

Federated States of Micronesia

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT — *Nukuoro language; Federated States of Micronesia (900)*

Nukuoro is one of the two Polynesian languages in Micronesia. Bible translation has been going on for a long time as an initiative of the Nukuoro people. Their New Testament was published in 1986 by the Bible Society of Micronesia.

- » **Praise God** that last year the Nukuoro team completed the final read-through and consultant check of the Old Testament along with a revised New Testament.
- » **Lift up** the team this year for God's strength and direction — they have ambitious goals. They plan to typeset the Bible (this involves many formatting decisions and multiple proofreadings), have it printed, hold a dedication celebration and begin distribution. "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26, NLT).
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to be at work in each heart of the 900 Nukuoro, drawing them into a personal relationship with their Creator and giving them a love for God's Word.

SEED COMPANY; SIL

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT — *Satawal language; Federated States of Micronesia (800)*

Satawal is a Micronesian language influenced by neighboring languages but is strong no less. The Satawalese are famous for their exceptional navigation skills. Their local customs are very powerful.

- » **Give thanks** for computer software that speeds up Bible translation. Using the program AdaptIt, the translation team adapted an initial draft of the New Testament from a neighboring language. The team closely reviewed and revised the draft and, last year, a small trial edition of the New Testament was printed and distributed to get feedback from the community.
- » **Pray** that the review process will result in improvements in the text, helping it sound natural and be easily understood. **Pray** also that people will become interested in the Scriptures and want to learn more about Jesus and his kingdom.
- » **Lift up** the consultant who works with the team and checks their translation; he has a busy schedule. **Ask God** to allow him to spend quality time working

with them to make sure it is an accurate and good translation. **Praise God** for technology that makes it possible to work together remotely.

SEED COMPANY; SIL — ISLES-OF-THE-SEA.ORG

French Polynesia

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT — *Pa'umotu language; French Polynesia (15,600)*

The Pa'umotu language is spoken in the Tuamotu islands, an archipelago of about 80 atolls in the center of French Polynesia, northeast of Tahiti. The language is closely related to Tahitian.

- » The translation team worked hard to translate the Gospels and Psalms in Pa'umotu. The Gospels are now ready for publication. **Pray** that, in spite of delays, they will be typeset and printed this year.
- » **Claim** God's promise in Philippians 4:19 to supply all the team's needs, including consultant help.

SEED COMPANY; SIL

Kingdom of Tonga

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT — *Niufo'ou language; Kingdom of Tonga (1,500)*

The Kingdom of Tonga is an archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean. It is made up of 169 islands, 36 of which are inhabited. The islands are scattered over 270,000 square miles. Niufo'ou is the only minority language in the Kingdom of Tonga, and a translation team is pressing forward to finish the New Testament for their people!

- » **Give thanks**, the four Gospels were revised last year and will be typeset and published this year. **Pray** for many to read these books and believe in Jesus as Christ, the Son of God.
- » **Lift up** the consultant who is checking the other books of Scripture. **Ask God** to fill him with wisdom so that an excellent translation will result.
- » **Lift up** the team as they test the Scriptures with local speakers to ensure they are clear and sound natural. **Pray** that the testing will continue at a good pace so the New Testament can be published soon.
- » **Pray** for those who will prepare the manuscript for printing. They need strength and wisdom to make decisions about formatting and what to include in the book so it is attractive and easy to use.

SEED COMPANY; SIL

Northern Mariana Islands

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT — Carolinian language; Northern Mariana Islands (3,100)

The Isles of the Sea Cluster Project has seven active Bible translation programs in Micronesia and nine in Polynesia. Of these 16 programs, eight are close to completion!

- » When projects get close to the finish line, extra obstacles often arise. The Carolinian team wanted to do a final read-through of the New Testament among a wide group, but their initial approach fell through. Undiscouraged, they printed 20 copies that a small but dedicated team of 10 people carefully looked at for errors and possible improvements. **Thank the Lord** for these dedicated men and women!
- » **Uphold** the team this year as they typeset the New Testament and send it for printing. **Ask God** to fill them with wisdom and keep them strong; it's a demanding process.
- » By faith they are planning to dedicate and distribute the books by the end of the year. **Pray** for God to prepare "good soil" so that when the Carolinians receive God's Word, they will "hear God's word, cling to it, and ... produce a huge harvest" (Luke 8:15b, NLT).

