

THE 2020

# FINISH LINE





## DEAR FRIENDS,

God continues to use his life-changing Word to draw people around the world into his family. Through Scripture, people find comfort, wisdom, hope, healing and joy, but we know that there are still millions of people who are waiting to know the God who created and loves them.

We believe that your prayers are essential to Bible translation. Together in prayer we're sharing our hearts with God and joining him on his global mission to bring all people to himself.

In this booklet you'll read about 31 Bible translation projects that are within three years of completion. There is often increased spiritual opposition as people are about to finally receive God's Word. Right now, all around the world, translation projects are facing significant challenges.

These projects, teams and communities need your prayers to cross the finish line — you're running a great race with us to see that every man, woman and child has access to God's Word in a language and form that speaks to their hearts.

Thank you for your faithful prayers!

Until all the nations worship,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "John Chesnut". The script is fluid and cursive.

John Chesnut  
President/CEO  
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

# ABOUT THE FINISH LINE

Prayer is an important part of Bible translation, and it is especially critical during the final stages before completion. Often this is when spiritual attacks happen and troubles arise. The translations are so close to being done, but it can be difficult to persevere.

That's why The Finish Line exists. This booklet is a quick-access resource to help you pray more effectively for translations that are within three years of publication or arrival to a language group. These projects and teams need prayer, and you can be a part of the team that supports them.

But these 31 projects aren't the only ones in need; they represent more than 300 similar translation projects worldwide waiting to cross the finish line. Check out additional resources to stay up-to-date on the prayer needs of translation projects around the world.

## WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

### WYCLIFFE.ORG/FINISHLINE

A complete list of all projects sorted by area of the world.

### WYCLIFFE.ORG/JOINPRAYER

Prayer email updates and an updated Finish Line guide for each month.

### PRINTED COPY

To receive a printed copy of The Finish Line by mail, call **1-800-WYCLIFFE** (1-800-992-5433 ext. 3870) or email **prayer\_usa@wycliffe.org**.

# HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Each entry in The Finish Line is packed with useful information. For most projects, you'll find the country and population of the language group. If a translation project is handled by a partner organization, their name is included at the end of the entry.

Here's an example explaining what each section of the entry means.

LANGUAGE NAME

LOCATION

POPULATION

## DAY 4: LOBIRI; Burkina Faso (220,000)

The Lobiri New Testament is available in print and audio formats, but Christians want all of God's Word, so a project to provide the Old Testament began. 2 Kings and 1 Chronicles are complete. Psalms underwent a back translation check to verify accuracy and clarity.

- » **Pray** for harmony among the team members.
- » **Ask God** to put an end to subversive activity and to usher in a season of peace.
- » **Pray** that the Lobiri church leaders will become involved in and support the translation work.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)



# HOW DO I PRAY FOR TRANSLATION PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION?

*Every translation project is unique, but many face similar challenges and obstacles. You are welcome to use this list of prayer points to help you begin and focus.*

## **PRAY FOR THE TRANSLATORS**

Translation teams and their families are vulnerable at this time. Pray the Holy Spirit will encourage the translators and keep their focus on Jesus in every circumstance. Ask God to provide for them financially and for the health and stamina of them and their families during the process. Pray for healthy relationships with local denominations and that they will agree on wording and writing style of the translation.

## **PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE**

As a project nears completion, it is important to prepare those who will be receiving and engaging with the translated Word. Pray for the local church to incorporate the translated Word into their services. Pray that local communities will be excited for the completion and publication of the Scriptures and that they will be transformed by it.

## **PRAY FOR PROTECTION**

Many translators are living and working in sensitive areas. Pray that God will grant safety for those working in translation around the world — especially those working in secret. Also ask God to cover those who may experience sickness or natural disasters.

## **PRAY FOR PROGRESS**

Pray for the finalization of the text. Lift up accuracy for the typesetters who are often working in a language they don't understand. Pray for local readers to participate in a community check of the acceptability of the translation. Ask for God's favor in the printing process, that he will provide the resources needed to publish and that he will guard the delivery of finished products.

# PRAYING THROUGH THE STAGES OF A TRANSLATION PROJECT

**FIRST DRAFT:** A preliminary, tentative translation that will be tested and improved. Revisions continue throughout successive drafts.

**REVIEWER CHECK:** Speakers of the target language read through the translation to make corrections and suggest improvements.

