

THE **FINISH LINE**

Wycliffe®
BibleTranslators

AUSTRALIA

EASTERN & CENTRAL ARRERENTE; Australia (2,820)

Most Aboriginal people define themselves as part of a group who speak a common language. Their language is the primary means of articulating their identity.

- » **Praise God**, after close to 28 years the Eastern and Central Arrernte speakers have the entire New Testament, Genesis, parts of Exodus, and the book of Ruth in their heart language. Their sense of community and identity is being shaped by God, who they now know speaks their language. A colorful and meaningful dedication service was held July 2, 2017, in Alice Springs, a cultural center in central Australia.
- » **Thank the Lord** for faithful translators through the years. One who worked the last 20 years had cancer and was very sick for three years but it didn't stop her — she even took the translation work with her when she went to another city for chemo and radiation treatments for seven weeks but said it was working on the translation that healed her.
- » **Give thanks** for the Bible Society of Australia, who published the Scriptures.
- » **Pray** that the Arrernte people will earnestly seek peace and direction in God's Word. **Pray** for heart-language Scripture to strengthen, encourage and equip them in all aspects of their lives.

SIL

COOK ISLANDS/NEW ZEALAND/AUSTRALIA

PUKAPUKA; Cook Islands/New Zealand/Australia (7,000)

Give thanks, Pukapukan people scattered in several countries have shown renewed interest in the translation

project, and last year the team revised four major books. The goal this year is to revise 2 Corinthians through Revelation, plus the Psalms.

- » **Uphold** Mai, the main translator, as he juggles community responsibilities with the translation work.
- » **Pray** for a productive workshop in the Cook Islands in July and August to confirm key terms in the translation. **Lift up** the delegates as they prepare for the workshop by doing community reviews of many completed books. **Pray** for consistent and effective communication via Skype among scattered members of the translation committee.
- » **Ask God** to give Mary wisdom and strength as she completes consultant checks and oversees final adjustments in the text.
- » **Lift up** Kevin as he compiles a bilingual glossary, an index of topics and key terms, and a small concordance to include in the New Testament.
- » **Pray** that each community will support the project and for unity in planning a dedication in 2019. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to bring great fruit from daily readings posted on Facebook and by email.

WYCLIFFE NEW ZEALAND — WYCLIFFENZ.ORG

PACIFIC ISLANDS

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT — Carolinian, Nukuoro and Pa'umotu languages; Pacific Islands (16,550)

The Carolinian team is working on the final spellcheck of the New Testament!

- » **Pray** that the New Testament can be published soon and for great rejoicing among the Carolinian people when they receive it in their own language.

» **Praise the Lord**, the Nukuoro team has finalized processing a consultant's comments on the Old Testament translation. **Pray** for good health for the Nukuoro translation team members as they are struggling with many health issues.

» **Give thanks**, the Pa'umotu team has completed translating the book of Psalms. **Ask the Lord** to anoint Paulus, the consultant, so he will be able to complete a final check of Psalms.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BARUGA; Papua New Guinea (2,230)

God answered prayers! He sustained the translation team through many challenges as they completed typesetting and finished the audio recording of the New Testament. It is now in South Korea at a printing firm.

» **Pray** for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books and ask God to protect them as they are shipped back to Papua New Guinea.

» A dedication is planned for June 8-10 this year. Because the dedication will be a large and complicated event, **pray** that everyone will keep their focus on glorifying God in everything.

» **Ask God** to provide resources so that audio Scriptures can be dedicated and distributed with the New Testament.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to guide the Baruga team as they take on the translation of the Old Testament.

SIL

BIEM; Papua New Guinea (2,200)

The Biem people live on several islands off the northeast coast of Papua New Guinea. Praise God, the Biem church is maturing as the elders faithfully shepherd it. Three missionary families have served among the islanders for 10 years but recently moved to the mainland in order to give the church more opportunity to grow and walk independently.

