

# **AFRICA**

#### GHERMA\*; Africa (20,000)

A joyful dedication was held for the Gherma New Testament in July 2018 in a large city! The translation team is planning to translate the Old Testament next.

- » **Pray** that the Lord will strengthen and encourage the translation team as they begin the Old Testament work.
- » **Ask God** to transform the hearts of the people through his Word. The majority are Muslims but because of Scripture use, an underground church is taking root.
- » *Lift up* the Christians living among the Gherma people. *Pray* that God will give them strength to view persecution in light of James 1:2-3 (NIV): "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance."
- » *Intercede* for new Christians who are being rejected or persecuted by their families. *Thank God* that he is with them even in hardships. *Pray* that he will show them he is their comfort and joy even when they don't understand the circumstances.

### **ANGOLA**

#### LUCAZI; Angola (400,000)

The original New Testament for Lucazi was published in 1935, and the whole Bible came out in 1963. The Lucazi community is primarily Christian, and there was need to do a new translation, beginning with the New Testament.

- » *Thank the Lord* for the Bible Society of Angola who has managed the project. The New Testament manuscript has been approved, proofread and is ready for printing.
- » **Ask the Lord** to oversee the printing process so the print will be clear and the books well bound.

- » **Pray** for the Lucazi committee that is planning for a dedication, that God will guide them to a venue and date when many people can attend.
- » **Pray** that this new translation will spark increased interest and use of God's Word and that people will grow in their love and knowledge of God.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ANGOLA — BIBLESOCIETY-ANGOLA.ORG

#### NYANEKA-MWILA; Angola (600,000)

The translation team visited over 28 communities last year to tell people about Nyaneka-Mwila Scriptures. In one town, a young man named Chomomutima asked when the Bible in Nyaneka-Mwila would arrive. He said the need for Bibles in his language is great because many of his people do not understand the national language.

- » Praise God for the fervent initiatives the team is making to create enthusiasm and acceptance for the Scriptures.
- » The books of Genesis, Matthew, Mark and Philippians are already in people's hands. *Pray* for these books to transform lives and show both the power of God and the personal relationship he offers through Jesus.
- » Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint the translators as they press forward to move each book through the steps of the translation process. **Pray** that the Scriptures they are working on will touch their hearts and increase their love and knowledge of God. **Pray** for good health for them and their families.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ANGOLA; SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### SONGO; Angola (50,000)

The Songo translators made procedural adjustments to help them better organize and track the whole translation process. These changes improved the way they studied, drafted and revised the biblical text.

- » **Praise God**, Luke and Acts have been published and will be available to the Songo early this year. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to use these key books to create hunger and anticipation for having the entire New Testament soon.
- » *Lift up* the translation team as they forge ahead, checking the final New Testament books with a consultant. *Pray* for wisdom, strength and joy for each person.
- » Professing Songo Christians tend to be nominal and ritualistic and have little understanding of Scripture. **Pray** for the Bible Society of Angola and the local churches as they work together to encourage spiritual growth by using the Songo Scriptures.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ANGOLA; SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### UMBANGALA; Angola (400,000)

The hard work of the translation team is reaping results. They are moving toward the finish line.

- » *Lift up* the group that is proofreading the New Testament manuscript. It takes concentration, good health and alert eyes. *Pray* they will find any errors before it is sent for printing.
- » **Pray** for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in Umbangala hearts so they will treasure God's Word and be a people "... whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 144:15, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ANGOLA — BIBLESOCIETY-ANGOLA.ORG

### **BENIN**

#### AJA; Benin (910,000)

Despite a pause in funding for the project, the Aja translation team has continued to make progress throughout the year. Several Old Testament books were drafted for the first time, and the four Gospels were prepared for publication.

- » **Pray** for completed testing of the New Testament to ensure the texts are clear and sound natural. **Ask God** to grant the team wisdom as they finalize each book.
- » **Praise the Lord** for the publication and distribution of the book of Mark! **Pray** for God to soften the hearts of the people to accept and welcome his Word.
- » **Pray** that the local Aja church association will have new vitality after being inactive for many years. May they join believers together in unity to raise awareness of the upcoming translation.

ALLIANCE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE IN AJA; BIBLE SOCIETY OF BENIN; SIL

#### BIALI; Benin (160,000)

Praise the Lord, a dedication for the Biali New Testament was held on June 20, 2018, in the main Biali village, and all 2,000 printed books sold within a month!

- » *Intercede* for the team as they look for funding to reprint the New Testament. May Jehovah-jireh be their great provider. They have also started to translate the Old Testament.
- » **Pray** that the New Testament will be a powerful tool in the Biali churches to transform lives and help make disciples.
- » **Ask the Lord** to give the local association's leaders inspiration and creative ideas to involve people with the Scriptures.
- » *Thank the Lord* for literacy teachers, and *pray* that many Biali will learn to read their language.
- » **Pray** that the Biali will fall in love with God's Word and with Christ.

SIL

#### IDAASHA; Benin (101,000)

After the final consultant checks of Romans and Revelation were completed last year, the entire New Testament was tested and read aloud in the community to make sure it was clear and sounded natural. In addition, the translation team was trained in the use of Paratext, software that provides translators with automated checks to evaluate the accuracy and consistency of a translation draft.

- » *Intercede* for the team as they use Paratext this year and typeset the New Testament. It is a detailed and arduous task. They need good health and alert minds.
- » **Ask Jehovah-jireh** to provide for the expenses of typesetting, printing, shipping and dedicating the New Testament.
- » **Pray** for community ownership of the Idaasha project as church leaders are trained in the vision of Bible translation and language development.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; WYCLIFFE BENIN; WYCLIFFE NETHERLANDS

### MONKOLÉ; Benin (25,000)

The Monkolé New Testament was published in 2007, and a translation committee is pressing forward to complete the Old Testament.

- » Please *pray* for stable electricity, better internet service and for equipment to work well despite regular high heat. These all directly impact the team's progress on the translation.
- » **Ask God** to enable the project's consultant to make regular visits to the team and to clearly guide in linguistic decisions impacting the translation.
- » *Thank the Lord* for good health the team and their families have enjoyed; *pray* this will continue.
- » *Praise God*, the team has recorded the New Testament, and the audio version is now available to Monkolé speakers. *Pray* for great fruit as people listen to God's Word.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to use the New Testament and Old Testament books already available to impact people's lives and that more and more Monkolé will hunger and thirst for God's Word.

SIM INTERNATIONAL — SIM.ORG

#### NATENI; Benin (66,000)

Rejoice — the Nateni people now have the New Testament in their language! The dedication was held in June 2018 in the main Nateni town, and about 700 books sold within a month!

- » **Ask God** to speak through his Word and transform the lives of all Nateni who come in contact with it.
- » Pray that the people will love God's Word and more will become interested in training to help Old Testament translation work.
- » Pray for the local leaders to be inspired and creatively reach out to engage people with the Scriptures. Ask God to raise up others to be trained in Scripture engagement.
- » **Pray** that many Nateni will take advantage of literacy classes offered so they can be enriched spiritually reading God's Word and serve their community and others with their skills.

SIL

#### YOM; Benin (300,000)

The Yom people will soon have the whole Bible in their language! The translation team is finalizing the page layout process, and then it will be sent to South Korea for printing.