**BACK TRANSLATION:** Rendering a translation back into a language of wider use, usually in a word-by-word or phrase-by-phrase format. The back translation enables consultants who do not know the target language to evaluate the accuracy and adequacy of the translation.

**CONSULTANT CHECK:** A skilled and experienced adviser meets with the translation team to discuss the wording of the translation, verse-by-verse. The adviser may share how known problem passages have been handled by others and also give advice on broader and more general aspects of the program.

**EXEGETICAL CHECK:** Ensuring accuracy in translation and faithfulness to the source text by comparing the translation to the original Greek or Hebrew.

**CONSISTENCY CHECK:** Ensuring consistent translation of key biblical terms, important theological concepts, Bible names and parallel passages throughout the entire text. Reasons for necessary variations are clarified.

**REVISION:** Changes made to the translation to improve accuracy and readability, making it more faithful to the original meaning and more natural in expression in the target language. Every translation goes through many revisions. Revisions require follow-through, entering corrections and further rechecking.

**FORMAT AND STYLE CHECK:** Ensuring that supplemental material is prepared and checked, including a preface, footnotes, glossaries, maps, pictures, captions and introductions to the books. Verses and chapters are numbered, and spelling, punctuation and paragraphing are checked.

**PROOFREADING:** The long, intense and demanding task of checking all the details of an entire manuscript, including those listed under “Format and Style Check.”

**TYPESETTING:** Once final decisions are made on the aesthetic presentation of the book (size and style of print, overall layout and design, etc.), the edition is ready for print.



A close-up portrait of a woman with dark hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored shawl with intricate geometric and floral patterns over a blue knitted sweater. In the foreground, she holds an open book with a bright red cover. The background is a plain, light blue wall. A yellow banner with red borders on the sides is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the title text.

# FROM TRIALS TO TRANSFORMATION: SIX QUECHUA TRANSLATIONS CROSS THE FINISH LINE

The victory of a Bible dedication can only come after years of hard work, sacrifice and, oftentimes, trials.

The Huaylas Quechua translation project in Peru was no different. While working on the New Testament, a catastrophic earthquake caused major delays and setbacks. Plus, one translator was diagnosed with cancer, and succumbed to the illness.

The team also encountered a unique set of logistical challenges as part of a larger six-language cluster project. In cluster projects, translation teams work together to reach multiple communities, dialects and variations within a language family.

It takes immense dedication to communicate God's Word in a way that will speak clearly and easily to a language community, but throughout the translation process, God transformed the lives of local translators and revealed his love and power to them through Scripture. Now the translators' work will transform their communities too!

At the dedication for the Huaylas Quechua Bible on August 10, 2019, a woman eagerly purchased a copy. She started to open it but first stopped to pray. She prayed and wept over the Bible for five minutes before opening it — preparing to receive God's Word in a language that speaks to her heart.

The Huaylas Quechua who worked on the translation were each presented with a special gold-gilded version of the Bible at the dedication. Timoteo, one of the translators, went blind before the completion of the project. When he was presented with his copy of the Bible, he caressed it and hugged it to his chest. He may never be able to read God's Word for himself, but after almost thirty years of working on the translation, he rejoices that his people now have the Bible.

Praise God that the translation teams completed six full Bibles in six Quechua varieties. The Quechua Cluster project has been featured for several years in The Finish Line, and your prayers helped bring these six Bibles to completion. Please continue to pray for the Quechua as they engage with Scripture and share their Bibles with those around them.

# 31 DAYS OF PRAYER

*Note: The following section is comprised of a list of 31 projects and how to pray for them. Unless otherwise noted, each project is for a complete translation of the New Testament. We are so grateful for your prayers and partnership in Bible translation.*

## DAY 1: UNABEL\*; Americas (1,800)

Two Unabel villages have been reading through the New Testament a final time to make sure the text sounds natural and is understood correctly.

- » **Pray** for feedback so the translation team can make any modifications necessary before the New Testament is typeset.
- » Key community leaders, both believers and unbelievers, are meeting to work through alphabet issues that need to be resolved before the New Testament can be published. **Pray** for good, productive meetings and openness among the participants so that a consensus can be reached. **Pray** that discussions will result in an alphabet that is easy for people to use.
- » **Ask the Lord** to renew the team's strength and keep them alert as they prepare the final text, maps, a glossary of terms, footnotes, illustrations and cross references for typesetting. **Pray** that their families will be healthy so they can stay focused. The team would like to be ready to typeset the New Testament by the end of this year.

