successful audio recording of the New Testament once the text is finalized. And **ask God** to raise up a team of Kimaragang speakers who will inspire people to engage with the Scriptures.

SIL

MYANMAR

CHO CHIN; Myanmar (30,000)

Typesetting the Cho Chin Old Testament has proven difficult as some words are very long and the typesetter must decide how to treat them in the layout of the text. Often they are split from one line to the next.

- » **Pray** for wisdom and strength for those involved in the typesetting process and **ask God** to provide solutions to these layout challenges. Ultimately, **pray** for a good result in the look of the printed text.
- » **Pray** for God's blessing of good health upon the Cho Chin translator who has not felt well. **Ask God** to give him strength and endurance to finish the work. **Thank the Lord** for his son who has stepped in to help.
- » **Pray** for a smooth printing process and that God will be glorified as plans are made for a dedication.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR — BSMYANMAR.ORG

GEBA; Myanmar (40,000)

Two translators are working on the Geba New Testament, each using a different script. One is a Catholic priest using the Roman script; the other is a woman using the Myanmar script. They plan to publish the text in both alphabets.

- » **Praise God**, they have completed translating all 27 books of the New Testament and six books have been checked by a consultant.
- » **Pray** for the two translators as they press forward to have the remaining books checked. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill them with energy and great wisdom so God's Word will speak clearly and naturally to Geba hearts.
- » **Lift up** the churches in the area, that they will be pleased with the availability of the text in both scripts. **Pray** for a spirit of cooperation to thrive as the translators move forward.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR — BSMYANMAR.ORG

KHUALSIM CHIN; Myanmar (17,000)

The Khualsim Chin New Testament was published in 2013 but the translation team had meanwhile begun work on the Old Testament.

- » **Give thanks**, the team has completed translating all 39 books of the Old Testament and nine have been checked by a consultant!
- » **Ask the Lord** to give the team supernatural strength and endurance. They are hard at work reviewing all the remaining books to ensure they are accurate, clear and sound natural.

» **Pray** especially for the main translator as he is getting older and weak. **Claim** Isaiah 40:31 for him, “But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint” (NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR – BSMYANMAR.ORG

LEMI; Myanmar (20,000)

The Lemi people live in southern Chin state, and 95 percent are Christians.

» **Praise God**, the New Testament was sent to South Korea last year to be printed by the Korean Bible Society! **Ask the Lord** to oversee the printing process and bring the books safely back to Myanmar and the language area.

» **Lift up** those who are planning for a dedication this year, that the celebration will bring God glory and draw Lemi people to the Lord.

» **Pray** that God will “accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” (Eph. 3:20b, NLT) as he brings the Lemi translation project to a triumphant conclusion. May many Lemi come into God’s kingdom through the Scriptures in their heart language.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR – BSMYANMAR.ORG

PA’O; Myanmar (1,000,000)

The Christian population among the Pa’o is less than 1 percent as Buddhism is deeply rooted in their culture. Thank the Lord that the Pa’o New Testament was published in 2009.

» **Praise God**, Old Testament translation is proceeding well and all 39 books of the Old Testament have been translated. Six books have already been checked by a consultant to confirm they are accurate.

» **Lift up** the committee that is reviewing all the books, looking for improvements and making sure they are clear and sound natural to speakers of Pa’o. Some of the committee are Buddhists who help them with writing style and vocabulary. **Pray** for the words they are reading to penetrate their hearts and draw them to the Lord.

» **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with his Spirit and for good health for their families.

» **Pray** for the Pa’o people to immerse themselves in the Scriptures they already have, even as they anticipate receiving the complete Bible in the future.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR – BSMYANMAR.ORG

WESTERN PWO KAYIN; Myanmar (200,000)

The translation team was set back in their translation goals after suffering a significant loss of their work due to computer problems. Some of the books had to be keyed in again to have a digital version created.

» **Thank the Lord** that they are now typesetting the New Testament. **Ask the Lord** to give them strength and endurance as they make formatting decisions about columns, pictures, maps and the font. **Pray** that any errors will be caught as they proofread the manuscript multiple times.

» **Pray** that the printing process will go smoothly and result in beautiful, well-bound books.

» **Pray** for a meaningful Scripture celebration in the community once the books are delivered. **Pray** for successful distribution of the Pwo Kayin Scriptures.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to give the Pwo Kayin people a hunger for God’s Word so they will find hope and eternal life.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR – BSMYANMAR.ORG

ZAIWA; Myanmar (50,000)

The Zaiwa New Testament was published in 2009 and the translation committee requested that an Old Testament project begin soon.

» **Praise God**, the Bible Society of Myanmar responded to this request and conducted the first translation workshop in November 2011. The project officially began in May 2012.

» **Thank the Lord** that 15 of the 39 books of the Old Testament have been translated and six of those have been checked by a translation consultant.