SEED COMPANY; SIL

Papua New Guinea

ARUAMU; Papua New Guinea (12,000)

The Aruamu received their New Testament in 2004. Soon they will hold the complete Bible in their hands!

- » Typesetting a complete Bible is an immense task involving detailed consistency checks, looking for errors in punctuation, spelling and capitalization, and placing pictures, footnotes, and chapter and verse numbers. The text is proofread multiple times throughout the process. **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with physical strength, keen eyes and wisdom as they complete this process.
- » **Pray** for God to protect the team and their families and that they will "... be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10, NLT).
- » **Ask Jehovah-jireh**, the great provider, to lead to funding sources for printing the Bible.
- » Some Aruamu people recently were trained in drilling wells. **Thank the Lord** that the people have access to drill rigs and well pumps, and **pray** for successful drilling that provides good water sources for the community

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BIEM; Papua New Guinea (2,800)

The Biem people live on several islands off the northeast coast of Papua New Guinea. Praise God that the Biem church is maturing and new believers are being added monthly through personal evangelism!

- » **Give thanks** that, after some delays, a significant number of New Testament books are being back-translated into English in order to be checked by a translation consultant in March. **Ask God** to anoint the consultant and translation team with wisdom and strength so the Scriptures will be accurate and clear.
- » **Pray** for the team to receive helpful feedback as they check other books for comprehension with Biem people on the islands.
- » **Lift up** the first generation believers who have lost their initial excitement and are compromising in some areas of their lives. **Pray** that they will return to their first love and grow through available Scripture portions.
- » **Pray** that the Biem church will send their first missionaries to a neighboring island where there is interest in the gospel. Two families are willing to move there to teach the people.

ETHNOS360

BUSH MENGEN; Papua New Guinea (8,400)

Last year's prayer request for Bush Megen listed major obstacles to the final completion of this project but claimed Matthew 19:26: "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (NLT). To God be the glory, the New Testament was typeset in Sanford, Florida last year and then sent for printing. A dedication will be held in April this year after the rainy season!

- » **Praise the Lord** that the Megen church is excited about having God's Word in their hands. Please **pray** that they will faithfully read the Scriptures and grow in their knowledge of the Lord.
- » **Lift up** those who teach the Bible among the Megen; the teachers are delighted to now have the New Testament to use with their lessons.
- » **Pray** that the church will be strengthened as the Word of God touches people's lives.

ETHNOS360

BWAIDOKA; Papua New Guinea (6,500)

The Bwaidoka translation team made much progress last year! Six New Testament books were checked by a consultant, and three new trainees have joined the team to begin translating the Old Testament.

- » **Pray** for God's grace, good health and stamina as the translation team works to finish revising Mark and Acts, which were the first books translated. The team will also check key terms and parallel passages throughout the New Testament, which is one of the last steps before typesetting.
- » **Lift up** Bartho, Setua and Bani who are being trained for Old Testament translation. Their first task is to translate 1 Samuel 1-10. **Pray** that they will do well.
- » **Ask God** for direction as to whether the team should add more trainees to help work on the Old Testament.

BWAIDOKA TRANSLATION COMMITTEE; SEED COMPANY; SIL; UNITED CHURCH

GIZRRA; Papua New Guinea (1,350)

2019 was a successful year for the Gizrra translation team! They completed final consultant checks, all consistency checks and recorded the New Testament. They also finalized Genesis, Ruth, Jonah and Old Testament portions that help readers understand the New Testament.

- » **Give praise**, the publication was then typeset in the Netherlands and sent to a printer in South Korea at the end of last year — a milestone in the project!
- » **Pray** for quality printing and binding and safe and timely delivery of the books back to the Gizrra community.
- » **Lift up** the team as they prepare for a dedication, probably in November this year.
- » **Ask God** to prepare the hearts of the Gizrra people so they will eagerly receive and use the Scriptures in print and audio form. **Pray** also that the Gizrra dictionary will be ready for the dedication; it still needs a lot of work.
- » **Pray** that, through the Scriptures, many Gizrra will “... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18, NLT).

SIL

GUMAWANA; Papua New Guinea (500)

Gumawana speakers live on five islands in the South Pacific. While nearly everyone attends church, without access to Scriptures they can understand, spiritual growth remains limited. Praise the Lord that they now have the New Testament and four Old Testament books! A celebration was held November 6, 2019.