## DAY 2: MONKOLÉ; Benin (25,000)

The Monkolé New Testament was published in 2007. A translation committee is working hard to complete the Old Testament and publish it, in one book, with a revised New Testament.

- » The consultant has been undergoing cancer treatments in Côte d'Ivoire. **Pray** for successful treatments so he can return to check the final books, book introductions and a glossary while the team is still together. The need is urgent since one member leaves Benin in March 2020. "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26, NLT).
- » **Pray** that all the details come together so the manuscript can be given to the typesetting team and prepared for printing.
- » **Ask God** to protect the team and their families. They have experienced illnesses, accidents and deaths in the past year.

SIM INTERNATIONAL

### DAY 3: JARAWARA; Brazil (210)

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

- » **Praise God** for the perseverance he has granted this team through the years. They are now typesetting the New Testament! **Lift up** one member of the team who is in the U.S. and working with a typesetter while on furlough. **Pray** for wisdom in decisions they make and for good progress. He plans to make some trips back to the village to work further with the team members there.
- » **Lift up** the local translators drafting Old Testament portions. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to encourage their hearts as they learn about the history of God's love for his people.
- » **Pray** that the New Testament can be published and dedicated this year! "... The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16, NLT).

SIL

### DAY 4: LOBIRI; Burkina Faso (220,000)

The Lobiri New Testament is available in print and audio formats, but Christians want all of God's Word, so a project to provide the Old Testament began. 2 Kings and 1 Chronicles are complete. Psalms underwent a back translation check to verify accuracy and clarity.

- » **Pray** for harmony among the team members.
- » **Ask God** to put an end to subversive activity and to usher in a season of peace.
- » **Pray** that the Lobiri church leaders will become involved in and support the translation work.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

## DAY 5: **AWING; Cameroon (20,000)**

Praise God! In 2019, the New Testament was sent for printing, and planning for a dedication service began. Due to the subversive activity in the area, Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy offers trauma healing workshops to many Awing people. During those workshops, many expressed their need to have a Bible as soon as possible.

- » **Intercede** on behalf of the Awing people. **Pray** that they will put their faith and trust in the Lord even though many of them are affected by the unrest in the region.
- » Please **pray** that peace will return to the area and many people will be able to attend the dedication. **Pray** that God will be glorified during this time of rejoicing.
- » **Ask the Lord** to prompt the people to use the Scriptures regularly in their homes and in their churches, studying them and meditating on them daily.

### CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

## DAY 6: **NDOP CLUSTER PROJECT — Bamunka language; Cameroon (31,000)**

Praise God for technology that allowed members of the Bamunka translation team — living separately in a Bamunka village, Ireland and the U.S. — to work together via the internet for a period of time last year.

- » **Ask the Lord** to inspire Pastor Edward and Jon Blackwell as they press forward with consultant Greg Beyer to check the final 25% of the New Testament. **Pray** they will all enjoy good health.
- » **Pray** for Pastor Edward and his family to adjust well to their new environment and new schools for the children. They moved out of their home area, which was affected by civil unrest, to a town with a calmer environment. **Ask God** to open up a way for other members of the translation team to join him for periods of time so they can make final checks of the New Testament and prepare it for publication.
- » One of the goals this year is to complete testing the way that tone is marked in the Bamunka language. This is critical to help people read the language easily. **Pray** for the best solution to this challenge.

### INTERCHURCH COMMITTEES OF BAMBALANG AND BAMUNKA; SIL; WYCLIFFE CANADA; WYCLIFFE UK

## DAY 7: GABRI MAJA; Chad (73,000)

Mysticism and animism have a stronghold over this region. People live in fear. Churches are actively working toward the day when they will see everyone impacted through Scripture in their language.

- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill the translation team with wisdom, energy and sound minds so they can meet their goals for 2020 which are to translate Romans, Philippians, Colossians, 1-3 John and Revelation, and do a consultant check on 2 Corinthians, Philippians, 1-3 John, Jude and Revelation.
- » **Pray** for good health for the team and their families so they can fully concentrate on the translation. Last year they battled illnesses.
- » **Ask Jehovah-jireh** to provide the team a new office at a reasonable cost.
- » **Lift up** the Gabri Maja committee as they mobilize funding for the project and encourage people to use Scripture portions that are already published. **Pray** for transformed lives, free from fears, through God's Word.
- » **Ask the Lord** to protect the translation team as they travel to work on busy roads where there are many accidents.