» **Pray** for endurance and spiritual and physical health for the translation team. Sitting at the translation desk day after day can be mentally and physically taxing. **Pray** that the very words they are translating will inspire them by the Holy Spirit to keep pressing forward.

» **Ask God** to keep their families healthy. This can impact their progress and their peace of mind.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR – BSMYANMAR.ORG

ZANNIAT CHIN; Myanmar (20,000)

The Zanniat Chin people live in the western part of Myanmar. The New Testament was released in 2006, and interest was so strong in the translated Scripture that the Bible Society of Myanmar held a workshop in 2013 for the translation committee to begin work on the Old Testament.

» **Praise God**, the entire Old Testament has been translated and each book checked by a consultant. **Pray** for those who are reviewing the manuscript as they make sure it is in the best possible format.

» **Lift up** the typesetting team, that God will grant them strength, wisdom and alertness as they make decisions about formatting and proofread the text multiple times.

» **Pray** that through the Scriptures they already have, as well as those they anticipate receiving in the future, many Zanniat Chin will be drawn to Christ and “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18a, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR – BSMYANMAR.ORG

ZO CHIN; Myanmar (60,000)

The Zo Chin people have had the New Testament since 2007, and a team began to translate the Old Testament in November 2008. Praise God, the translation of the Zo Chin Old Testament is complete!

» **Give thanks**, the typesetting team worked hard last year and the Bible was sent for printing at the end of the year.

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

» **Lift up** those planning for a dedication this year, that word will get to many Zo Chin communities and people will want to attend this day of great celebration.

» **Claim** God’s promise in Isaiah 55:11 over the Zo Chin Bible: “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).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR – BSMYANMAR.ORG

ZOTUNG CHIN; Myanmar (40,000)

February 12, 2017, was a joyous day at Senpi Village, Chin State, in the northern part of Myanmar. The Zotung Chin Bible was presented to a crowd of more than 1,000 people!

» **Praise the Lord** for his hand on the translation team through the years and for the joyful reception the Bible received.

» **Pray** for wide and effective distribution of the Bible. **Pray** that God’s Word will live in people’s hearts and that they will put it into practice.

» **Ask the Lord** to comfort one of the translator’s family in the loss of their two-month-old son to heart disease.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MYANMAR – BSMYANMAR.ORG

PHILIPPINES

AYTA CLUSTER PROYECT—Abellen and Mag-Indi languages; Philippines (8,000)

As the Ayta Abellen team revises Matthew, Mark and Luke they’ve been able to evaluate the different renderings, word choices and key biblical terms in these three books. They developed a more unified style of Bible translation. The Ayta Mag-Indi team is finalizing key terms for the whole New Testament in their language including words like “grace” and “faith,” and terms like “kingdom of God.” Prior to submitting each book to a pre-publication reviser, the pastors’ review committee reads through it and makes suggestions for improvement. They’ve been learning as they go and making helpful improvements to the text.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to empower the Ayta Abellen team as they work on the Gospels and key terms. **Pray** as they ensure that passages common to more than one Gospel match correctly and check through all the remaining questions needing to be resolved.

» **Pray** that the Mag-Indi pastors will be unified as they review the texts.

» **Ask God** to protect the team, and give them spiritual and physical strength.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

BANTOANON; Philippines (80,000)

On April 6, 2017, a big celebration was held in the Odiongan town plaza — the Bantoanon New Testament with Genesis and Exodus had arrived! The festivities began with a parade, and a choir and typical bamboo instruments gave praise to the Lord musically.

» **Give thanks** that 23 denominations were represented. The governor and other important officials also attended. All the pastors and priests present took part in the blessing of the New Testaments.

» **Thank the Lord** for enabling the team to produce Scripture in multiple formats: printed New Testament books, audio Bibles, SD card and USB format, along with a hymn book, song CDs, the “JESUS” film and a Jonah DVD. Within a week over 1,000 copies of the New Testament were sold!

» **Rejoice** in wide participation in the project. Certificates of appreciation were given to more than 80 people, including official guests, translation assistants, voice actors, singers and dictionary helpers.

» **Pray** for effective ongoing distribution and wide use of small solar players called Proclaimers in Bible listening groups. **Ask God** to use his Word to bring people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

SIL

BUHI'NEN; Philippines (65,000)

God brought this project to the finish line in an amazing way. They were nearing completion of the New Testament translation but came to a standstill because of inadequate finances. They also needed consultants to be available.

- » **Give thanks**, God answered people's prayers! Finances became available last year, the New Testament was completed and it was sent for printing.
- » **Praise God**, a celebration will be held mid-year to present the New Testament to the Buhin'en people.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to transform Buhin'en lives through God's Word in their heart language.

TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES –
TRANSLATORS.ORG.PH

EASTERN BONTOK; Philippines (6,170)

When the Eastern Bontok received the New Testament in 2004, they immediately decided they wanted the Old Testament too! Four members of the community translated while other organizations provided consultant help to ensure faithfulness to the original texts.