- » **Pray** that many Gumawana will purchase the Scriptures and say with the psalmist, “I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure” (Psalm 119:162, NLT).
- » **Thank the Lord** that a recording of the New Testament is also available for those who are non-literate or learn better orally. **Pray** that many will take advantage of the recording.
- » The translation team is continuing to translate the Old Testament, focusing on completing the Psalms this year and publishing them as a separate book. **Pray** they will successfully meet this goal so the Gumawana can also enjoy this poetic, meaningful book.

SEED COMPANY; SIL

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT — Nukeria language; Papua New Guinea (500)

Nukeria is a Polynesian language spoken on Fead Island, one of 18 small islands east of Papua New Guinea.

- » **Thank the Lord** for raising up Tom Puaria as an adviser to the translation team. He was one of two translators of the Takuu New Testament. Takuu is a related language.

» The four Gospels were published last year and were received with great excitement. **Pray** that many will come to know Christ through them and also give additional feedback to the team as they press on to complete the New Testament.

» The team has big goals to complete the New Testament translation and review process by the end of the year. **Pray** Ephesians 3:16 for them: “I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he [God] will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit” (NLT).

SEED COMPANY; SIL

KALULI; Papua New Guinea (4,000)

Every human goes through trauma in their life. Thank the Lord that the translation team trained about 100 Kaluli church leaders in a trauma healing workshop last year. The leaders are equipped now to help their congregations and communities process trauma using truths found in Scripture.

- » The team made good progress last year on Matthew, Ephesians and 1 Peter. **Ask the Lord** to provide consultants so they can complete consultant checks of the remaining books (Ephesians, 1-2 Peter, Jude and Genesis) this year.
- » **Ask God** to protect the time of the local translators and the project advisers so they can focus on the translation without distractions.
- » **Pray** that the airstrip will remain in good condition so that translators, advisers and consultants can travel back and forth between the translation center and the community.

SIL

MANAMBU; Papua New Guinea (2,100)

Manambu is a language spoken in the Sepik River region of northern Papua New Guinea. A team of local translators is working hard to complete a new translation of the New Testament.

- » **Give thanks** that a consultant was available to complete a check of the manuscript last year.
- » **Pray** for Ken and Rosa, the Manambu translators, as they read through the whole New Testament this year. They are checking to ensure that key terms, spellings and punctuation are consistent throughout the text. **Ask God** to give them strength and stamina. It's detailed, demanding work!
- » **Pray** that the Manambu will say with the psalmist, “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105, NLT).

PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIBLE TRANSLATION ASSOCIATION

MATO; Papua New Guinea (1,250)

Twenty-four years after the Mato first asked for someone to help translate the New Testament into their language, their dreams were realized!

- » **Praise the Lord**, a dedication for the print and audio versions of the Mato New Testament was held on August 14, 2019, which was the 24th anniversary of when the Mato sent a letter requesting someone to come and translate God's Word for them. The covers on the books are zippered to protect them from bugs and keep the binding together. The books include color maps and pictures, over 300 illustrations, a glossary and a topical index to help people use and understand the Scriptures.
- » **Give thanks** that the "JESUS" film is also available in Mato.
- » **Pray** for God's Word in written, audio and visual form to penetrate Mato hearts and bring many into a saving relationship with Jesus.
- » **Pray** for a new generation of translators to be raised up who can be trained to translate the Old Testament.

SIL

MIGABAC; Papua New Guinea (2,900)

When the Migabac New Testament was being typeset, the team commented, "Over the years, we've read and understood parts of the Bible, but not everything was clear to us. There were things we needed to know that were [not yet in our language]."

- » **Praise God**, the Migabac don't have to struggle to understand the Scriptures anymore; they received the New Testament on July 26 last year!
- » **Rejoice** that the New Testament is also available in audio on Megavoices players, hand-held, solar-powered digital audio players that allow people to listen to the Scriptures wherever they are. In addition, a Migabac Scripture app for Android phones is available on SD cards.
- » **Pray** that the Migabac people will develop a growing relationship with God and healthy relationships with one another through reading and listening to the New Testament as individuals, families and churches.