SEED COMPANY; SIL

## DAY 8: DEKAMO\*; East Africa (980,000)

Ninety percent of the Dekamo adhere to another majority religion, but acceptance of the Scripture translation project is growing among them as they share some Old Testament heritage. They are enthusiastic about having this Scripture in Dekamo rather than the foreign language of their holy book.

- » **Give thanks** that the Dekamo New Testament translation is complete and is being printed!
- » **Ask God** to protect the finished New Testaments as they are transported back to the language area. **Pray** for God to guide to the best way to celebrate and dedicate the New Testament and that many will attend — believers and non-believers alike.
- » The translation team is working on the book of Genesis. They are also producing the “JESUS” film. **Ask the Lord** to provide all they need, including equipment and good voice readers, so this evangelistic tool can soon be available to the Dekamo.
- » **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to work in Dekamo lives so that they will declare with the psalmist, “The very essence of your words is truth ...” (Psalm 119:160, NLT).

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS

## DAY 9: KAMBAATA; Ethiopia (570,000)

The Kambaata full Bible project came to a halt in 2018 during the process of transferring administrative management. One side effect was that the translators found other work. God's plan to provide the Kambaata with his Word cannot be thwarted, however. Prayer was raised up through The Finish Line and other sources, and God answered! "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16, NLT).

» **Thank the Lord** that several organizations are partnering to finish the project and that God raised up trained translators to complete the translation.

» **Lift up** the Korean Bible Society as they typeset and print the Bible. **Ask God** to fill them with joy. **Pray** that all the equipment will work well.

» **Pray** for a safe shipment of the books back to Ethiopia. Some Bible shipments are delayed due to an increased volume of shipping containers coming through the main Ethiopian port. **Ask our powerful God** to open up channels so that Bible shipments can get through in a timely manner.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-AMBARICHO BILATE SYNOD

## DAY 10: SURI; Ethiopia (26,900)

The Suri translation team is experiencing multiple transitions. One translator died in late 2018, another had to leave the team in 2019, a new translator has joined the team, another translator is in an internship and the team's adviser is now working remotely via the internet.

» **Pray** that God's Spirit will bring grace, peace and harmony to the team. "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness" (Romans 8:26, NLT). **Pray** that God's power will be evident.

» The team's goals this year include completing a consultant check of John and doing team and consultant checks of Mark, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John and Jude. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint them, keep them strong and fill them with wisdom as they work with God's precious Word.

**Pray** they will be refreshed in their souls through these Scriptures and make excellent progress.

SEED COMPANY; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTHWEST BETHEL SYNOD

## DAY 11: EASTERN SLOVAK ROMANI; Europe (500,000)

Since the Eastern Slovak Romani New Testament was published in 2014, people have been asking when the rest of the Bible will be available in their language. Local pastors and ministry leaders are eager to have more Scripture to use for discipleship and evangelism.

- » **Praise God**, the translation team has completed the 17 historical books of the Old Testament and published them electronically in an app. They have also made good progress on the poetic books.
- » **Pray** for good teamwork and for accuracy as they translate.
- » **Ask God** to protect the families of the translators. **Pray** that family members will support the translation team in their ministry.
- » **Lift up** the project leader and his wife who have been asked to take on additional ministry responsibilities; taking on more translation work would require leaving the leadership team in the local church. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to clearly guide them.

SEED COMPANY; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

## DAY 12: GUATEMALA CLUSTER PROJECT — *Achi, Awakateko, Ixil, Jakalteko, K'iche', Mam, Pokomchi' and Tz'utujil languages; Guatemala (2,321,480)*

The Guatemala Cluster Project serves eight Mayan language communities. Each community has the New Testament, but they are working toward having the full Bible! Team members travel to the capital city to work together.