- » **Pray** for quality printing and binding of 3,000 copies ordered and safe delivery of the books back to Benin, through customs and to the language area.
- » The team is recording the New Testament with the help of Faith Comes By Hearing. *Ask God* to provide good readers with strong, clear voices. *Pray* that the readers will be impacted as they read aloud God's Word.
- » *Lift up* the committee organizing a dedication for later in 2019. *Ask the Lord* to guide them to a good venue, for the right components of the program to come together, and for many to volunteer to help with logistics and providing a meal for everyone.
- » *Thank the Lord* that a local Christian bookstore will handle sales of the Bibles. *Pray* for effective ongoing distribution across the whole Yom-speaking area and that many Yom will say with the psalmist, "How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey" (Psalm 119:103, NLT).

SIM INTERNATIONAL — SIM.ORG

## **BOTSWANA**

#### KALANGA; Botswana (150,000)

As the Kalanga Bible was presented in a joyous dedication on August 25, 2018, the wind picked up suddenly, and one visitor was reminded of Pentecost, when God's Spirit blew like a mighty wind. The apostles then spoke in the languages of the people present. On dedication day, the Kalanga people were reminded that God speaks Kalanga, too!

- » **Praise God** for his hand on those who persevered for over 30 years in this project. Many obstacles interrupted progress, including some who did not think the translation was needed. But attitudes changed, and the whole country takes pride now in the Kalanga Bible, the first full Bible to be dedicated in Botswana.
- » *Thank the Lord* for wide support. The keynote speaker at the dedication was the chairperson of the Botswana National Assembly. She, along with other dignitaries, showed their support for the Kalanga people and the desirability for Bible translation in other languages.
- » The Bible was presented in a basket of sorghum. Sorghum is a staple crop in Botswana, considered the bread of life. *Pray* that God's Word will have even greater importance than this grain that people depend upon for survival and that the Word will lead to the true Bread of Life, Jesus Christ.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF BOTSWANA; LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS — LBT.ORG

# **BURKINA FASO**

#### BWAMU CWI; Burkina Faso (24,000)

There are very few pastors among the Bwamu Cwi to shepherd the flock and evangelize.

- » Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more servants to teach the people God's Word, bring comfort and model Christ.
- » There has been drought. **Pray** for a good rainy season so the people have drinking water and the crops will grow. **Pray** for people's hearts to be thirsty for God's Word at the same time.
- » *Thank the Lord* for progress made last year on the translation. Acts, Romans and Philippians were checked by a consultant, and Romans, Ephesians and Hebrews were revised.
- » *Pray* for the Holy Spirit to infuse the team with courage, wisdom and strength to press forward, book by book, to the completion of the translation. *Pray* that they will be encouraged as they meditate on God's Word

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#### BUAMU LAA; Burkina Faso (69,200)

God blessed last year! Among other activities, the translation team checked six epistles with a consultant (Ephesians, Philippians, 1-2 Timothy and 1-2 Thessalonians), recorded 1 Corinthians for radio broadcast and smartphone use, and held five literacy classes in five different villages.

- » A new translator was also recruited to strengthen the capacity of the team. *Lift* him up, that he will learn well in the training sessions and quickly be able to help the team
- » **Ask God** to provide the members of the project and their families with good health.
- » Pray for continued good attendance at literacy seminars and that all those who attend would become good readers.
- » *Lift up* those recording the "JESUS" film in Buamu Laa, that the equipment will work well and the readers' voices will be clear. *Pray* that this film and available Scriptures will be used by God to lead the Buamu Laa out of darkness into God's glorious light.

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#### DYAN; Burkina Faso (15,000)

When a translation nears completion, spiritual warfare often takes place. The forces of evil do not want to see the light of the gospel of Christ penetrate their darkness.

- » The team has felt attacked in various ways. Ask God's Spirit to protect them and help them firmly hold the shield of faith.
- » **Pray** that the Lord will spur the hearts of the Dyan to embrace his Word in their language and regularly use it in their homes and churches.
- » **Ask** the Lord to use the sword of the Spirit, his Word, to enlighten the eyes of the Dyan people that worship idols. May they move from darkness to light and be transformed.
- » *Lift up* the translation team as they press to complete the translation by the end of 2019.
- » The team is also adapting the "JESUS" film in Dyan. **Pray** for God to pave the way so it can be available soon. **Ask the Lord** to provide readers with good, clear voices.

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# KASEM; Burkina Faso (194,000)

Kasem is spoken in southern Burkina Faso near the border with Ghana. The area is hilly, and the climate is oppressively hot and receives an abundance of rain during the rainy season.

» **Praise God** that a new person joined the Old Testament translation team last year and was trained in translation principles. The team also made headway in revising Isaiah and Hosea, and a consultant completed checking Ecclesiastes, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Hosea and Haggai.

- » **Ask the Lord** to protect the team members and their families and grant them good health as they press forward on translating the Old Testament books. It's an enormous task.
- » *Give thanks* that two local radio stations have agreed to broadcast Scripture-use programs prepared by the team! *Pray* that these programs will inspire Kasem speakers to engage with the Scriptures and use them regularly in their homes and church meetings.

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### KOROMFÉ; Burkina Faso (196,000)

Hallelujah — the Koromfé New Testament was dedicated in the capital city of Oaugadougou April 28, 2018! Subsequently, smaller celebrations were held in the local language area.

- » **Praise God** for this momentous occasion in the history of the Koromfé people. **Pray** that the people will treasure God's Word and use it in their daily lives and church gatherings.
- » Pastor Boureima, the project leader, died a few months after the dedication ceremony. *Thank the Lord* that he could see the fruit of his labors, and *ask God* to comfort his family and the translation team.
- » The team would like to actively promote use of the Scriptures and hold some Scripture engagement classes in the community but lacks funds. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to lead the team to creative resources to meet this important need.

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#### LOBIRI: Burkina Faso (220,000)

The Lobiri are in southern Burkina Faso near the border with Côte d'Ivoire. The Lobiri New Testament is available in print and audio formats, but the Christians wanted the whole of God's Word, so a project to provide the Old Testament is underway.

- » *Thank the Lord* for progress on Numbers, the Psalms, Song of Songs, Daniel and Hosea last year.
- » **Praise God**, the team was able to publish Proverbs. **Pray** that this unique, rich book will draw the attention of many in the community and cause them to seek the one true God.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to protect the team from outside distractions and stay focused on the translation so progress improves. **Pray** that they will "... be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10, NLT).
- » **Pray** for great transformation among the Lobiri and that believers and the church will grow as they apply the Scriptures to their lives.

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#### NORTHERN NUNI; Burkina Faso (93,000)

About 15 percent of the Northern Nuna follow Christ, but many others have resisted the gospel message because of the dominance of traditional religion. They believe the world is full of spirits and gods that control social events, harvests and health.

- » **Praise God**, the translation of the New Testament into Northern Nuni is in the final stages. The team is finishing work on the last books and then will typeset the New Testament. **Ask God** to fill them with strength and wisdom to accurately translate God's precious Word.
- » **Pray** for the Nuna community, that God's Word will penetrate deeply and change people's lives, giving them hope and freedom in Christ from the fears they live with.
- » *Thank the Lord* for August, the project manager, who plans to do theological studies. *Pray* that these studies will better equip him to serve and minister to his people.

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# NORTHERN SAN MACAA and NORTHERN SAN MAYAA; Burkina Faso (144,000)

These two New Testament projects for neighboring languages are being run simultaneously.

- » **Praise God**, the teams have developed and aired some radio programs that use Scripture. **Pray** that the programs will result in spiritual fruit and an increased hunger for God's Word.
- » The teams revised 2 Corinthians and 1-2 Peter, and checked Hebrews with a consultant last year. *Ask the Lord* to encourage them and give them grace and peace as they move forward on other books.
- » In light of instability in the country, **pray** for God's protection over the teams and their families. **Pray** for peace and the light of God's Word to penetrate the darkness.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to bring unity and reconciliation between different bodies of the church.