» The translation team, residing on the mainland, continues their work. **Praise the Lord**, last year they completed checking 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, 1-2 Peter and Revelation.

» The team would like to finalize the New Testament text by the end of this year, but some members have other responsibilities as well. **Ask God** to help the team balance translation work with other tasks.

» **Lift up** the Biem church, that they will use the Scriptures available to them and grow in their love

for God. **Thank the Lord** that they are reaching out to other islands where Biem is also spoken.

ETHNOS360 – ETHNOS360.ORG

BUSH MENGAN; Papua New Guinea (8,400)

As Bible translation projects near the finish line, obstacles often arise to impede their progress. But God will have the victory!

» **Thank the Lord** that the main translator returned last September after being away for months due to health reasons. **Ask God** to fill her with grace and renewed energy as the team pushes to complete translation work by mid-year.

» **Pray** for the whole team to be healthy and have wisdom as they finalize the books of John, Hebrews, 1-2 Peter, 1 John and Revelation and have them checked by a consultant.

» **Praise the Lord** that the Mengan church is flourishing and growing, sending missionaries out to reach their own people with the gospel.

» **Rejoice** that many Mengan villages are hungry to hear Bible teaching and desire to have literacy classes taught. **Pray** that God's Word will penetrate Mengan hearts and that many people will eagerly learn to read.

ETHNOS360 – ETHNOS360.ORG

BWAIDOKA; Papua New Guinea (6,500)

The Bwaidoka project has made good progress and the consultant check of five New Testament books went well last year. The team has three new translation trainees: Randy, Crispin and Aaron. They completed an introductory course in translation techniques in Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea, in May last year.

» **Pray** for the new trainees as they translate the books of Ruth and Esther. **Lift up** their need for clear understanding of the text, wise time management and good community support.

» **Ask God** for strength and stamina for the translators so they can make good progress on the remaining 25 percent of the New Testament.

» **Ask the Lord** for guidance as the team distributes 1,360 copies of Genesis.

BWAIDOKA TRANSLATION COMMITTEE; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL; UNITED CHURCH

DOROMU-KOKI; Papua New Guinea (1,500)

Three Doromu-Koki speakers completed the audio recording of the entire New Testament in March last year, the team distributed the "JESUS" film and the New Testaments arrived back to Papua New Guinea in July.

» **Praise the Lord** that the New Testament is now on a Scripture app and the Papua New Guinea Scriptures website. **Pray** that these media will be used for spiritual growth.

» **Pray** for the dedication of the printed New Testament on September 16, 2018, and for a second dedication on September 22 in Port Moresby, where there are also many speakers of the language.

» As we await the dedication and the impact of the Scriptures in the community, we have great purpose to persevere in prayer. **Pray** for the translation teams and their families as they are especially vulnerable during this time as the enemy challenges the project completion.

» **Pray** that the Lord will spur the hearts of the Doromu-Koki to embrace his Word in their own language.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

GUMAWANA; Papua New Guinea (500)

Last year the Gumawana translation team worked on the final editing of the New Testament and four Old Testament books in preparation for typesetting in 2018. Twelve men and women traveled from the Amphlett Islands to the regional center in Alotau to begin a complete read-through of the New Testament, looking for mistakes and making corrections.

» **Lift up** the team as they finish editing and reading through the New Testament and four Old Testament books. **Pray** that all mistakes will be found and corrected.

» **Pray** that typesetting can begin in September and that it will go smoothly without any computer problems.

» **Pray** that the team can send the complete manuscript for printing in December and that it will be printed in a timely manner and without errors.

SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

KASUA; Papua New Guinea (600)

Hallelujah, the Kasua New Testament was delivered to the Kasua people on October 26 last year. Hundreds of guests from neighboring language communities attended in addition to the Kasua themselves. Special guests included the president of the Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea, a member of Parliament and international guests from churches who had supported the project through the years.