SIL

MINAVEHA; Papua New Guinea (3,000)

The Minaveha people live on Fergusson Island in the Milne Bay province of Papua New Guinea. The New Testament was dedicated in 2009, and a team has been working to complete the Old Testament along with a revision of the New Testament.

- » **Praise God**, the team finished a final read-through of the whole Bible last year. The next steps will include using computer software to check the consistency of spelling, punctuation and other features. This is a detailed process.

- » Last year, the main national translator died. **Thank the Lord** for his major contributions to the project.
- » **Ask God** to clearly guide two key members of the team, on furlough in the U.S., as they seek God's direction regarding where to locate following furlough. There are multiple factors to consider and they need God's wisdom. **Pray** for God to raise up solutions so this project can be completed. "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26, NLT).

SIL

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

The wait is over for the Mussau-Emira people: they now have God's Word in a language that speaks to their hearts! The Mussau-Emira New Testament was dedicated on May 29, 2019, on Mussau Island. A second celebration was held in the provincial capital of Kavieng on June 5!

- » A couple of weeks later a man remarked in church how he had read the Bible in English for many years, and it was like Jesus standing outside the house, talking through the doorway. Now, reading it in Mussau, Jesus had come into the house and was sitting with him and talking. **Praise God! Pray** that many will buy copies and hear Jesus talking with them also.
- » **Pray** for wide distribution of the New Testament along with the audio edition.
- » **Thank the Lord** that several local translators want to continue translating the Old Testament. **Pray** that the adviser, now living in Finland, will be able to continue to assist them while working remotely.

SIL

NEW IRELAND CLUSTER PROJECT, Part 1 — Fanamaket, Feni, Kandas, Label, Nalik and Notsi languages; Papua New Guinea (17,470)

One of the translation teams in this cluster project has crossed the finish line! The Kandas New Testament was dedicated April 28, 2019. Five hundred New Testaments traveled by ship from South Korea, and later by small boats to the southwest coast of New Ireland Province where the Kandas live.

- » **Pray** that many Kandas will buy the New Testament, read it and grow in their love and knowledge of the Lord.
- » **Lift up** the Feni team as they are working with an adviser to finish their New Testament. They are making good progress. **Praise God** that the adviser is able to continue working with the team. **Thank the Lord** for good cooperation on the translation among different denominations.
- » **Pray** for the Fanamaket New Testament which will be printed early in 2020 and shipped to the village area. **Ask God** to protect the books and enable them to arrive in time for a May 2020 dedication. **Pray** for spiritual fruit among the Fanamaket and a deep hunger for God's Word.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA; SEED COMPANY; SIL

NEW IRELAND CLUSTER PROJECT, Part 2 — *Fanamaket, Feni, Kandas, Label, Nalik and Notsi languages; Papua New Guinea (17,470)*

Crossing the finish line in a foot race involves hundreds of steps. It's the same with Bible translation. Numerous steps must take place — first drafts, adviser checks, community testing and more — to get to the finish line. The Nalik translation team finished translating all 27 books in the New Testament last year. Now they need to go over the earliest translated books to revise them and ensure key terms are consistently translated throughout the manuscript.

- » **Ask God** to fill the Nalik team with his Spirit and perseverance as they press forward step by step and verse by verse to make sure the translation is accurate, easy to understand and natural sounding to Nalik speakers.
- » **Give thanks** that the Label team finished consultant checking the final books of the New Testament last fall. **Ask the Lord** to reveal spelling and punctuation errors and inconsistencies in the manuscript as they put it through a number of checks using the Paratext software program. **Pray** the team will have good health and alert minds.
- » **Praise the Lord** that a consultant checked several books of the New Testament last year. **Pray** for them as they make the necessary changes and continue to work their way through each book, completing the appropriate checks. They would like to finish the New Testament next year.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA; SEED COMPANY; SIL

NOBONOB; Papua New Guinea (2,400)

The Nobonob New Testament was published in 1990. Praise God, a translation team is pressing forward to complete the Old Testament along with a revised New Testament!