- » **Thank the Lord** for sustaining two of the team members when the other two left the project last year. **Intercede** for the current two translators, that God will grant them excellent health and daily wisdom.
- » **Pray** for a consultant to help the team get the manuscript ready for publication, including checking for consistency of key terms, spelling and punctuation, and preparing a glossary and Bible introduction.
- » **Ask Jehovah-Jireh** to provide finances to print the New and Old Testaments together as one book.
- » The local Fialikia Scripture Society has a vision to extend the project to translate the Scriptures for the Kenachakran, a nearby group. **Pray** that God will touch the hearts of two people in this group to join the current team to begin a project.

IBALOI; Philippines (186,000)

There has been good progress in the Ibaloi project and only 22 chapters in Leviticus need to be consultant-checked before the Old Testament is completed. The community waits for it anxiously, and many are now asking for teaching materials and the complete Bible. Young people look forward to the project's completion as well. They're interested in praise songs, dance, drama and other art forms translated into Ibaloi. Church workers are encouraged to teach from Scripture using stories from creation to Christ.

» **Ask the Lord** to guide the Ibaloi believers as they produce evangelistic and discipleship materials from the Scriptures. The Lord has put in their hearts the desire to develop a strong Ibaloi church that can reach the neighboring people groups.

» **Pray** for the team as they check the final 22 chapters from Leviticus.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; WYCLIFFE PHILIPPINES

INAKEANON; Philippines (500,000)

The four members of the translation team each have other responsibilities that pull them from the work. Three are pastors and the fourth is caring for her 86-year-old mother who had a stroke.

- » **Pray** that the pastors will find time to finish revising Romans, 1-2 Corinthians and Hebrews so these books can be sent to the consultant in Canada for his final check.
- » **Lift up** the Inakeanon who are reviewing the New Testament, that they will find any remaining areas of the translation that need adjustment or clarification.
- » **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with energy and alertness as they check details like spelling of proper names, consistency in punctuation, and formatting of footnotes and quotes so that the typesetting process will go smoothly.

SIL

KARAO; Philippines (2,000)

Last year the Karao translation team reached a milestone: they translated the book of Acts, the final New Testament book for them to translate.

- » **Pray** that capable Karao speakers will be found to make sure that Acts is easy to understand and sounds natural.
- » **Ask the Lord** to provide gifted Karao to review the manuscript, polish it and produce the final version of the New Testament.
- » **Pray** that these reviewers will make the personal sacrifices necessary to complete the project.
- » **Lift up** each member of the team, that they will have good health and be protected from distractions.

SIL

MANGALI; Philippines (12,000)

Praise God for keeping the consultant safe as she traveled to Tabuk to work with the Mangali translation team. Many decisions were made during her visit including the cover, color, design, size of the volume and font size of the New Testament. Twenty-five New Testament books are now consultant checked

and approved and the team is working on the remaining two. The translators are making sure that the translations communicate clearly and they are checking punctuation, spelling and for consistent translation of key terms.

» **Pray** for each member of the team to have wisdom, good health and strength. **Pray** for unity and openness to having their work checked by others.

» **Pray** for the aging computers to function well to the end of the project and for the provision of a video projector to help speed up the read-through.

» **Ask God** to provide readers to record the New Testament with Faith Comes By Hearing.

» **Pray** for churches in the area to promote the use of the New Testament and for the community to joyfully receive God's Word in their language.

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MATIGSALUG; Philippines (50,000)

Over the last year, two Old Testament books were approved for publication and six were submitted for consultant checking. They are rapidly being finished. The Matigsalug Literacy Department of Education initiated a simple literacy program which uses the Scriptures as part of their materials, so old and young generations now read in their heart language daily.

» **Thank the Lord** for the team's good progress as they continue revising and polishing the remaining Old Testament books. **Pray** that they will stay healthy and able to continue their work.

» **Ask God** for more consultants to check the Old Testament books.

» **Pray** that the translation would be accurate and easy to understand for the Matigsalug readers so they would come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

» Over the years, there have been attempts to break into the team's office. **Ask God** to keep all the equipment (including the server) safe, and that the laptops will continue to work well.

» Please **pray** for continued peace in the Matigsalug area, which has some rebel activity.

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ROMBLOMANON; Philippines (120,000)

Praise the Lord that "he gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless" (Isa. 40:29, NLT). One couple in the translation team is working from Hong Kong where the man is carrying on other responsibilities in addition to the translation and the woman is being treated for rheumatoid arthritis.

Another member of the team died in September 2017 after valiantly battling stage four lung cancer.

» **Claim** Isaiah 40:29 for the team. **Pray** for God's strength and grace to be manifested in their lives.

» **Thank the Lord** that the New Testament was recorded last year by a team from Faith Comes By Hearing.

» **Pray** for a successful typesetting process, especially as the original translators are outside the country.

» **Ask God** to guide preparations for a dedication this year and for good cooperation among those involved to bring glory to God.