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#### PUGULI; Burkina Faso (22,000)

The Puguli live in southern Burkina Faso, where their economy is based on farming. Most still follow their traditional ethnic religions.

- » **Rejoice**, the Puguli will receive the New Testament in their heart language this year! It was typeset late last year and sent for printing. **Ask God** to watch over and protect the printing presses, the binding machines and the finished New Testaments as they are transported back to Burkina Faso.
- » *Lift up* the committee planning the dedication, that God will lead them to the right venue and a time when many can attend.

- » **Ask God** to anoint literacy and Scripture engagement activities so that many Puguli will be ready and eager to use the New Testament.
- » **Pray** that pastors will joyfully embrace and use the Scriptures in their language.

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#### TOUSSIAN; Burkina Faso (34,000)

Give praise, the Toussian community received the New Testament in their language late last year!

- » *Thank the Lord* for his faithfulness to the translation team through the years. There were health concerns, security issues, computer problems and other obstacles, but God accompanied the team through every challenge and gave the victory.
- » The team would like to run literacy and Scripture engagement activities to better equip people to read and use the New Testament, but they lack funding. **Pray** for God to provide and lead to creative solutions.
- » **Ask God** to use the Scriptures to draw people to himself, revealing his love for the Toussian people. **Pray** that the Toussian will cry out to God with the psalmist, "Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions" (Psalm 119:18, NLT).

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#### WINYÉ; Burkina Faso (55,000)

"I love my work as a translator," said Bizéni, coordinator of the Winyé team. "It helps me to better understand the Scriptures as I apply them in my own everyday life."

- » *Thank the Lord* that Acts and Romans have been published and Romans is available in audio also. *Pray* that the rich truths in these and other books available will mature the believers and attract unbelievers.
- Ask the Lord to give the team good progress this year in the translation. They would like to complete
   1-2 Peter, 1-3 John and Jude, a consultant check of the Gospel of John and a team review of Revelation.
- » One of the translators was in a serious accident. **Pray** for his complete healing and for good health for each member of the team and their families.
- » The Winyé people are dependent on good harvests for their food. **Pray** for a good rainy season so their physical needs can be met. **Pray** they will also hunger and thirst for God's Word.

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## **CAMEROON**

### AGHEM; Cameroon (60,000)

Last year, the Aghem translation team celebrated all of their hard work by sending the New Testament to a printer for publication! They also made much progress revising and editing their dictionary.

- » **Pray** for the printing process to run smoothly and quickly. They look forward to dedicating the New Testament, together with the dictionary, this year. **Lift up** those planning the dedication, that they will know when and where to hold it so that many can attend.
- » **Ask the Lord** to grant the books safe passage back to the language area and that the Aghem people will be excited to receive God's Good News.
- » **Ask God** to give the team creativity and ideas to increase community involvement in Scripture engagement and literacy activities.

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# ALVARE\* and ZAVAR\*; Cameroon (8,500 and 10,500)

These translation teams, working concurrently, press forward courageously under difficult conditions. The area where these groups live is politically insecure.

- » Pray against subversive activities in the area and that God's name will be lifted up amidst it all. There is also a food crisis and diseases threatening the people. Ask God to provide and protect!
- » *Lift up* the members of the translation teams and their families. *Pray* for strong physical, mental and spiritual health.
- » **Thank the Lord** for good collaboration between the local translation teams and those working alongside of them, sometimes from a distance. **Pray** for reliable internet connections.
- » As they press forward on the translation, **pray** that God's Spirit will apply the truths of the Word to the translators' hearts and encourage them in their love for and trust in God.
- » **Pray** for good progress on their dictionaries and in conducting literacy classes.

#### AWING; Cameroon (20,000)

- » The Awing New Testament was sent to a printing firm last year, and dedication planning began!
- » *Lift up* the New Testaments as they are being printed. *Pray* for good quality results and that they will arrive back safely and in good condition.
- » **Pray** for the committee planning a dedication, that they will be unified and that the celebration will bring God glory. **Pray** for many Awing to be mobilized to attend the dedication. **Pray** that complete peace will return to the region so that many Awing people can attend the dedication.
- » *Thank God* for the community leaders who have been trained to engage with the Scriptures and to pass that knowledge on to others. *Pray* that people will use the Scriptures regularly in their homes and in their church services.

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#### BABANKI; Cameroon (15,280)

Praise the Lord — the Babanki New Testament has been successfully printed, and dedications were held in two large villages called Small and Big Babanki on April 21 and 28, 2018, respectively. The venues were the village chiefs' palaces!

- » *Thank God* for bringing the books safely to the people. *Pray* that the New Testaments will impact the Babanki community "... immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to [God's] power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20, NIV).
- » *Pray* for church leaders to use the Word of God in Babanki and encourage believers to do the same.
- » *Lift up* plans to build community literacy centers in the region. May the people fall in love with reading their language and consequently fall in love with reading the Word.
- » Pray for the safety of everyone living in the northwest area of Cameroon where the Babanki are.
  Ask God to give them peace and joy despite the unrest in the area.

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#### BUWAL; Cameroon (20,000)

The Buwal live in the far northern region of Cameroon where insurgent activity occurs.

- » **Ask God** to protect the Buwal people, translation team and project staff as they travel in the area for their work. **Pray** for those who oppose the gospel to come to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- » *Thank the Lord* that seven books were revised and/ or checked by a consultant last year. The translators are working hard, and their effort is evident. *Lift up* their health, asking God to give them strength and wisdom to finish strong.
- » **Pray** for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over the Buwal community so the Scriptures will be impactful, transform lives and inspire more people to contribute to Bible translation in the area. May God's Spirit fill them with contagious peace and joy that lifts up the name of Jesus and impacts the people around them.

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#### KARANG; Cameroon (18,000)

Consultant checking is a requirement for every Bible translation. A consultant thoroughly goes over the translation with the team, checking for accuracy, clarity and naturalness, and looking for omissions, extraneous thoughts or possible misconceptions.

» **Praise God** for technology that allows the consultant for this project to finish checking the final epistles remotely via the internet. **Pray** that connections will be stable and for good interactions with the translation team.

- » *Lift up* the team as they prepare to typeset the New Testament and then print it. They will also make an audio recording. May the process move forward seamlessly, with God's Spirit providing for and anointing each step.
- » *Pray* for unity and God's guidance as a copyright memorandum of understanding is drawn up between the main parties involved in publishing the New Testament.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in the Karangs' hearts so they treasure God's Word and are a people "... whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 144:15, NLT).

SIL

#### MBEMBE; Cameroon (60,000)

2018 was a productive year for the Mbembe team. The New Testaments were printed and shipped to Cameroon, the local language and development association was formalized, and the "JESUS" film was dedicated. They are now planning the highly anticipated Scripture dedication and spreading God's Word to all Mbembe speakers.

- » *Thank the Lord* for his favor to complete the Mbembe New Testament! *Ask God* to give the team clarity and unity as they plan the details of the dedication.
- » *Lift up* the dedication in prayer, that the day and everything leading up to it will be "... all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31, NLT).
- » **Pray** for wisdom as the team works to complete a Mbembe dictionary. Once available, the dictionary will increase people's desire to read their language and give it more prestige.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

— CABTALORG

## MISAJE CLUSTER PROJECT — Chung, Kemedzung, Mungog, Naami, Nchane and Saari languages; Cameroon (46,200)

More than half of northwestern Cameroon's Misaje people are Christians, but few have separated themselves from old traditions involving spirit worship. This project will provide the New Testament, portions of the Old Testament, and the "JESUS" film for these six languages. It is under Cameroonian leadership and includes a total of 23 translators and 15 staff members.