- » **Pray** for an excellent audio recording of the entire Bible that will clearly communicate with listeners.
- » **Ask God** to give strength and alertness to the typesetting team as they prepare the manuscript for printing. This is a detailed process involving many decisions.
- » **Pray** for a seamless printing process and safe shipment of the Bibles to Papua New Guinea. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to create a hunger and thirst for God's Word as they await the dedication.
- » **Lift up** the committee planning the dedication, that they will be united and that the celebration will result in great praise to God.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIBLE TRANSLATION ASSOCIATION

NUMANGGANG; Papua New Guinea (2,300)

The Numanggang received their New Testament and Psalms in 2006. They were delighted but wanted more! A team has been diligently pressing forward translating the Old Testament.

- » **Praise God** for progress made last year. They drafted 1-2 Samuel — the final two books to complete the Old Testament — checked eight books with a consultant, and began read-throughs to check for consistency in spelling and format. **Pray** especially for the team's health. Each one suffered an illness last year.
- » **Ask the Lord** to give the team unity and clarity as they make decisions about formatting and spelling.
- » **Give thanks** that the team has revised almost half of the New Testament in anticipation of recording it to include with the electronic version available for smartphones and MP3. **Pray** that, by God's grace and strength, they can complete this project and make God's Word available to more Numanggang.
- » **Pray** that the Numanggang, challenged by ungodly cults, will recognize the power of God's Word and say: "The very essence of your words is truth. ... " (Psalm 119:160, NLT)

SIL

SIMBARI; Papua New Guinea (4,000)

In the translation process, progress is sometimes measured verse-by-verse! The Simbari team thanked the Lord in mid-2019 when they were able to complete a final consultant check of 2,001 verses of the New Testament. That is about 25% of the New Testament! Thank the Lord for progress the team made during the remainder of 2019.

- » **Pray** for the team — they are working with a consultant early this year to complete the final check of the last seven books of the New Testament. They want to make sure that the translation is clear, accurate and sounds natural.
- » **Lift them up** as they then begin to prepare the manuscript for publication. This includes checking for consistent spelling, punctuation and translation of key terms throughout the text. **Ask the Lord** to give the team stamina, alertness and keen eyes.

ETHNOS360

TIGAK; Papua New Guinea (15,000)

The team took a major step toward crossing the finish line last year — a consultant checked the remaining books of the New Testament!

- » **Lift** the team up as they press on to run the manuscript through checks of spelling, punctuation and key terms, read through the text a final time to ensure it communicates well and do multiple proof readings. They need good health, keen eyes and perseverance.

» The team is also translating Genesis, Ruth and some Old Testament portions to publish with the New Testament. **Ask God** to give them wisdom and to encourage them spiritually as they work so closely with God's Word.

» **Pray** Isaiah 40:31 over the team, that "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).

ETHNOS360

URA; Papua New Guinea (5,000)

The Ura people live in East New Britain Province on the island of New Britain in Papua New Guinea.

» **Rejoice**, the Ura New Testament was completed last year and sent for printing! **Thank the Lord** for faithful team members who diligently and sacrificially gave their time and energy to translate God's Word over the years.

» **Pray** for quality printing and binding and safe delivery of the books back to the island.

» **Lift up** the committee planning the dedication, that God will guide them to the best date and place when the most people can attend. **Pray** that the celebration will bring glory to God and attract people to his Word.

» **Ask the Lord** to soften the hearts of the members of a cult threatening the acceptance and distribution of the gospel in the area. **Pray** God will powerfully reveal himself to them so their lives are transformed.

SIL

VITU; Papua New Guinea (8,800)

This New Testament project faces unusual challenges. A couple in the Netherlands who are translators have been working remotely with Vitu speakers in Papua New Guinea to complete the final stages of the project. The wife is battling cancer.

» **Pray** for God's touch, strength and encouragement for the couple.

» **Lift up** Vena, the local translator, and his team in Papua New Guinea as they read through the New Testament a final time in the community to make sure the text sounds natural and is understood correctly.

» **Pray** for the team as they then work with a typesetter to format the New Testament. **Ask the Lord** to renew their strength and keep them alert as they make decisions about columns, fonts and page layout, and as they proofread the manuscript multiple times.

» **Claim** God's victory for this team; **ask** that he will "... accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20, NLT) in this project.

SIL

VULA'A; Papua New Guinea (4,600)

The Vula'a translation team had a setback in their attempt to get the drafted Old Testament and revised New Testament books through the final steps before publication — Dr. Jeremiah Tamate, the coordinator and chairman of the project, has been ill for a number of months.

» Please **pray** for Dr. Tamate's recovery. **Lift up** Alice Ralai and other team members as they try to keep the project going.