» **Pray** for people's excitement to build for the New Testament in their language, and that they will use it and listen to it in their homes and churches.

SIL

TAGAKAULO; Philippines (120,000)

Thank the Lord that many translated Scripture portions have been distributed through the years, producing much fruit. God has also provided gifted mother-tongue translators who have grown in their skills and are committed to completing the New Testament.

» **Pray** that team members will enjoy good health and have time to finish the translation. One member has chronic health issues and another has serious eye problems.

» **Lift up** the two youngest translators as they balance university classes, raising their families and continuing with the translation work.

» **Pray** for the team to complete the last four books of the New Testament. **Ask God** to guide them as they plan for any needed revisions and ensure that passages common to more than one Gospel match correctly.

» **Pray** for continued safety and open doors in the language area.

SIL

SOUTH ASIA

BARRAI*; South Asia (160,000)

The translation team made good progress last year. They drafted the Gospel of John, Colossians and Hebrews, and a consultant checked Romans, the Gospel of John and 1 John.

» **Thank the Lord** for this progress and **lift up** the team as they plan to draft Revelation and consultant check Matthew, Jude and Hebrews this year. **Pray** for consultants to be available for these checks in a timely manner.

- » **Ask the Lord** to protect the team members from any harm and give them strength and courage.
- » **Praise the Lord** that the small Christian community is growing and that portions of Scripture are being read and preached in monthly fellowship groups in more than 10 villages.
- » **Pray** that the Barrai people will grow in their hunger for God's Word and for many to engage in Scripture use activities.

GODAVARI*; South Asia (227,000)

Most Godavari people follow one of the several traditional religions that are prominent in South Asia, but a growing number of Godavari Christians are eager to have access to more Scripture. Last year the team drafted Proverbs 12-18, 1-3 John and Revelation. They also checked several gospel tracts, community tested seven Psalms and printed 126 copies of the second edition of a subset of the project goal (to print the New Testament with Old Testament portions by 2019).

- » **Thank God** that pastors and church members can worship him in their language.
- » **Thank the Lord** for answering a pastor's prayers to have Scriptures in his own language. **Pray** that Godavari Scriptures will help believers grow in their faith.
- » **Pray** for the Translation Impact Committee as it meets with Christian leaders and **ask God** to draw more believers and churches to get involved in the translation effort. **Pray** that unbelievers will engage in language renewal activities.

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HIRANG*; South Asia

Thank the Lord that translation progress is not limited by geography. Members of the Hirang translation team live in South Asia and the U.S., and the member in the U.S. makes occasional trips to work onsite with the others.

- » **Pray** for the team as they have high goals for this year: to finish translating and finalizing 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-3 John, 1-2 Peter, Jude and Philemon. They can then begin a review of the entire New Testament.
- » **Lift up** their plans to create an Android app with the New Testament, as well as an audio recording. These tools will greatly facilitate Hirang speakers who are not accustomed to reading their own language. The team would like to get at least the Gospels and Acts into these formats this year.
- » **Ask God** to lead the way as the team works toward publishing the New Testament with the text in three languages: Hirang, a national language and English.

- » The mother-tongue Hirang translators would like to start literacy classes in their villages. **Pray** for God to open doors and for interest to be high.

KUROK*; South Asia (478,000)

Last year was a momentous year for the Kurok translation team. The national Bible Society checked the New Testament manuscript, the translators made one additional review, the New Testament was typeset and then it was sent for printing.

- » **Give praise** to God — the finish line is in view! Soon the printed books will be in the hands of the Kurok people.
- » **Lift up** those planning for a dedication this year, that they will be able to decide what time of year would be best for people to attend. **Pray** that the celebration will draw the interest of many to God's Word in their heart language.
- » **Thank the Lord** that the main translator has been accredited as a translation consultant and is already helping other language projects with checking.
- » **Pray** for God's direction in beginning a project to translate the Old Testament. The Kurok people are eager to have God's full Word. **Ask the Lord** to provide necessary resources — such as prayer, finances and personnel — to translate the Old Testament.

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L*; South Asia

The translation team focused on reviewing each book of the New Testament last year, making any final changes necessary to improve the accuracy and naturalness of the text.

- » A final step before preparing the text for publication is to read aloud the entire manuscript to make sure it communicates easily and clearly. **Pray** for good feedback.
- » **Lift up** the team as they prepare the New Testament for publication. They need to ensure that passages common to more than one Gospel match correctly, that key biblical terms are consistently translated throughout the text, and make decisions about how to format it so it will be easy for people to use. **Ask God** to infuse the team with strength, perseverance and alertness in this detailed, important work.
- » **Pray** for quality printing and binding, and safe delivery of the books to the language area.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to use copies of individual New Testament books already in circulation, along with several books in audio form online, to draw people to himself. **Pray** that it will be possible to publish the New Testament on Android's Play store.