- » **Praise God**, 80 percent of the New Testaments have been checked by consultants. With one of the two main consultants leaving, **ask God** to raise up another to help with the remaining 20 percent.
- » *Lift up* the translators as they use the software Paratext to evaluate the accuracy and consistency of the translations. *Pray* they will find all changes needing to be made. The six New Testaments are scheduled to be typeset in 2020.
- » **Pray** for peace to reign in the Misaje Cluster area and in people's hearts.

» The Inter Church Committees are beginning to plan for dedications. **Pray** for unity and clear direction. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to be drawing many in these six language groups into a deep walk with Christ.

SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

# NDOP CLUSTER PROJECT — Bambalang and Bamunka languages; Cameroon (60,000)

The Bambalang New Testament is scheduled to be dedicated and delivered to Bambalang communities in February 2019! Thank the Lord for this great milestone.

- » **Pray** that God will be honored and glorified in the dedication and that his Word will bring people to know that he is the one who can meet all their needs.
- » *Rejoice*, the main translator for Bamunka obtained his theology degree and has been working full time; the New Testament is 70 percent checked. *Ask the Lord* to inspire him as he presses forward with a consultant to check the final 30 percent.
- » **Pray** for safety and good health for the translation teams and literacy personnel. In the midst of insecure political realities, **pray** that people will turn to God and put their hope in him. **Pray** for believers to boldly share the Good News with others and that God's light will drive away the darkness.
- » **Pray** that many more people will become literate in their language.
- » **Bring to the Lord** the need for people to use the Scriptures that are available, listen to what has been recorded and watch a dubbed video of the Gospel of Luke.

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

#### NGOMBALE; Cameroon (105,000)

As the Ngombale New Testament enters the final phases of publication, it is time to start readying for a dedication.

- » **Pray** for wisdom and unity over the dedication committees as they make plans. **Ask God** to give them inspiration and creativity for engaging different groups of society in the celebration.
- » *Lift up* the literacy and Scripture engagement activities in the community. *Pray* for an increasing interest and hunger in the people for the Word of God.
- » **Pray** that pastors will joyfully embrace and use the Scriptures in their language.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

#### NULIBIE; Cameroon (6,400)

Twenty-five years ago, the Nulibie joined the Bible translation movement, and they are steadily advancing toward their goal of a full New Testament.

» **Praise God**, last year four New Testament books were dedicated and made accessible to the people!

In addition, five books were checked by a consultant. **Pray** for willing and available consultants to help the translation team check the remaining books by the end of this year.

- » **Ask God** to give the community leaders a love for their language and a passion for the translation project, providing leadership and support for the team whenever they can.
- » **Ask Jehovah-jireh** to provide the finances necessary to bring the project to completion.
- » *Lift up* the Nulibie people hearing the gospel for the first time. *Claim* God's promise in Isaiah: "I send [my Word] out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it" (Isaiah 55:11, NLT).

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

### OROKO; Cameroon (106,000)

The Oroko people live in an area of Cameroon with great political unrest. The New Testament (along with Genesis) arrived from the printers last fall, and a dedication was tentatively scheduled for November, but the unrest made it uncertain. Praise God, it was dedicated December 22 in the language area, and a second dedication may take place in the capital city in 2019.

- » **Pray** for peace in Cameroon! **Ask the Holy Spirit** to move during this time of suffering and for many to turn to Christ. **Pray** that God's Word will reach the Oroko people, bringing them inner peace and hope to the Oroko people.
- » **Praise God** that the first 500 copies of the "JESUS" film sold out and 2,000 more copies were printed. Large public showings have been sparse due to the unrest; however, many people view the DVD in their homes. **Pray** that people will encounter the living Jesus and be comforted in their relationship with him.
- » Reading seminars and other literacy activities are mostly on hold because of security issues. *Pray* for God to lead to creative approaches even as they plead with God for earthly peace and normal activities to resume.

WORLD TEAM — GLOBAL.WORLDTEAM.ORG

#### PANA; Cameroon (100,000)

Pana speakers live where Central African Republic, Cameroon and Chad border each other, but the translation project is being carried out in Cameroon. Thank God for the progress made last year! The team completed the revision and testing of eight New Testament books as well as some consultant checks.

- » *Lift* the team up as they typeset the New Testament in Cameroon. *Pray* the process runs smoothly and without any glitches to produce quality books.
- » *Intercede* for security and safety in the Central African Republic so that the Pana people in that country can still be a part of the translation work.

» **Ask the Lord** to prepare the hearts of the Pana people in Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic to receive his Word. **Believe** lives will be changed and souls will be saved.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

#### PINYIN; Cameroon (24,600)

The Pinyin are about to cross the finish line! The New Testaments have arrived from the printer, and an audio recording of the New Testament along with the "JESUS" film have been completed.

- » *Lift up* the team as they seek to find a date to celebrate; there are security concerns. *Pray* for peace so that a dedication can be held.
- » **Ask God** to give the team unity, creativity and inspiration to get more people involved in literacy and Scripture engagement activities. May the people fall in love with God's Word and read it or listen to it daily.
- » **Declare** the promise of peace in Philippians over the Pinyin who are greatly affected by unrest in the area: "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7, NIV).

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

#### TCHOUVOK; Cameroon (15,000)

Despite the subversive elements in the region, the Tchouvok team has consultant checked four New Testament books and is resiliently working toward project completion.

- » **Thank the Lord** for the books that have already been checked by a consultant. **Pray** that the team will have a steady consultant available as more books reach that step.
- » Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant the team leader determination, good health and wisdom as he guides the team. Lift up the translation team and their families, asking God to protect them and keep them strong.
- » Ask God to show his power among those who oppose the gospel, that they might come to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- » *Intercede* for the Tchouvok people as they hear the gospel in their language. *Pray* for their hearts and minds to be open to the love of Christ.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

#### TUNEN; Cameroon (79,700)

Last year, the Tunen New Testament was sent for printing, and dedications are planned in two different regions in 2019.

- » *Lift up* the New Testaments as they are being printed and shipped back to Cameroon. May the process run smoothly and quickly so the books can get back for the dedications soon.
- » **Praise the Lord** for his faithfulness! After many years, the people and the translators can celebrate all that God has done for them leading up to this moment.
- » Pray for the community as they plan the dedications. Ask God to give them wisdom, unity and fruitful fundraising for this significant event.
- » May the Tunen say with the psalmist, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105, NLT).

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

— CABTALORG

# **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

# BANDA-LINDA; Central African Republic (183,000)

The translation team has been working hard and has eight books lined up for checking by a consultant!

- » **Pray** that consultants will be available to check Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Colossians, 2-3 John, Philemon and Revelation.
- » Ask God to keep the team and their families healthy.Pray for God's strength as they continue to translate Genesis, Exodus, Psalms and an evangelistic tract.
- » *Pray* they can finish translating the book "Healing the Wounds of Trauma" so they can hold a trainers' course and begin to distribute and use this powerful tool for people, like themselves, who have lived through instability and wars.
- » **Ask God** to give success to community activities that are preparing the way for the use of the New Testament such as choir competitions for Scripture-based songs in Banda-Linda and teaching the Banda-Linda writing system in the local schools.
- » *Lift up* the translator Isidore who will attend his final training session to be a Scripture use specialist this fall in Cameroon. *Pray* that his knowledge will stimulate greater use of the Scriptures by the Banda-Linda.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

# BHOGOTO; Central African Republic (130,000)

Praise God that the ministry of Bible translation was presented as the heart of a church's ministry to one of the country's largest denominations at a national conference last year with 225 churches represented.