» **Thank the Lord** that his precious Word was also recorded and 200 AudiBibles, small solar-powered audio players, were available at the dedication. In addition, the New Testament is on SD cards in the form of a Scripture app where people can read and

listen to the New Testament as the text is highlighted in yellow on their phone. This is a great tool for helping people learn to read.

» **Pray** for God's Word to transform lives as people listen to and read the Scriptures in their heart language.

» **Ask God** to bless literacy and Scripture engagement activities so that the number of people using the New Testament will steadily increase.

» **Lift up** the translation team as they focus now on translating the Old Testament.

SIL

MARING; Papua New Guinea (11,000)

Two mother-tongue Maring translators have valiantly worked to complete this New Testament project begun in the 60s, but they are getting old and have limited education. The first draft of the New Testament is completed and they are working on further steps of back translation and revision.

» **Pray** for the Maring church to see the need and send more young people in the language area to help complete the New Testament.

» **Give thanks** that the church designated five young men for ministry: two for Scripture use activities and three for "JESUS" film recording training. Due to road blocks, however, none of them were able to travel for needed training. **Pray** for the roads to open up so they can reach the training center and have electricity to carry out their responsibilities.

» **Ask the Lord** to provide stable power for the two translators to use their computers when they are in the village working. They usually handwrite or type materials on a manual typewriter.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIBLE TRANSLATION ASSOCIATION – PNGBTA.ORG

MATO; Papua New Guinea (1,250)

Twenty-one years ago a family from the U.S. began to live among the Mato. They learned the language, trained some Mato speakers as colleagues and now typesetting of the New Testament for the Mato people begins!

» **Pray** for the typesetting team as they make many decisions about formatting so the books are as readable and useful as possible. **Ask the Lord** to keep their eyes and bodies alert as they proofread the text multiple times.

» **Lift up** a team recording the "JESUS" film in Mato. This tool, along with an audio recording of the New Testament completed last year, will reach many who otherwise may not pick up a printed book. **Pray** for a great harvest of believers from the Scriptures in print, audio and video formats.

» Before the dedication in mid-2019, the Mato church would like to complete a permanent church building and a large classroom. They are also planning the dedication. **Ask God** to direct and provide for these plans.

» **Intercede** for the Menya team as they promote the sale, use and application of the written and recorded forms of the New Testament. **Pray** that fruit will remain and nourish Menya souls and spirits.

SIL

MBORENA KAM; Papua New Guinea (2,100)

July 26, 2017, was a very special date for the Mborena Kam people. After 32 years of hard work, they dedicated the Mborena Kam New Testament in one of their villages. Now their efforts are concentrated in holding at least one or two SALT (Scripture Application and Leadership Training) courses in their villages this year so that trained leaders will know how to teach basic biblical truths to their people.

- » **Praise the Lord** for his faithfulness allowing the Mborena Kam New Testament completion and dedication.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to use the Scripture in Mborena Kam to unite and rejuvenate the people spiritually.
- » **Pray** that the churches will use the newly published New Testament in their language, and that they will be able to hold the SALT courses this year.
- » **Pray** that the completion of the Mborena Kam New Testament will spur neighboring language groups to get active in Bible translation for their own people.

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS — PIONEERBIBLE.ORG; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

MENYA; Papua New Guinea (25,000)

February 23, 2018, is an important date for the Menya community. After impressive amounts of work, the printed New Testament will be dedicated to the Lord! Three hundred MegaVoice players (MP3 solar-powered digital audio players) will also be dedicated and available for sale that day with the printed New Testament.

- » **Give glory to God** for this project's completion. **Thank him** for the commitment, perseverance and time that each team member invested in this project.
- » **Praise the Lord** for Faith Comes By Hearing, who committed funds toward the recording of the New Testament and added background music and sound effects.
- » **Lift up** the dedication in prayer, that the day and everything leading up to it will be "all for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31b, NLT).
- » **Pray** for a great impact in the community after a two-week Scripture use and leadership training course that will start after the dedication.