MUDABA*; South Asia (70,000)

The Mudaba team consultant checked five New Testament books and attended a Paratext training workshop. (This software checks the consistency of spelling, punctuation, key biblical terms, parallel passages and other features.)

- » **Lift up** the translation team as they finish running each book through automatic checks in Paratext.
- » Not all the Mudaba villages are accessible by road. It takes six hours or longer to walk to some more distant villages. The team members constantly visit remote villages to tell people the Good News about Jesus. Please **pray** for safety in their journeys as they travel from village to village.
- » **Praise the Lord!** In one village, several people gave their lives to Christ. They started gathering together to worship God.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to talk to many more Mudaba speakers' hearts and minds through his Word in their own language.

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NAKBI*; South Asia (1,000,000)

The Nakbi translation team worked through the final consultant checks last year so they can turn the New Testament in for typesetting in early 2018.

- » **Thank the Lord** for providing consultants to make the final checks.
- » **Ask him** to fill the typesetting team with energy, alertness and wisdom as they make formatting decisions about columns, pictures, maps and the font. **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.
- » The Nakbi are in an area with many followers of a major religion who persecute believers. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to give believers peace and courage and for their lives to attract people to Christ.

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PRIAU*; South Asia (301,000)

As Bible translation projects near the finish line, often extra obstacles arise to slow them down. Last year the Priau team lost most of their translation of the Gospel of Luke and had to redo it based on a first rough draft.

- » **Give thanks** that they are making good progress. **Pray** they will soon complete it since a consultant is ready to check it.
- » **Lift up** the team as they balance translation work with other ministries they are involved in. May God give them wisdom in how to best use their time.

» **Pray** that soon the New Testament can be typeset. That is a detailed process, with many formatting decisions and proofreadings involved. They need God's grace, strength and alertness.

» **Ask God** to multiply Scripture engagement results so that more and more Priau will use God's Word, be transformed and share their faith with others.

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RUTARA*; South Asia (200,000)

The team community tested the Gospel of Luke and Acts. They also attended a Paratext training workshop. (This program checks the consistency of spelling, punctuation, key biblical terms, parallel passages and other features helpful for Bible translation.) Ten New Testament books are available in trial edition in the Rutara language. The translators report that Rutara Christian workers and other believers use these existing Scripture portions.

- » **Praise God** for the impact of technology in Bible translation. The use of the Paratext software reduced greatly the time and energy needed, and accurately helped the translators to continue working on the translation.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to draw people into an intimate relationship with Christ as they read the existent Scripture portions.

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SAGU*; South Asia (300,000)

The translation team pressed hard last year, completing eight New Testament books along with a consultant finishing a check of the entire New Testament.

- » **Ask God** to protect the process of making a dramatized audio recording of the New Testament early this year.
- » **Pray** that the typesetting, printing and shipping of the New Testament will proceed without unnecessary delays.
- » **Pray** for people to find the Sagu Android app online and enjoy interacting with the Scriptures in different ways.
- » **Lift up** those planning a dedication of the audio and printed New Testament, that it will draw the interest of many.
- » **Pray** for the translation team as they transition from the New Testament to work on various Old Testament books. A children's Bible is being prepared for publication in 2019. **Ask the Lord** to oversee this project so many Sagu children will come to know the Jesus who loves them.

SOJA*; South Asia (120,000)

Sojas traditionally worship nature and believe in spirits. Today they are mostly guided by the majority religion, worshipping the deities of that faith and relying on the help of its priests. However, evidence of the gospel's influence is being seen. Some people pray before meals, attend church, sing worship songs and don't practice old rituals anymore. This is encouraging for the team, which last year finished community testing Hebrews and started 1 Corinthians. They also back translated 2 Thessalonians. Consultant check is underway for Galatians and Hebrews 1 to 5.

- » **Ask God** to give the translators all the endurance they need – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually – as they consultant check 2 Thessalonians and the remaining chapters in Hebrews.
- » **Ask the Lord** to protect the translation team from spiritual attack, so they will always remember that he is their shield and defender.
- » **Pray** that God's Word will be increasingly known in the Soja community, replacing the fear of the spirit world with trust in the Lord Jesus.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare the Soja people to receive the New Testament in their language, so it will take root in their hearts and will bear good spiritual fruit.

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STREAMLANDS CLUSTER PROJECT – Ganbi*, Jarsbi* and Padim* languages; South Asia (1,272,000)

This is the final phase of the New Testament translation project in Ganbi. This people group has oral Bible stories, the printed Gospel of Luke, the "JESUS" film and 2,500 New Testament verses translated into Ganbi. The Jarsbi team is community testing, consultant checking and back translating several Bible books. The Jarsbi community has shown interest in reading their heart language Scriptures. The Padim team distributed 50 Jesus comic books in the language.