- » **Pray** that God would keep the teams safe as they travel over mountainous roads. **Ask him** to fill them with energy, concentration and joy as they synchronize similar terms in the Old Testament and make final edits and revisions.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to protect the teams from disunity or other disruptions from the enemy.
- » **Lift up** the six teams (Achi, Awakateko, Ixil, K'iche', Mam, and Tz'utujil) who are beginning to revise the New Testaments that were completed years ago; they want to include the revised New Testaments in the complete Bibles.
- » **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to prepare people in these communities to encounter the living God and be set free from fear and bondage to false beliefs. **Pray** for believers to be a testimony of love, peace and hope to their families and communities.

MAYAN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION; SEED COMPANY; SIL

## DAY 13: LOLE; Indonesia (20,000)

On a windy hilltop in Rote Island, one of Indonesia's more than 17,000 islands, over 1,000 people gathered on June 10, 2019, to dedicate the Lole New Testament. Praise the Lord! The celebration was held at a culturally significant site near the village where a former Lole chief brought Christianity to his people around 1730. The festivities lasted over four hours and included a horse convoy, traditional dancers of all ages, combined choirs and drama groups.

- » **Thank the Lord** that Lole elders, regional government officials, high-level church leaders from the provincial capital and representatives from 15 church denominations attended. The Lole language was used throughout the service, and God was glorified.
- » **Pray** for God's Spirit to use the New Testament to bring many Lole into God's kingdom.
- » **Give thanks** for Albert Zacharias, one of the earliest members of the translation team. He sometimes missed consultant checking sessions over the last few years because of hospitalization due to his failing health. He prayed that God would allow him to finish the Lole New Testament, and God did! Albert couldn't attend the dedication, but a copy was delivered to his bedside. He entered heaven 18 days later, having finished his task.

KUPANG TRANSLATION CENTER; SEED COMPANY

## DAY 14: MOMA; Indonesia (6,000)

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck Indonesia's Central Sulawesi province in September 2018, triggering a tsunami and landslides that caused widespread destruction and loss of life. The Moma translation facilitator and her family had to move to another province and currently works with the team via internet.

- » **Pray** for a stable internet connection. **Pray** also for the funding necessary to cover transportation costs; the team and consultant need to meet in another location for consultant checks. **Ask the Lord** to help them complete consultant checks of the last four books. They can then present the complete New Testament to the Indonesian Bible Society for their final check before typesetting and publication.
- » The "JESUS" film has been recorded in Moma but lacks a local license for release. **Pray** that this will come through soon so the film can be distributed throughout the area and bring people to Christ.
- » **Praise God** that one member of the Moma team who was trained by Kartidaya, the national Bible translation association, has joined another translation program as their new facilitator! **Pray** for good working relationships and that the facilitator's church will support him financially.

KARTIDAYA

## DAY 15: MECCHOACÁN MIXTEC; Mexico (8,500)

A dream became a reality on May 25, 2019, when the Mechoacán Mixtec churches and community received the New Testament in their language. As the emcee quoted Jesus in Matthew 4:4 saying, “People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (NLT), he pulled out a copy of the New Testament from a bag normally used to hold large quantities of food. He demonstrated that the Mixtecs now have spiritual food for the rest of their lives!

» **Thank the Lord** for each person who faithfully worked at the translation desk or traveled to communities to check the drafts.

**Praise God** for providing consultants, finances, prayer partners and equipment.

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

SEED COMPANY; UNIÓN NACIONAL DE TRADUCTORES INDÍGENAS

## DAY 16: ALOÁPAM ZAPOTEC; Mexico (3,400)

In Ephesians 2:10 Paul said, “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago” (NLT). Give thanks for Pedro, a translator who is blind. God raised him up to record the New Testament for Aloápam Zapotec speakers!

» **Pray** that God will use this recording mightily among those who learn best orally or cannot read.

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

» **Give thanks**, the New Testament was typeset last year and sent for printing. **Pray** for God to oversee the printing process and for safe shipment of the books to the language area.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to guide preparations for a dedication and to draw many to attend and hear God’s life-giving Word. **Pray** that they will “hunger and thirst for righteousness” so they can be filled (Matthew 5:6, NIV).

SIL

## DAY 17: DADIYA; Nigeria (30,000)

The translation team is moving steadily toward the finish line. Early in 2020 they expect to complete the consultant checks of the entire New Testament!