SIL

MIGABAC; Papua New Guinea (2,900)

The team completed the consultant check of an additional 20 percent of the New Testament in 2017. This year they will make the final revisions on the entire New Testament in preparation for typesetting and will also continue training the Old Testament translation team.

- » **Pray** for the consultant check of the final New Testament books, that God would infuse the team with strength, perseverance and alertness in this detailed, important work.
- » **Ask God** to help the typesetting process go smoothly and that computers will work without any glitches.
- » **Pray** for the Old Testament translation team to be trained, prepared and supported by their local communities so that they can begin working more independently.

SIL

SA/SAI; Papua New Guinea (1,500)

At the dedication of the audio and print versions of Matthew and Ephesians, a speaker said "Don't leave them in your house. Take them everywhere with you."

- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to change people's hearts and lives as they read and hear God's Word in Saisai.
- » **Lift up** the team as they continue to draft New Testament books and selections from the Old Testament. **Ask God** to give them good health and energy to persevere.
- » The translators need safe, reliable boat transport among the islands. **Pray** for suitable transport for them.

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

MUSSAU-EMIRA; Papua New Guinea (6,000)

Last year, the team worked on consistency checks and discussed key terms issues with the translators. They had two people helping with a Hebrew course to prepare the team to translate the Old Testament.

- » **Ask the Lord** to grant the team wisdom as they work on book introductions and consultant check the glossary.

» **Pray** for the upcoming read-throughs in Mussau and Kavieng, and that they will get the community more involved in the project. Once the read-throughs are done, they will audio record the revised text of the New Testament.

» **Pray** for a Mussau-Emira hymn book, which will hopefully be printed and available to the churches, along with other ideas to promote its use, in 2018.

SIL

NEW IRELAND CLUSTER PROJECT – Barok, Fanamaketa, Kandas and Label languages; Papua New Guinea (5,500)

Praise God, the Barok people now have the New Testament available in their language! It was dedicated on September 8, 2017. All the Kandas New Testament books have been consultant checked. The team hopes to have everything ready for typesetting soon. The Label team continued editing drafts and consultant checked five epistles. The Fanamaketa team plans to start reading through the New Testament for mistakes or possible improvements.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to ripen the hearts of the Barok people so that the gospel can take root and produce genuine fruit.

» **Pray** for God's protection over the Kandas team and their families as the New Testament is typeset, proofread and printed.

» **Praise God** for consultants who have volunteered to do the last checking of the Fanamaketa New Testament. **Pray** that the team will finish proofreading and get all the corrections done so the New Testament can be sent off for typesetting at the end of 2018.

» **Pray** for wisdom as the Label team finishes editing drafts of the final two books of the New Testament that are ready for consultant check.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA; SEED COMPANY – THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

SIMBARI; Papua New Guinea (4,000)

The Simbari translation team accomplished much last year. A selection of Old Testament portions was drafted, over half of the New Testament was reviewed and revised, and content and comprehension checks were begun on those same books.

» **Praise God** for his help in this process!

» **Lift up** the translation team as they finish the content and comprehension checks to make sure the text communicates accurately, clearly and naturally. **Pray** for helpful feedback from people in the community.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill the team and a consultant with wisdom and strength as they begin the final consultant check of the remaining books. This is the final step before the manuscript can be prepared for publication.

» **Ask the Lord** to bless the translators' families with good health and stability so the team can concentrate on their work.

» **Thank the Lord** that God's Word is powerfully influencing the translators' lives as they immerse themselves in it day after day.

ETHNOS360 – ETHNOS360.ORG

TIGAK; Papua New Guinea (15,000)

While in his home country, one of the translators carefully studied Matthew and Luke in order to arrive at their proper meaning and interpretation. This is vital background for ensuring the translation is accurate and faithful to the original text.

» **Give thanks** that when this family returns to Papua New Guinea in June this year, the translator can immediately begin to work with the rest of the team on these two books. **Pray** that the team will all be encouraged by what they learn as they translate these key books about Christ's life.