- » **Pray** that churches would own the translation project and know the importance of their participation in activities supporting Bible translation.
- » The books of Luke, Acts and 1-2 Peter are available on an Android Scripture app and 50 test copies of each were distributed to several communities for feedback. *Pray* for helpful feedback and that these books will encourage readers as they await the full New Testament.
- » Bring to the Lord the need for stable, functioning computers and a reliable solar power system. Ask him to protect the tools and the office where the team works.
- » **Ask God** to anoint and provide resources for literacy and Scripture engagement activities so that many Bhogoto will be ready and eager to use the New Testament. **Pray** that pastors will joyfully embrace and use the Scriptures in their language.
- » *Lift up* the team as they revise six more key books with the community. They would like to publish the New Testament next year and need God's strength.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

# DAGBA; Central African Republic/Chad (44,000)

Dagba speakers live along the borderland region of the Central African Republic and Chad. About 10,000 migrated to southern Chad, and a number of churches exist there.

- » **Rejoice**, the Dagba will have God's Word to feast on this year! A celebration is planned for early in the year.
- » **Pray** for effective distribution in both Chad and the Central African Republic. 5,000 copies are available, and it would be wonderful for them to all be in use soon. **Pray** that people will use them in their homes, churches and communities.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in Dagba hearts so they treasure God's Word and have courage and hope amidst poverty and political instability. **Pray** that they will be a people "... whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 144:15, NLT).

BIBLES INTERNATIONAL — BIBLESINT.ORG

# GBAYA-BOSSANGOA; Central African Republic (200,000)

The translation team is based in the capital city due to unrest in their language area.

» **Ask God** to give the team a safe and productive trip to the language area to present five books published since their last visit: Mark, John, Romans and 1-2 Thessalonians. They will dedicate these books and interact with community and church leaders.

- » During their community visit, the team will also teach sessions on chronological Bible storying and inductive Bibles studies to prepare people to receive the New Testament next year. *Pray* that these sessions will excite people and cause them to thirst for God's living Word.
- » **Pray** for the team to move quickly through the 16 final steps of manuscript preparation required before typesetting. These steps, which will take around 50 weeks to complete, include checking the entire New Testament spelling word list, punctuation, and parallel passages in the Gospels.
- » They are also preparing a glossary to help people understand unfamiliar terms in the New Testament. **Pray** they can finish it in good time and for the consultant-checking process to go smoothly.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

#### KABBA; Central African Republic (83,000)

Since January 2018, rebel activity has destablized the area where the Kabba live. People are now starting to return to their homes, thanks to government security forces.

- » **Pray** for the reconstruction of an important bridge in the region and for the construction of an airstrip large enough to receive food assistance by NGOs following the mass destruction of crop seed by rebels.
- » *Thank the Lord* that the team translated the audio script for "Healing the Wounds of Trauma" for local radio. This will reach Kabba speakers even across the border into Chad. *Ask the Holy Spirit* to use these materials to bring healing to people living in emotional desperation and trauma following the armed rebel violence in their area. *Pray* that people can return to their homes safely and for lasting peace.
- » **Pray** that the team can successfully and smoothly complete 16 tasks involved in preparing the manuscript for publication.
- » **Ask God** to guide the team as they train literacy teachers, launch pilot literacy classes in the community and look for good strategies to engage people with Scripture in Kabba in advance of the arrival of the New Testament.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

#### MPYEMO; Central African Republic (29,000)

A dear colleague and the only national translation consultant died very suddenly last year. His absence was heart-wrenching and left gaps on many of the translation teams he worked with.

» **Ask God** to raise up other godly, skilled people to fill this colleague's place. **Pray** that the eternal hope he had in Christ will impact others for the Lord.

- » *Thank the Lord* that the team participated in a dictionary workshop and compiled more than 1,000 entries, now on an Android app (Dictionary App), and *pray* as they continue to search for more words. The dictionary helps them find exactly the right word for the translation and adds prestige to the language.
- » Pray for consultants to be available to check a backlog of 20 books and 10 book introductions.
- » **Ask the Lord** to demonstrate his power in the team. Two two members have fragile health which affects their ability to work.
- » **Pray** that additional literacy teachers can be trained to faithfully teach classes in their villages. **Ask God** to raise up a host of readers and people engaging with the Scriptures, courageously applying them to their lives. **Pray** that the new writing system with tone markings will enable people to read more easily and better understand God's Word.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

#### NGBUGU; Central African Republic (95,000)

The Ngbugu continue to suffer the devastating effects of five years of violence. Many Ngbugu have fled into neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, which tears apart communities and makes serving them difficult. But hope shines in the eyes of the three translators. Committed to giving their people God's Word, they persevere!

- » **Ask God** to fill the team with power and strength as they work through arduous prepublication steps to finalize the New Testament manuscript for typesetting.
- » **Pray** for the team who needs to visit the Ngbugu language area for a final read-through of the translated text. It is 500 miles from Bangui, the capital city where the translation work is being done. **Pray** for good feedback as they visit and work in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp.
- » Ask the Holy Spirit to go before the team so they can train literacy teachers and set up pilot literacy classes in two IDP camps and an outlying village. They will also train teachers and set up three classes in Bangui.
- » **Pray** that peace will be enforced in the Ngbugu area so the team can work regularly with the language community to complete the New Testament safely and without fear.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SIL; WYCLIFFE UK

#### NZAKARA; Central African Republic (50,000)

The Nzakara people live in the southeast area of the country where there is ongoing instability. Some have fled to a neighboring country, and others hide in fields due to rebel activity. The team went two years before visiting their home area due to insecurity and lack of finances.

- » **Pray** for peace and that people can return to their homes and fields. The team longs to return to live and work in the language area, to be with their people, promote the Scriptures and get community feedback on drafts of Scripture books. "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26, NLT).
- » Ask God to provide a third translator to the team and that a consultant check can be completed of Matthew, Acts and Romans so these books can be shared with the community.
- » *Thank the Lord* that one of the translators, Elie, will attend the last of three annual training sessions as a literacy specialist in Cameroon this fall. *Pray* that this training will result in increased opportunities for people to learn to read and engage with the Scriptures.
- » Pray for God's protection over the translators' families and for health and strength for the translators.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SIL

## CHAD

#### GABRI MAJA; Chad (43,000)

Mysticism and animism have a stranglehold of fear and control over this region. Collectively, churches from two language groups collaborated to sponsor the Gabri Maja New Testament translation. Before the translation even began, churches raised funds, established a volunteer base and collected pledges of support. They fully expect to see every social aspect of their people groups impacted through Scripture in their language.

- » **Pray** for the team to complete rough drafts of 1-2 Corinthians, Titus, Hebrews, Jude and Revelation.
- » Ask God to free up consultants to check 1 Corinthians, 1-2 Thessalonians, Titus, Hebrews and Jude.
- » *Lift up* the Gabri Maja committee as they mobilize funding for the project and encourage people to use Scripture portions 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.
- » **Pray** for enduring peace in Chad so the translation work can continue uninterrupted.

SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

#### GARAP; Chad (12,000)

The Garap have longed for the New Testament in their language for many decades. Praise God, on March 20, 2018, they received it! Different groups wore special colorful outfits made in the same printed cloth patterns. The New Testament was brought in with joyful singing and dancing. A representation carved in wood of the

cover was carried in with a few copies of the New Testament inside. Young girls in white dresses and angel wings accompanied it.