- » **Pray** for the Ganbi team to have all the remaining New Testament books ready for consultant checking in the next few months. **Ask God** for good health and well-being for their families.
- » **Ask God** to increase the ministry of evangelism and church planting in Ganbi villages. **Pray** that he'll protect the translators. Persecution for such activities makes the work more challenging.
- » **Pray** that God will fuel Jarsbi people's interest in reading Scripture in their heart language.
- » **Pray** that the Padim materials distributed among the community will be used effectively.

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THUDANGA*; South Asia (500,000)

The translation team made excellent progress last year, completing the final consultant check of the New Testament mid-year and turning it in for typesetting in October.

- » **Pray** that God would guide every aspect of the printing – for functional printers, a smooth book-binding process, and secure packing and transportation of the New Testaments back to the language area.
- » The language group is spread over six districts and the team would like to hold dedications in two communities in March or April. **Uphold** those making plans, that the dedications will glorify God and raise interest in the Scriptures among the Thudanga.
- » **Pray** for effective Scripture engagement activities to follow up the dedication: a workshop to teach Thudanga worship and Scripture songs, release of the audio version of the New Testament along with a Scripture app and a Bible quiz competition. **Pray** that these activities will grow people's love for the Lord and for his Word.

TOOLRA*; South Asia

On a sunny day in March 2017, more than 600 Toolra in a large city celebrated the arrival of God's Word in their heart language. Using cultural symbols indicating a significant event, the ceremony began with the blast of a horn, a procession of believers clapping and clashing cymbals, a celebration song, and elderly men carrying the New Testaments in ornate woven baskets strapped to their foreheads to the front of the church.

- » **Thank the Lord** for his hand on this project through the years, even when the team had to evacuate from the local community due to civil war. They continued to work in a major city with Toolra speakers there.
- » **Praise God** for the joy people had as the ceremony continued with testimonies, traditional dances, Toolra worship songs, Scripture memorization contest winners reciting Scripture and a celebration feast.
- » **Rejoice** that six days later a second celebration was held in the heart of the language community. The people sat on the floor for four hours in a packed church, clapping and shaking tambourines as packages containing the Toolra New Testament were opened.
- » **Pray** for effective distribution and transforming impact of the printed books, as well as the recorded version on SD cards and Proclaimers (digital players preloaded with the Toolra New Testament and Psalms).

TRABHAT*; South Asia (60,000)

The Trabhat team is getting closer to the finish line. Last year they worked on drafting introductions and outlines for each New Testament book. A consultant also checked 1 Corinthians and Philippians. The only book still needing to pass the consultant check is the Gospel of John.

- » **Thank the Lord** for giving the team strength and joy to press on to the end. **Ask him** to continue to grant them good health and enthusiasm.
- » **Praise the Lord** for a successful six-day workshop in which 20 to 25 people read through the entire New Testament. The participants were divided into four groups, and each group read a section of the manuscript. When they had difficulty understanding the text or had ideas for improvements, they made notes. By the end of the week, they read through everything except Philippians and made the necessary changes. It was an exciting and encouraging time. **Pray** that the excitement they experienced in interacting with God's Word will spread to others.
- » **Lift up** the team as they use Paratext, a Bible translation software tool, to run final checks and begin to prepare the New Testament for publication.

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

BAHAH*; Southeast Asia (1,200,000)

The goal of the Bahah project is to produce the New Testament and four books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Ruth and Jonah) in print and electronic form, along with audio recordings.

- » **Give thanks** for high goals achieved last year: they completed Exodus 25-40 and Romans, and drafted 1 Corinthians. They also recorded and edited audio for a Gospel of John film and published the four Gospels and Acts in electronic and print form. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to draw the Bahah into a personal relationship with the Lord through these materials available to them.
- » **Ask the Lord** to keep the team healthy and spiritually strong as they press forward. This year they want to complete all the steps toward publishing 1-2 Corinthians, draft 1 Peter and begin revision of seven other books. They also want to finalize audio recordings of Exodus, Mark, Luke, John and Acts and record three other books.
- » **Claim** Matthew 19:26 for the team: "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (NLT).

BASERA CLUSTER PROJECT – Ada*, Ampiri* and Edo* languages; Southeast Asia (18,600)

Last year was a fruitful year for these three teams. The Ada New Testament with Genesis was dedicated August 27! Give God praise. The Ampiri team completed a final read-through of Genesis and the New Testament and typeset the four Gospels. And the Edo team consultant-checked and did a final read-through of Genesis and the New Testament.

- » **Thank Almighty God** for helping these teams! The Ada team spent two months with frequent 18-hour days to meet the deadline and send the New Testament to a printer.
- » **Lift up** the Edo team as they go through the typesetting process, making formatting decisions and proofreading the text multiple times. They need alertness, strength and good eyes.
- » **Pray** for the printing process for the Ampiri and Edo New Testaments plus Genesis to be smooth, and for safe transportation of the books back to the language areas.
- » **Pray** that God will guide the Ada translators as they record the New Testament and as each team prepares for a dedication. Pray for transformed hearts through these Scriptures.
- » **Thank the Lord** that a dictionary-making workshop changed Ada participants' view of their language. One person said, "I never realized how valuable my language is. We have words the national language doesn't have!"