» **Pray** that time can be found to have a consultant check James, 1-2 Peter and Jude, and possibly Matthew, when it is ready.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in Tigak hearts so they will treasure God's Word and be a people "whose God is the Lord" (Ps. 144:15b, NLT).

ETHNOS360 – ETHNOS360.ORG

URA; Papua New Guinea (2,400)

The Ura translation team is working on checking parallel passages and finishing the consultant checking of the Gospel of Matthew. They plan to assess the feedback given from the Uramät Baining community on 23 of the 27 Ura New Testament books sent out for reading and feedback.

» **Pray** that the plans for the final stages of checking before typesetting will be sufficient and that there will be a good consensus on what resources to include in the printed Ura New Testament.

» **Lift up** the details for recording the audio version of the Ura New Testament.

» **Pray** that typesetting will be ready during the last half of 2018. The team hopes to dedicate the Ura New Testament in printed and audio forms in early 2019.

SIL

VITU; Papua New Guinea (8,800)

This New Testament project faces unusual challenges. A couple on the translation team and a typesetter in the Netherlands are working remotely with a Vitu speaker on the translation team in Papua New Guinea. In addition, the wife of the couple is battling cancer and has been receiving chemotherapy.

- » **Thank the Lord** that improvements have been made in the text as it has been prepared for typesetting.
- » **Uphold** the team as they typeset the New Testament this year. **Pray** for good, clear, reliable communications between the team members in the Netherlands and the member in Papua New Guinea, and for wisdom as they make decisions about formatting and what pictures and other resources to include in the books.
- » **Lift up** the team member with cancer, that the Lord will pour out his mercy and grace on her. **Pray** for her husband as he supports her along with working on the typesetting.
- » **Ask God** to help the team finalize an audio recording of the New Testament so that it can be available soon.

SIL

VULA'A; Papua New Guinea (6,400)

The Vula'a translation team has been pushing hard to move the drafted Old Testament and revised New Testament books through the steps leading up to publication. A major obstacle is a lack of consultant time available. Consultants need to approve the final drafts to ensure they are accurate and sound natural. There is a shortage of consultants so the ones available are stretched thin with requests for their time.

- » **Pray** for consultants to be available to finish checking the remaining Vula'a Old Testament and New Testament books.
- » **Lift up** the team as they finalize checks at the village level to make sure the texts communicate clearly and naturally.
- » **Pray** that the Holy Spirit will be preparing "good soil" so that when the Vula'a receive God's Word, they will "hear God's word, cling to it, and ... produce a huge harvest" (Luke 8:15b, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WARAN; Papua New Guinea (3,000)

Praise the Lord, the final consultant check on the Waran New Testament was completed last year and the translators and a design specialist began typesetting it in late 2017.

» **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with perseverance, clear minds and wisdom as they spend countless hours scrutinizing the text, looking for errors, making corrections and then adding page formatting, pictures and footnotes. The document goes between the translators and the typesetter multiple times to make sure the best copy is ready for printing.

- » **Pray** that the project advisor and the mother-tongue translators will be strong and healthy.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill them so they will stand firm against any spiritual hindrance or opposition to God's Word being published. **Pray** for the team to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Eph. 6:10b, NLT).
- » **Pray** for successful literacy and Scripture engagement activities so that the Waran people will be well-equipped to read and use the New Testament.

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS PAPUA NEW GUINEA – PBTPNG.ORG

SOLOMON ISLANDS

NORTH MALAITA CLUSTER— Baeggu and Fataleka languages; Solomon Islands (20,000)

Last year, 2,000 copies each of the Baeggu New Testament and Fataleka New Testament were printed in South Korea and shipped to the Solomon Islands. On Sep. 16, 2017, the Fataleka New Testament was dedicated in a festive celebration. Women carried in copies of the New Testament in a decorated canoe, preceded by men joyfully dancing their way into the community. Speeches and prayers were given, followed by a typical meal of fish, rice and sweet potatoes.