- » Give thanks for God's faithfulness through the years. Thank the Lord for the Garap people themselves they financed the translation and literacy project from the start. The only outside finances they received were for publication costs.
- » **Pray** that the Garap will open their hearts to be transformed by the Word of God they now have in their language.
- » **Pray** for fruitful continued efforts in literacy so that many more will have access to God's Word.
- » *Intercede* for the listening groups using the recordings by Faith Comes by Hearing, that they will be touched by the Word and grow in their faith.

SIL

### GUERGUIKO; Chad (13,000)

The translation team worked hard last year to complete final consultant checks, standardize key terms throughout the New Testament, finalize a glossary and introduction, and check spelling and punctuation.

- » **Praise God**, the New Testament goes for typesetting early in 2019 in Cameroon. **Pray** for the process to go smoothly.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare the hearts of the Guerguiko people to receive his Word and that it will be a powerful tool for transformation in lives of people in the community and church.
- » *Pray* for preparations for the dedication, God's guidance in regards to a date, and provision for celebration expenses. *Pray* for good rains in 2019 so that they have enough food for the people and for the celebration.
- » **Ask the Lord** to bring peace in Chad and a resolution to the financial crisis the country is going through so that the work can continue unimpeded.

SIL

#### MANGO; Chad (108,000)

The Mango people live in more than 100 villages. Travel is extremely difficult in the rainy season. During the dry season, it's not uncommon for temperatures to reach 120 degrees. Most people are animists and remain attached to ancestral values. The Christians try to make a stand, but it's very difficult.

- » **Praise God**, the Mango New Testament will be available to the Mango people this year! **Pray** for a safe arrival from the printers, that God will lead to the best date for people to attend a dedication and that he will anoint the celebration event.
- » *Claim* the light of Jesus to transform Mango lives and deliver them from darkness. "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine" (Isaiah 9:2,

NLT).

» *Lift up* those leading literacy and Scripture engagement activities, that hundreds of Mango people will learn to love reading, especially reading God's Word. *Pray* that people will use the Scriptures in their homes, churches and communities.

CHADIAN ASSOCIATION OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### MIGAAMA; Chad (20,000)

One of the translator's lives is being visibly transformed by the Word as he works on it. While translating Romans, he said, "What a great book! Now if I die, no problem, I know where I'm going!"

- » **Ask God** to protect the team, their families and the work equipment against attacks of the enemy as they near completion of the New Testament.
- » *Lift up* the team as they have high goals this year. One is completing consultant checks of Romans, 1-2 Corinthians and Hebrews. Another is finalizing parallel passages, key terms, a glossary, and New Testament and book introductions. *Ask the Holy Spirit* to fill them with wisdom, power and strength.
- » **Pray** for the main exegete, who ensures faithfulness of the translation to the biblical text. She needs wisdom in balancing work with the Migaama project and other responsibilities in Chad.
- » **Pray** for peace in Chad so nothing hinders the completion of the Migaama New Testament.

SIL

# **CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

### BAKWÉ; Côte d'Ivoire (13,000)

It's been a long journey, but praise the Lord, the Bakwé New Testament will be delivered to the Bakwé people this year in both audio and printed formats.

- » **Pray** for the Bakwé churches as they plan the New Testament dedication, perhaps this summer.
- » Give thanks that there is increased interest in literacy as people anticipate the arrival of the Scriptures. Lift up the local language association as they encourage the churches to incorporate literacy into their programs.
- » **Pray** for the process of proceeding with Old Testament translation with strong participation of the churches.
- » Pray that God would open people's eyes and hearts and create a thirst for his Word.

SIL

# KRU CLUSTER PROJECT — Gagnoa Bété, Godié and Guéré languages; Côte d'Ivoire (706,000)

These three language groups in the Kru Cluster are in the last stages of preparing their New Testaments for publication!

- » **Pray** that the final sessions with a consultant to check a few remaining books will go well.
- » *Lift up* the teams as they review the texts to check punctuation, spelling and other details, that they will find anything needing to be corrected. *Thank the Lord* for the project coordinator, consultants and technicians who help with this process. *Ask God* to keep each participant and their families healthy.
- » **Pray** for the typesetter who has a heavy load, preparing several New Testaments in a row before going on furlough in 2020. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint her and give her peace and joy as she brings these New Testaments to the printing stage.
- » **Pray** for greater involvement and ownership by the churches in the different areas, that they will promote the Scriptures for personal use and in their services.
- » **Pray** for God to prepare "good soil" so that when these groups receive God's Word, they will "hear God's word, cling to it, and ... produce a huge harvest" (Luke 8:15, NLT).

SIL

#### LORON; Côte d'Ivoire/Burkina Faso (10,000)

Loron is a border language with speakers in both Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. They have had portions of Scripture since 1985, but a team is now working to provide the full New Testament.

- » **Praise God**, the Gospel of John was finalized and printed last year. As the Loron feast on this rich book, **pray** that they will come to "abide in the vine" and "feed on the bread of life" Jesus talks about in this Gospel.
- » 1 Corinthians is ready to be checked by a consultant. **Pray** that the final text will communicate accurately and naturally to Loron speakers.
- » *Lift up* the team as they make final revisions to Romans. *Pray* for God's Spirit to fill them with wisdom, energy and keen minds. They would like to have Romans and Revelation ready for a final check by the end of this year.

ETHNOS360 — ETHNOS360.ORG

#### NYARAFOLO; Côte d'Ivoire (60,000)

By the end of 2018, 15 more New Testament books had been approved, and the translation team, working with the consultant, ensured that passages common to more than one Gospel matched correctly.

- » *Lift up* the team as they work with the consultant to check 1-2 Corinthians and Revelation, the final two New Testament books needing approval. *Ask God* to fill them with strength, wisdom and his Spirit.
- » The next step will be to prepare the New Testament, along with the Pentateuch and Psalms, for printing as one book. This involves numerous decisions about format, fonts and supplemental materials to include. **Pray** for good decisions, strong health and alert eyes

as they also proofread the manuscript.

- » **Praise God**, the "JESUS" film is now available in Nyarafolo! More than 1,800 people have viewed it. **Pray** for many to come to know Christ as they view and hear Jesus speaking to them.
- » *Intercede* for the team as they face the completion of the translation project and face the future. *Pray* for harmony and for God's Spirit to clearly guide them regarding ongoing projects.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; WORLDVENTURE — WORLDVENTURE.COM

#### PALAKA; Côte d'Ivoire (9,000)

The Palaka live in the very northern part of Côte d'Ivoire. Another major religion is dominant in the area.

- » *Thank the Lord* for providing a new member to the translation team last year after the unexpected death of a former member.
- » In early 2019, a consultant is checking eight books of the New Testament, and the team is pressing hard to give the consultant six more books by midyear. By fall, final New Testament checks will be in process. *Ask the Holy Spirit* to fill the team and consultant with wisdom, strength and joy to meet these high goals.
- » *Lift up* the team as they simultaneously work on ongoing revisions to the books, making corrections and formatting them for publication.
- » **Pray** the team will find some excellent texts early this year to use in a workshop this fall to produce new primers for beginning readers. **Pray** for successful literacy and Scripture engagement activities so that the Palaka people will be well-equipped to read and use the New Testament.

ETHNOS360 - ETHNOS360.ORG

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE ACONGO

# BUDU-KOYA; Democratic Republic of the Congo (96,000)

The Budu-Koya team is working on final features of the New Testament so it can be published. Details such as writing introductions for each book, compiling a list of keywords, creating a glossary of the illustrations and maps being used, and preparing the page setup are all part of producing the final edition of the New Testament.