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BOMA*; Southeast Asia (245,000)

Currently, almost all New Testament books have been drafted. There are five books left to consultant check. The team hopes to finish the consultant checking in 2018 and then prepare for launching and dedication in 2019. The Boma program has a Scripture Engagement team which includes pastors who have been appointed by the largest denomination in the region to work with the Bible translation office. They work throughout the region to hold workshops and distribute the completed Scripture portions and oral Bible stories.

- » **Give thanks** to God that this denomination is supporting the salaries and expenses of the project.
- » **Praise the Lord!** The Scripture Engagement team is truly an answer to prayer.
- » The Boma team and their family members have gone through difficult situations. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to infuse each team member and their families with courage and faith as they face challenges.

KET-LIK-KI CLUSTER PROJECT — Ketning* and Lik* languages; Southeast Asia (22,000)

A total of 18 members are part of the Ket-Lik-Ki cluster team. The Ketning team finished the consultant check of two Old Testament books ahead of schedule. They are encouraged, and their work shows ongoing progress to Ketning church leaders. The Lik team community checked the book of Genesis. They also completed and distributed the Lik “JESUS” film copies on DVD and SD cards.

- » **Pray** for the Ketning team as they advance towards completing the “JESUS” film, that God will bless their efforts to have it ready soon.
- » **Lift up** the Lik team to be equipped with wisdom and humility as they revise their work.
- » **Ask God** to use the Lik “JESUS” film to draw people into his Word and find new life in Christ.

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KOBAS*; Southeast Asia (4,400)

The Kobas team has been facing some obstacles lately. The computer of one team member hasn't been working properly because of corrosion and liquid spilled onto it. Without the computer, the translator's work on the project is limited. Another concern is that one of the translators has begun showing signs of tuberculosis (TB), a disease which could put the entire team at risk.

- » **Ask the Lord** to provide a new computer for the team, so they can continue with the translation work. **Praise God** that the team continues to work well with one another.
- » **Pray** that God would bless the translator with wisdom about his TB treatment and heal him. **Pray** the TB wouldn't spread to the rest of the team or the community.
- » **Lift up** the lives of 30 women from 14 churches who faithfully meet each week to read the letters of the Apostle John. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to guide them as they grow in their knowledge of the Word.

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KOSAREK; Southeast Asia (6,000)

The team completed consultant checks of the books of Luke and Revelation. They compiled a list of key terms in order to standardize terminology and increase understanding of the Kosarek Scriptures. Three videos of Genesis 1-3 can now be seen on cell phone and on the web.

- » A team member wants to develop a Kosarek dictionary and catalogue aspects of the Kosarek culture. **Pray** for him to fulfill his vision.

» **Ask** for God's blessing on the Kosarek team members as they bring audio recordings of the Scriptures to the Kosarek community. May God open people's hearts to the message they hear.

» **Pray** for wisdom in finding and training new translators for the team.

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MANMAL CLUSTER PROJECT — Jomana*, Kokoan*, Nune* and Wolola* languages; Southeast Asia (2,260,000)

The Jomana New Testament was dedicated Aug. 4, 2017, in a big celebration. Reenactments of the Tower of Babel, the many languages at Pentecost and the coming of the Jomana Scriptures to the Jomana people were presented. People expressed their thanks to God through traditional music and many types of dances.

- » **Pray** for successful Bible reading groups among the Jomana and for God's Word to transform lives as people pore over the pages.
- » **Lift up** the Nune translation team as they prepare the New Testament for publication. Many decisions need to be made and they need wisdom.
- » **Praise God** for his work in the lives of the translators. One member of the Wolola team attributes his transformation to translating the Word of God every day.
- » **Pray** for both the Kokoan and Wolola teams as their New Testaments are typeset this year and sent for printing. **Ask the Lord** to keep them healthy and alert and for the printing process to go smoothly.

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NAP*; Southeast Asia (12,000)

Last year the Nap translation team finished a consultant check of Romans. They also attended an oral Bible storytelling workshop to learn how to craft and tell natural-sounding stories. One translator related a story about a friend whose son was very sick. The friend took his son to a distant hospital and called back to his village for prayer. He believed that the villagers' prayers would heal him, even though they were far away. Prayers were lifted up and the boy was healed.

- » **Thank God** for healing the young boy and for the powerful testimony of the father's faith to other believers. **Pray** for God to protect the health of the team members and their families.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to help believers grow in their knowledge and understanding of who he is.

» **Praise Jesus** for the successful Romans consultant check and **pray** for the team as they move Matthew and 1-2 Corinthians through next steps in the translation process.

» **Pray** that team members will recall what they learned at the storytelling workshop as they also begin to craft oral Bible stories.