- » **Pray** that many Fataleka people will buy New Testaments, read them regularly and be transformed by God's message of love and grace.
- » **Lift up** the Baeggu team as they plan for a dedication this year. **Ask the Lord** to guide them to the best date so that many can attend.
- » **Thank the Lord** for Faith Comes By Hearing who is helping both teams record their New Testaments. The Fataleka recording was completed and is being prepared for distribution. **Pray** that copies can soon reach the community and be distributed widely.
- » **Ask God** to provide additional good readers with time to complete the Baeggu audio recording. The team would like to have it available for the New Testament launch.

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS; SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG; SIL

ROVIANA; Solomon Islands (14,000)

Rejoice with the Roviana people! On Sunday, May 23, 2017, more than 1,000 people gathered to dedicate the Roviana Bible and commemorate the 115th anniversary of the coming of the gospel to the Roviana region. The celebrations continued for four days with traditional dances, music, Scripture reading and good food. For many years, the Roviana people have wanted a complete Bible in their own language and worked for over 35 years to see that accomplished. They've served as translators, reviewers, lay preachers and pastors. One participant shared, "Now they can open the Holy Scriptures any time they like. And when they do, the first comment is often, 'This is so clear. I can easily understand this.' The Lord did far more than they thought possible."

- » **Thank God**, the team completed the "JESUS" film script and distributed over 1,000 Bibles and 200 MegaVoice units.
- » The Roviana young people are especially interested in the audio New Testament and a Bible app. **Pray** that their hearts will be receptive to God's Word.
- » **Praise the Lord** that the Roviana community can now say with the psalmist, "How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey" (Ps. 119:103, NLT)

SEED COMPANY — THESEEDCOMPANY.ORG

VANUATU

EPI CLUSTER PROJECT — Baki, Lamen and Lewo languages; Vanuatu (3,400)

March 2, 2017, was a significant day on Epi Island — the Lewo New Testament was dedicated! A second dedication was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu's capital, on March 9.

- » **Praise the Lord** for the Lewos' positive reception of both the print and audio New Testaments. **Pray** that Scripture engagement activities will result in many people using the Scriptures and applying them to their lives.

» **Ask God** to enable the Baki advisor to complete the final read-through of the New Testament. Once that is finished, it can be prepared for printing.

» The main Baki translator died unexpectedly in December 2016. **Pray** for his replacement to be anointed by God to help the team move forward. **Pray** that they can soon finish the remaining 50 percent of the audio recording of the New Testament.

» **Lift up** the Lamen team as they push to complete the final check and revision of their New Testament. It's a challenge and they need energy, good health and the power of the Holy Spirit.

LENAKEL; Vanuatu (11,500)

The entire New Testament has been drafted and Tim, a translator who lived among the Lenakel but now pastors a church in Australia, makes occasional visits back to Vanuatu to conduct intensive checking sessions of the drafts.

» **Give thanks** that last year he was able to do more checking and also fine-tune the revised orthography. **Pray** that he will be able to make another trip this year to check Scriptures and that the mother-tongue speakers will steadily press forward as they prepare back-translations into the trade language to aid him.

» **Praise God** that a team recorded the entire New Testament for use on MegaVoice units, small handheld solar-powered digital audio players. **Pray** for wide distribution and that people will eagerly use them and gain a love for Christ and his Word.

» **Lift up** Tim as he works to prepare a second-draft version of the New Testament to distribute with the MegaVoice units. **Pray** that this will create an interest in the Scriptures until the final copy is available, and also help them learn to read. It's a difficult language to read.

PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA — PRC.ORG.AU

A complete list of all projects, sorted by area of the world, can be downloaded anytime from wycliffe.org/finishline.

Wycliffe[®]

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

1-800-WYCLIFFE
(1-800-992-5433)
wycliffe.org

mktg4867