- » **Lift up** the team and consultant as they finish checking Romans and then revise some of the first books they translated. They have grown in their abilities and understanding and want to improve these earlier translations. **Pray** that the revisions will result in books that communicate accurately, naturally and clearly.
- » The team will use Paratext software this year to run automated checks of spelling, punctuation and other features. **Ask God** to keep them motivated and healthy during this final sprint to the finish line and to find any items needing correction.
- » The Dadiya language uses tone to distinguish verbs. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to give the team insight into how to best represent the tones in writing. They need to settle this before typesetting the New Testament.
- » **Pray** for the Dadiya Christian community to follow through with their pledge to contribute financially toward the translation program.

SEED COMPANY

## DAY 18: 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

## DAY 19: 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

## DAY 20: FINALLIG; Philippines (6,170)

Three out of the four original translators have left this Old Testament translation project. Praise God for the remaining translator's commitment and for the consultants who have worked with her.

- » Last year, internet problems were an obstacle to finishing the final consultant check of the full Bible. **Pray** for steady and reliable internet so communication is not stymied between the translator and outside help.
- » **Pray** that the Bible can include an imprimatur (an official license from the Catholic Church). This would greatly increase the number of potential users.
- » **Pray** for completion of the typeset copy in Manila and a smooth printing process for the 3,000 copies ordered.
- » **Lift up** plans for a dedication this year, that it will be joyous and many will attend. **Pray** for churches to use the Bible in their services and Bible studies as well as in their homes.

FIALIKIA SCRIPTURE SOCIETY

## DAY 21: ISNAG; Philippines (65,000)

The Isnag New Testament was published in 1981, and a team hopes to provide the Old Testament in 2022!

- » The entire Old Testament has been drafted using Adapt-It, a computer program that facilitates translation between related languages. **Ask God** to fill the team with wisdom, health, strength and mental stamina as they check and retranslate the drafted books. It's demanding work but has rewarding results.
- » **Rejoice** that last year the team completed translating and checking Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges and Ruth.
- » **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to fill and enlighten the translators so they will accurately communicate God's Word; some passages are difficult to clearly render in Isnag.
- » **Ask God** to use Old Testament portions already circulating among the Isnag, and **pray** that the people will give valuable feedback to the team if parts need improvement.

SIL

## DAY 22: BURYAT; Russia (462,000)

The New Testament in Buryat was published by the Institute for Bible Translation in Russia in 2010. Separately, the Bible Society of Russia began to translate the Old Testament. The two organizations are working together to publish the complete Bible as one book. This is an immense project.

- » The project team is small and there are a lot of details to work through. **Ask the Lord** to help them manage their time well so that they can make good progress.
- » **Pray** that the team and their families will enjoy good health so they can stay focused and alert.
- » The exegetical adviser, who helps the team ensure that all the passages are accurate and faithful to the original biblical texts, is helping several translation projects simultaneously. **Ask God** to strengthen him and keep him encouraged.
- » **Pray** that Isaiah 55:11 will inspire the team: "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 RUSSIA; INSTITUTE FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION

## DAY 23: 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

## DAY 24: BARRAI\*; South Asia (160,000)

Last year the Barrai translation team built a soundproof recording room in their office and recorded the entire New Testament. They also produced Barrai Bible study materials and Bible stories in both printed and electronic formats.

- » **Intercede** for the team as they typeset the New Testament and it is printed.
- » **Praise God** that Barrai believers are meeting regularly for fellowship and worship in 10 villages, using Scripture portions already published. The Barrai Christian community is looking forward to the dedication celebrations that will happen later this year.
- » **Pray** for the committee that is planning the dedications to take place in several locations.
- » **Rejoice** that the wife of one of the translators finished her lymphoma treatment. She has follow-up checks every three months, so **pray** that the cancer does not return.
- » **Ask the Lord** to protect the Barrai team members and their office space. Security is becoming increasingly difficult due to government opposition to Christianity where the team is working.

## DAY 25: WARKA\*; South Asia (66,000)

When translations near completion, the enemy often puts up extra obstacles to try to prevent God's Word from reaching those in the language community.

- » The final New Testament books are ready to be checked, but the team faces challenges. **Pray** they will put on God's armor (Ephesians 6) so that checking can proceed unhindered and at a good pace.
- » **Pray** for church leaders to stand strong in the face of threats and temptations and for new believers to grow spiritually.
- » **Ask the Lord** to keep those who leave their homes to check the Scriptures safe and to protect their families while they are away.
- » **Pray** that the Warka Scriptures can be typeset and printed this year. It is a big goal, but: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14, NLT).
- » **Present** the Warka churches to the Lord, asking him to establish them and build them on the foundation of his Word.