- » **Pray** for each of these steps as they seek to help the Budu-Koya better understand the context of the Scriptures. May these efforts produce fruit in keeping with the psalmist's cry, "I will pursue your commands, for you expand my understanding" (Psalm 119:32, NLT).
- » **Ask God** to mobilize local churches and communities to welcome the New Testament and ensure its use.

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

# BUDU-NITA; Democratic Republic of the Congo (169,700)

Consultant checking continues for the Budu-Nita team as they prepare the New Testament for publication. A consultant goes over the translation with the team, checking for accuracy, clarity and naturalness, and looking for omissions, extraneous thoughts or possible misconceptions.

- » **Pray** for the consultant and the team as they work to finalize Philippians and Colossians and revise the Gospel of Luke in preparation for publication.
- » **Ask God** to stir a spiritual hunger that opens the hearts and minds of the people as they prepare to receive the translated Scriptures.
- » **Pray** that local churches and Budu-Nita communities will be able to proclaim with the psalmist, "May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy, for I have put my hope in your word" (Psalm 119:74, NLT).

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

# BUNGOFU CLUSTER — Budja, Fulu, Ngombe North and Ngombe South languages; Democratic Republic of the Congo (677,000)

The BuNgoFu team hopes to complete the New Testament in these four languages by the end of 2020, but they face challenges. Team members face stressors such as health issues and paying school fees and rent. Funding for the project is also an ongoing need.

- » **Pray** that team members will be steadfast during these challenging times. May they be "... strengthened with all his glorious power so [they] will have all the endurance and patience [they] need" (Colossians 1:11, NLT).
- » **Ask God** to provide for their every need as individual families and as a team. **Pray** for the funding necessary to continue the project.
- » *Thank the Lord* for progress made. They have completed translating each book and are revising the texts in order to prepare them for a consultant to check.
- » **Pray** for local churches to take ownership of the project.

CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY

# FULIIRU; Democratic Republic of the Congo (400,000)

Preparing the whole Bible for publication is incredibly detailed work, but a high-quality Bible translation is well worth it.

» **Praise God**, the Fuliiru Bible was typeset last year, a final read-through was done in the community and the Bible was sent for printing. Years of perseverance by the team and faithful prayer partners is coming to fruition!

- » **Pray** that the Bibles will arrive safely as they are shipped back from South Korea, go through customs and travel by truck to the village area.
- » Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint the dedication ceremony and that many people will be drawn to read the Word.
- » Pray that people will be as enthusiastic about the Old Testament as they have been about their New Testament. Pray for lives to be transformed as people meet the living God through the Scriptures.

SIL

# KOMO; Democratic Republic of the Congo (614.000)

Despite the regional unrest and challenges that come from working far from one's language area, the Komo translation team continues to look to the Lord for their security and strength.

- » **Pray** for the team as they perform consultant checks on the books of Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians.
- » *Pray*, too, as they finish details such as listing key words, creating a glossary, finalizing map illustrations and writing introductions for each book of the New Testament.
- » Even in the midst of all the final steps, the team is working to mobilize the community and local churches. **Ask God** to raise up people who are excited to engage others and see God's Word used among the Komo.

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

# LIKA; Democratic Republic of the Congo (80,000)

The Lika translation team is in the final steps of preparing the New Testament for publication!

- » **Praise God** that every New Testament book is completed and has received final approval.
- » The next step is to prepare the text for typesetting in preparation for publication. *Pray* that all will go smoothly as they lay out each page, adding illustrations and other details.
- » Ask God to prepare the hearts and minds of the Lika people to receive his Word in their language. Pray for the local churches to use the newly-translated Scriptures in their services.

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

# OMI; Democratic Republic of the Congo (155,000)

Thank the Lord that consultants were available last year to check the last books of the New Testament.

» *Lift up* the translation team as they make technical checks of the manuscript, ensuring that punctuation, spelling and other details are correct and consistent throughout each book.

» Ask God's Spirit to direct the translators and community members as they decide how to translate key Biblical terms. Please pray for consensus and unity so that the New Testament will accurately communicate God's truths in ways the Omi best understand.

SIL

## UBANGI CLUSTER PROJECT — Mono, Ngbandi-Ngiri and Pagabete languages; Democratic Republic of the Congo (354,000)

The Ubangi Cluster teams have prepared their three New Testament manuscripts for typesetting and plan to submit them for printing early this year.

- » **Pray** that the Scriptures will be printed and delivered soon for these groups waiting for God's Word.
- » **Thank the Lord** for helping the teams last year through the final technical checks and providing consultants from the United Kingdom and locally to approve the manuscripts.
- » Pray that scripting and recording the "JESUS" film might be completed in time to be part of the New Testament dedications.
- » **Ask God** to prepare the hearts of the people to receive the truth of his Word in a language that speaks to their hearts.
- » **Pray** that many will come to understand and experience the truth of 2 Thessalonians 2:14, "He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (NLT).

CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY

# **EAST AFRICA**

### 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.

- » **Praise God** for these positive attitudes and for the testimony of these believers' lives. Their kindness and generosity are having an impact.
- » *Give thanks* that the Dekamo New Testament was completed last year and is now being printed.
- » **Ask God** to watch over and protect the printing presses, the binding machines and the finished New Testaments as they are transported back to the language area.
- » **Pray** for effective and widespread distribution of the New Testament along with the "JESUS" film, which is also available.

» **Ask 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 - PIONEERBIBLE.ORG

# MOROGORO CLUSTER PROJECT — Arew\* and Omaraz\* languages; East Africa (1,126,000)

Over half of the Arew people and 95 percent of the Omaraz people associate with a world religion other than Christianity. For many, an ancestral spiritual affiliation was "inherited" from their grandparents. Neither Christians nor non-believers have strong beliefs in their stated faiths.

- » **Rejoice** that final consultant checks of both New Testaments for the Arew and Omarez people were completed last year and the books were typeset. The finish line is close!
- » **Pray** for a smooth printing process that will produce quality books with durable binding. **Ask the Lord** to protect the books as they are transported back to the community areas.
- » *Thank the Lord* that, as the Arew and Omaraz hear and read Scripture, they are valuing their language more. There is great interest in both communities in God's Word! *Pray* this will lead to real transformation.
- » The teams have also dubbed the "JESUS" film into their languages. **Pray** that this, too, will impact people and lead them to a personal relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS - PIONEERBIBLE.ORG

# **EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

### FA D'AMBU; Equatorial Guinea (9,500)

The Fa d'Ambu translation team has made good progress. Early last year they completed a first draft of the entire New Testament!

- » **Rejoice**, the team was also able to make final checks of the New Testament, write introductions for each New Testament book and dub an audio version.
- » **Ask the Lord** to give the team wisdom and strength as they typeset the New Testament and send it for printing.
- » *Pray* for safety as the books are shipped back to Equatorial Guinea.
- » *Lift up* the committee planning a New Testament dedication. Lord willing, they would like to hold it at the end of 2019. *Pray* the people will be receptive to the Good News in their language.

PROMOTORA ESPAÑOLA DE LINGÜÍSTICA; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

### **ETHIOPIA**

#### AARI; Ethiopia (290,000)

The Aari received the New Testament in their language in 1997. Soon they will also receive the Old Testament along with a revised New Testament!

- » **Pray** for the Lord to keep the team healthy and give them keen eyes and clear minds as they proofread the complete manuscript to catch any errors. This is the final step before it is sent for printing.
- » *Lift up* the printing process, that God would guide every aspect functional printers, a smooth bookbinding process and safe shipment of the Bibles back to Ethiopia.
- » **Pray** for God to continue to cultivate "good soil" in Aari hearts so that when they receive their complete Bibles, they will "... hear God's word, cling to it, and ... produce a huge harvest" (Luke 8:15, NLT).