» **Pray** for the team to have focus, strength and perseverance so they can complete the remaining team, village and consultant checks. **Pray** that consultants are available when they are needed. When these steps are completed, the manuscript can be typeset and printed!

» **Praise God** for a church congregation on Fisherman's Island, off the coast of Papua New Guinea, who held a fish feast last year to raise funds for the translation project. The Fisherman's Island Hula (Vula'a) Bible Translation Fundraising Committee chairman said they are also encouraging corporate and business firms to support the project because "it will benefit our future generations."

BIBLE SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WARAN; Papua New Guinea (4,000)

On June 23, 2019, more than 2,500 Waran people gathered in Yar Village with international guests, representatives from nearby language groups and several government officials to celebrate the arrival of the Waran New Testament.

» **Praise God** for this historic event! The first copy of the New Testament arrived just like the gospel did 50 years prior — on a canoe from upriver. It was sacredly carried into the village in reverent silence and placed, still wrapped in cloth, before the grandstand. When two men approached the New Testament later in the program, the crowd came rushing forward, straining to catch a glimpse as the New Testament was unveiled. The emotion was palpable.

» **Rejoice** that, when a leader began to read from John 1, people stood in absolute silence and then broke into loud clapping and cheering when he finished. God's Word spoke to them in the sweetest language on earth — their own.

» **Pray** that the Waran people will embrace God's Word in their language.

» **Pray** that the celebration of the New Testament will launch a new era of excitement, renewal and revival among the people so that the kingdom of God may be strengthened and spread.

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS PAPUA NEW GUINEA

POLYNESIA

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

Pukapuka is a coral atoll and one of the most remote islands of the Cook Islands. Its culture and language has been maintained there over many centuries, but there are large communities of Pukapuka speakers in New Zealand and Australia also.

- » **Give thanks** that last July, the main translator named Mai took his elderly father to the isolated atoll for his final visit. While Mai was there, he got valuable community feedback on the finished translation.
- » **Lift up** the translation team as they complete consultant checks and finalize an index of topics, key terms and a small concordance to include in the New Testament.
- » **Ask God** to watch over the typesetting process, which begins this spring in Holland.
- » **Pray** that the final digital file can be sent to Sri Lanka mid-year for printing. **Pray** for the safe arrival of the Puka Yā (“Holy Book”) in time for the dedication which is tentatively scheduled for late 2020 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. **Pray** for unity as people plan and attend the dedication.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to bring great fruit from the daily Scripture readings posted on Facebook, sent via email and posted on <http://pukapuka.world/>.

WYCLIFFE NEW ZEALAND

Solomon Islands

CHEKE HOLO; Solomon Islands (10,800)

The Cheke Holo New Testament was published in 1993, but the people were not satisfied; they wanted the complete Bible in their language!

- » **Give thanks** for the team that is working hard to complete the Old Testament by 2022. **Ask God's Spirit** to renew them each day; it's a long and challenging process. **Claim** Isaiah 40:29 for them: “He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless” (NLT).
- » **Pray** for clear minds as they review several Old Testament books this year and check them with a consultant. They want to express the truths of God's Word accurately and naturally.
- » As some of the books are distributed in the community, **pray** for helpful feedback. **Ask God** to penetrate hearts and draw the Cheke Holo into a personal relationship with him.

BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY PARTNERSHIP; SIL

GAO; Solomon Islands (1,220)

The Gao people live on the southeast end of Santa Isabel Island, one of the major islands in the Solomon Islands. Rejoice, a team is working on translating the New Testament into Gao and hopes to complete it by 2022!

» **Bring** the team to the Lord as they review each book and check it with a consultant. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to keep them energized and healthy, and to increase their love for God and his Word.

» **Pray** that the training they receive will encourage them as they strive to produce a clear, accurate and natural sounding translation.

BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY PARTNERSHIP; SIL

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT – Rennell-Bellona language; Solomon Islands (4,500)

Rennell-Bellona is a Polynesian language in the Solomon Islands. Unlike most island dwellers in the Solomon Islands, the people of Rennell and Bellona live in the center of their islands, rather than along the coast, which is very rocky.