## DAY 26: CHAWMA\*; Southeast Asia

Thank the Lord for the translation team working hard to dedicate the Chawma New Testament in 2021.

- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to renew the team's energy as they work to complete Hebrews in the first few months of 2020. This is a difficult book; **pray** that they can find just the right words to accurately and beautifully convey the deep truths of Hebrews in Chawma.
- » **Lift up** the team as they carefully proofread the New Testament and check for consistent use of key terms, punctuation and spelling. **Pray** for sharp eyes, perseverance and wisdom.
- » **Intercede** for the Chawma people, praying that more would come to faith in Christ and attend Sunday worship services. **Pray** that many Chawma children would go to Sunday school and that more adults would attend the women's and men's Bible studies.

## DAY 27: NAP\*; Southeast Asia (12,000)

Nap people live in a region that has experienced significant conflict. The political situation is becoming more stable, but challenges remain. Every book of the Bible that Nap translators complete is enthusiastically received and put to use in local churches. Believers eagerly anticipate the completion of the full New Testament.

- » **Give thanks**, the Nap people will receive their New Testament this year! Last year God enabled the team to do a final review of the whole manuscript, typeset it and send it for printing. **Thank the Lord** for his gracious hand on the team.

- » **Ask God** for his favor as the team plans two dedications around March this year: one inside the country and one in another country. **Pray** that many will attend and will be drawn into a personal relationship with Christ.
- » **Pray** for wide distribution of the Scriptures among all Nap speakers and that copies will soon grow worn with use.
- » **Lift up** the translation team as they continue working on the Psalms.

## DAY 28: RAKALI EAST\*; Southeast Asia (30,000)

The Rakali East translation teams are working to provide the Scriptures for two dialects of Rakali East. They need prayer to overcome challenges!

- » **Lift up** the team who is working with dispersed speakers in the U.S. to record the New Testament. **Thank the Lord** for Faith Comes By Hearing, who is assisting the team. They would like to complete the recording by this summer. An audio version of the New Testament will enable this primarily oral culture to listen to and be transformed by God's Word in a language that speaks to their hearts.
- » The other team has completed the translation but lacks consultant checks. The one national consultant who can understand and communicate with the team is also consulting for three other related languages. **Ask God** to open up time in his schedule to work with the Rakali East team. The Gospels have been checked, but the remaining 23 books all need checking too.

## DAY 29: VAGAS\*; Southeast Asia (55,000)

The three members of this translation team all have other important responsibilities. One is a widow with three children in school. In addition, she holds a second job with her church that requires her to travel internationally. Another member of the team is a busy lay pastor and grandfather. And the other member coordinates additional translation projects along with training and mentoring other translation teams in the country.

- » **Pray** that each member of the team will have God's wisdom in balancing their responsibilities and that God will grant them sufficient time and energy to make progress on the translation.
- » The team would like to have most of Paul's epistles completed by mid-year so they can move on and finish the remaining epistles by mid-2021. **Ask the Lord** to fill them with wisdom, strength and focus. **Pray** that the passages they work on will refresh their souls and spirits.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare fertile soil in Vagas hearts, and **pray** that many will come to a transforming relationship with Christ.

## DAY 30: DONG LUANG BRU; Thailand (20,000)

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

- » **Rejoice** over the progress God has given the translation team! Last year they received the final consultant check of Matthew, 2 Corinthians, 2 Timothy and 1 Peter.
- » They are pressing hard to finish the New Testament. **Ask God** to grant the team wisdom, and **pray** that they can get eight more books (John, Philemon, Hebrews, 2 Peter, 1-3 John and Jude) checked by a consultant this year.
- » **Ask God** to keep the translation team and their families healthy and safe.
- » An integral step in the translation process is checking the translated Scripture drafts with readers who have not heard them before to see if they are clear and sound natural. **Ask the Lord** to provide more people to help with this step and give good feedback on the text.
- » **Pray** that God will give creativity to those trying to raise finances to print the New Testament.

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## DAY 31: 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.



Thank you for praying for these 31 translation projects.

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And this is the confidence that we have  
toward him, that if we ask anything  
according to his will he hears us.

— 1 John 5:14 (ESV)

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