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RAKALI EAST*; Southeast Asia (30,000)

The Rakali East team works simultaneously on translating Scripture into two dialects. In the first dialect, all New Testament books are being edited to catch and correct mistakes. The team has reviewed 11 books so far. The Thailand dialect translation is making good progress, and the team has edited the books from Matthew to Acts and Ephesians.

» The first dialect needs readers for an audio recording of the New Testament. **Ask God** to provide fluent readers to complete a clear recording.

» The Thailand dialect needs a consultant to check their translation. **Pray** for one to be available to help the team.

» **Praise the Lord** that the conversion of the script from the first dialect to the Thailand dialect is going well.

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RAMUKI*; Southeast Asia

The Ramuki New Testament project was begun in 2005 and the final check of the last book by a local Bible Society consultant took place in March 2017.

» In April 2017, the project hit a bump when one key pastor would not approve the text so it could proceed to typesetting. **Thank the Holy Spirit** for using the Bible Society consultant to mediate. After a few adjustments were made in some key terms so they still remain faithful to the original text, the pastor approved the text and typesetting began in August.

» **Pray** for a smooth printing process and that the books will arrive safely back in the country this year.

» **Pray** that the Ramuki community would be drawn into greater unity through the dedication, distribution and use of these Scriptures.

SHATIKHA*; Southeast Asia (15,000)

The Shatikha translation team advanced last year through different stages on New Testament books. They drafted Luke and Hebrews, completed a consultant check on 1-2 Corinthians and Revelation, and printed Ephesians in booklet form.

» The Ephesians booklet was distributed to the small local church and the pastor preached through it. **Pray** that the truths found in this book will encourage this small group of believers and give them courage as they live in a hostile environment.

» **Lift up** the translation team as they work with a consultant this year to check Luke and Hebrews, the final books needing this check. **Pray** that the result of their work will be a clear, accurate and natural sounding translation that the Holy Spirit will use to speak to Shatikha hearts.

» **Ask God** to guide the team as they begin to run publication checks on the New Testament. These include consistent translation of key terms, and spelling and punctuation checks.

» **Pray** for a successful printing of the book of Colossians and distribution and use in the local church. This book, like Ephesians, can cause the believers' faith to grow and be strong.

TAGASA CLUSTER PROJECT — Abuten*, Matwafi* and Pitsuha* languages; Southeast Asia (133,700)

Last year the Abuten, Matwafi and Pitsuha teams published trial editions of the books of Ruth, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah and Zephaniah. The Matwafi team attended a song writing workshop to print a trial songbook. The Abuten team checked and approved the "JESUS" film script in their language.

» **Praise the Lord** that the local denomination is highly supportive and eager to see the teams build on their previous work.

» **Pray** for the members of each team, that God will maintain their physical health and protect them and their families from all evil.

» **Pray** for the leader of the Matwafi team who had emergency surgery for kidney stones. **Praise God** for his faithful leadership and **pray** for his recovery.

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THAILAND

BRU DONG LUANG; THAILAND (20,000)

The Bru language has several varieties spoken across mainland Southeast Asia. This Bru-speaking group lives in the Dong Luang district of Mukdahan province in Thailand.

» **Thank the Lord** that a team is translating the New Testament along with Old Testament portions for the Bru Dong Luang.

» **Lift up** Mary, the main translator, who was severely injured in an auto accident in 2017 and had to go to the U.S. for recovery. **Pray** for encouragement and good health.

» **Pray** for the team as they check some final books with Bru speakers to ensure they are clear and sound natural.

» **Ask the Lord** to give wisdom to the consultant who is checking Luke and Philippians.

» **Pray** for consistent translation help and limited interruptions so the team can make good progress.

ETHNOS360 – ETHNOS360.ORG

NORTHERN THAI; Thailand (6,000,000)

After more than a decade of work, the Northern Thai New Testament was published and arrived in Chiang Mai! The dedication will take place on Feb 2, 2018.

» **Praise God** for his faithfulness in providing people, prayer and finances through the years to see this project across the finish line.

» The committee planning the dedication hosted a prelaunch service to promote awareness and interest in the translation. Dozens of church leaders attended. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit will move in their hearts so they actively promote the New Testament and use it in their services.

» **Pray** that the New Testament will draw more Northern Thai speakers to God as the Scriptures come to them in the language they understand best.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

PRAI; Thailand (20,000)

The translation team has been working hard to prepare the New Testament for printing. They made final edits, ensured that key terms were consistently translated through the text and sent the manuscript to specialists to lay out for printing.

» **Pray** that preliminary copies of the New Testament can be printed soon so the Prai people can enjoy God's Word and apply it to their lives.

» As soon as the New Testament is published, the team will make an audio recording. **Ask God** to provide good readers with strong, clear voices and for the recording equipment and computers to work well.

» The team has also been translating portions of the Old Testament. **Pray** that these can be checked and finalized soon so that the team can print additional copies of the New Testament together with Old Testament portions. Learning the rich history of God's love since creation will encourage Prai believers in their faith.

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