- » An initial New Testament in Rennell-Bellona was published in 1994. **Rejoice** that 17 years later, an Old Testament project led by local people began.
- » In anticipation of a complete Bible, a revision is being made of the New Testament. **Praise God** that the four Gospels were published this year and are being used in the communities. **Pray** for the Gospels to be received well, and ask God for more people to join the translation team.
- » **Lift up** the team as they press forward in completing the revision of the New Testament while also working on the Old Testament. **Ask the Lord** to give them good health, perseverance and wisdom for this immense task.

SEED COMPANY; SIL

ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT – Tikopia language; Solomon Islands (3,500)

Tikopia is a small island of volcanic origin in the Pacific. It is part of the Solomon Islands of Melanesia, but its culture is Polynesian. Tikopians have also settled in a number of colonies on other islands in the Solomons. An initial translation project led by one committed person was put on hold in 1990 due to a lack of resources.

- » **Praise God** that in 2005 a consultant in the Solomon Islands made two trips to Tikopia. As a result, two review committees were set up and a translation committee was established to translate the remaining books of the New Testament.
- » The Tikopian Gospels were published last year and are being used and reviewed by the wider community. The team hopes to complete a thorough review of all 27 books by the end of this year. One of the reviewers is taking translated books to different Tikopia communities spread throughout the Solomon Islands.

The translation has been improved through state-of-the-art software but also the painstaking process of manual writing with chalk on a blackboard. **Ask the Lord** to fill the review team with his Spirit as they seek feedback. **Pray** that the review process will create a hunger for God's Word among the Tikopians.

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ZABANA; Solomon Islands (3,600)

The Zabana people are located on the northern end of Santa Isabel Island, one of the major islands in the Solomon Islands. Praise God that the translation team there is approaching the finish line — they hope to complete the New Testament in 2021.

- » **Give thanks** that 2 Corinthians was checked by a consultant last year, and the team is now focused on completing Hebrews and Revelation.
- » **Pray** for God's Spirit to enlighten their minds so they can clearly convey the meaning of these valuable books to Zabana speakers.
- » **Pray** that the team will grow spiritually as they work closely with God's Word.
- » **Ask the Lord** to keep the team healthy and to minimize distractions so they can turn the manuscript in for typesetting mid-year.

ISLANDS BIBLE MINISTRIES

Vanuatu

EPI CLUSTER PROJECT — *Baki and Lamén languages*; Vanuatu (1,200)

The Baki and Lamén people are located on Epi Island, which is among the 80 islands comprising Vanuatu in the South Pacific Ocean.

- » **Praise God**, the Baki New Testament was printed last year, shipped from South Korea to Vanuatu and presented in a celebration on October 1. An audio edition is also available. The Baki people can now feast on God's Word in a language they clearly understand!
- » **Lift up** the Lamén translation team working on final edits on their manuscript this year. **Pray** especially that the translator and adviser in the project will make time to finish the final edits. Once they are completed, it can be typeset.
- » **Pray** that both the Baki and Lamén will testify with the prophet Jeremiah: "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight" (Jeremiah 15:16a, NIV).

LENAKEL; Vanuatu (11,500)

The entire New Testament has been drafted! 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.

- » Due to delays, an intermediary second-draft version is being printed for people to use while final checks are completed. **Give thanks** that it is the same text that was recorded two years ago and is available on MegaVoice players (hand-held, solar-powered digital audio players). These allow people to listen to the Scriptures wherever they are.
- » **Thank the Lord** that these Scriptures are getting into Lenakel hands. **Pray** for wide distribution of the print and audio editions and that God will draw many people to Jesus through them.
- » **Ask God** to open up periods of time in Tim's schedule so he can complete final checks. Checking the Lenakel Scriptures while also serving as a pastor is a challenge.

PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

MEREI; Vanuatu (600)

In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus tells the story of the good shepherd who left 99 sheep to find one lost sheep. Praise God for his love for the 600 speakers of Meri. They live on the remote Espiritu Santo island in the South Pacific Ocean. Espiritu Santo is part of Vanuatu.

- » **Thank the Lord** for the faithful and highly qualified local translators working on this project. **Ask God** to give them special wisdom, good health and perseverance as they press forward to finish the New Testament.
- » In January 2020, the project adviser and his family moved back to their home country of Australia. The adviser continues to work on the project remotely. **Pray** for good internet communication and that the team — in Australia and Vanuatu — will have focus they need to complete the translation.