THE ETHIOPIA EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS; THE ETHIOPIAN KALE HIWOT CHURCH; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

### AMHARIC; Ethiopia (17,418,000)

Amharic speakers have had access to a copy of the Scriptures but in an old version that's hard to understand. They had to depend on church leaders to explain what it means. This project will bring them a modern-day Bible in their language. Scripture will be available to study in a language they understand, allowing them to find answers to moral challenges and renew their love for God.

- » *Thank the Lord* for the translation staff who persevered to complete this translation and for those who gave toward expenses to make it possible.
- » **Praise God**, the Bible was recently printed and will soon be available to people in print and on the internet. **Pray** that many will access it and be drawn by the Holy Spirit to know Christ personally.
- » **Pray** that the Bible will be received well by the Catholic community in Ethiopia and promoted and used in homes and churches all across the country, resulting in transformed lives committed to Christ.

SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### BAISO; Ethiopia (10,350)

The Baiso people are poor, eking out a living as subsistence farmers. In the past they hunted, but now they fish, farm and weave. Most are cattle breeders; some herd goats or sheep. They plant sesame, sorghum, maize, beans, vegetables and bananas. Although exposed to Christianity for many years, they have never had Scripture in their language.

» **Rejoice**, the translation team has completed the first draft of the entire New Testament! They are now testing the drafts with local speakers of Baiso to get feedback to see if it communicates clearly and

naturally. **Pray** that many people will listen and make comments, ensuring the best translation possible and raising interest in the Scriptures.

- » *Lift up* the team as they work with consultants to approve each book. The consultant checks to make sure it is accurate and looks for omissions, extraneous thoughts or possible misconceptions.
- » **Pray** for the team and their families to have good health so they will not lose momentum as they work toward completing the Baiso New Testament.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

#### **BENCH**; Ethiopia (370,600)

The Bench New Testament was published in 1990, but people longed to also have the rich history and deep truths of God as taught and experienced by the patriarchs and prophets.

- » *Give praise*, the translation team has completed the consultant checks of all Old Testament books along with New Testament revisions.
- » This year is key as they move all 66 books through final checks to standardize parallel passages, key terms, spelling, punctuation and other items. After that, the Bible can be typeset! *Pray* that these final processes will go smoothly and that the team and their families will stay healthy.
- » **Pray** that many Bench speakers will find divine power from the Scriptures to supply everything they need "... for living a godly life" (2 Peter 1:3, NLT).

THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG

#### DIRAYTA; Ethiopia (142,750)

Completing a New Testament translation involves many steps. The translators want to ensure that the final text is accurate, sounds natural and communicates clearly.

- » *Lift up* the Bible Society of Ethiopia as they make a final check of the New Testament manuscript for consistent punctuation, spelling and use of key terms throughout the manuscript. *Thank the Lord* for software that helps with this.
- » **Pray** that the manuscript can be sent to South Korea soon for typesetting and printing, and for God's hand on those processes.
- » *Give praise* that a cellphone app as well as an audio edition of the New Testament will be available to people. *Pray* that many will access these materials and have their lives transformed.
- » Rejoice that a dubbed video of the book of Acts, using the Dirayta Acts translation, is now available.
  Pray that this will encourage believers to trust God and call on the Holy Spirit for great growth of the Dirayta church.

ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTH WEST SYNOD; FINNISH LUTHERAN MISSION; LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS; SIL

#### DIZIN; Ethiopia (52,000)

The Dizin people live in southwestern Ethiopia. Most are subsistence farmers and animists, living in fear of evil spirits.

- » **Praise God**, a translation team has been working hard to provide the New Testament for their people. They hope to finish in 2021 and are progressing well, but most books lack a consultant check. **Pray** for God to provide consultants to move through this key stage. **Ask God** to fill the team with wisdom and strength.
- » *Lift up* the team as they make plans to produce the "JESUS" film in Dizin. *Pray* that God will provide readers with strong, clear voices.
- » *Thank the Lord* for providing funds to cover expenses the next three years.

THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTHWEST BETHEL SYNOD; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

# ETHIOPIA CLUSTER PROJECT — Dawro, Gamo and Gofa languages; Ethiopia (1,872,000)

"We thought God accepts only Amharic and Ge'ez," explained Pastor Z, telling why the church had been preaching and ministering in those languages and not in Gamo. "Now we understand many things. God accepts and hears our mother tongue and speaks to us through our heart language. Therefore, we use it for studying and teaching. The Bible translated in Gamo has helped us more."

- » **Rejoice**, the Dawro, Gamo and Gofa people are eagerly awaiting the Old Testament in their languages!
- » **Thank the Lord** that typesetting for all the languages has been completed and the texts are being carefully proofread to catch any final changes needing to be made before printing. **Pray** for alert eyes and perseverance for those proofing the texts; this is detailed work.
- » Praise God that all three full Bibles were recorded in Uganda along with 365 Bible stories in each language. Pray for great fruit as people listen to God's Word.
- » *Lift up* the printing of the three Bibles, that it will go smoothly and the books will arrive safely in Ethiopia. They would like to hold dedications in 2019.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG

#### **HADIYYA**; Ethiopia (1,200,000)

The translation team worked hard last year to complete a revision of the Hadiyya New Testament, which had been in use for over 20 years, to include it with the newly-translated Old Testament.

- » **Rejoice**, the team finished the revision, and plans are to print the complete Bible in the early part of this year! **Ask God** to watch over and protect the printing presses, the binding machines and the finished Bibles as they are transported back to the language area.
- » Lift up the local translators and the local church as

they focus on promoting use of the Scriptures and plan for a dedication. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to fill them with wisdom and joy.

- » **Pray** for the Bible Society of Ethiopia as they work together with the translators to facilitate printing, shipping and Scripture promotion activities.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to powerfully work through his Word in Hadiyya to bring many into a living, vital relationship with Christ, impacting their families, churches and communities.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTH CENTRAL SYNOD

#### KAFA; Ethiopia (870,000)

Praise the Lord, the Kafa Old Testament was finished in 2018! This year, typesetting began for the whole Bible — the Old Testament with the revised New Testament.

- » The entire Bible must be thoroughly checked, including spelling, punctuation, maps, references and a glossary. *Ask God* to renew the team and keep their eyes and minds strong as they proofread these items multiple times. *Thank the Lord* for the strength he is giving them.
- » **Ask the Lord** to open the way for a joint publishing agreement between the two organizations involved. This is important so the Kafa people will accept the translation.
- » *Pray* that the Kafa Bible, in both written and oral forms, will be used by God to transform the lives of the Kafa people. May they say with the psalmist, "I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure" (Psalm 119:162, NLT).

SIM INTERNATIONAL — SIM.ORG

#### KAMBAATA; Ethiopia (570,000)

As Bible translations near the finish line, they often encounter obstacles. The enemy knows God's Word is powerful and doesn't want it to reach people's hands and hearts.

- » *Lift up* the Kambaata full Bible project. In the process of transferring administrative management last year, it came to a halt, and the former translators found other work. *Thank the Lord* that several organizations are partnering to finish the project, but it will be a couple more years before it reaches completion. *Ask the Lord* to guide the partners as they restart the project.
- » **Pray** for God to raise up new translators or bring the former ones back so the project will be completed soon.
- » **Join** others in prayer and **claim** James 5:16 for the Kambaata project: "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (NLT).

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

# KOM CLUSTER — Konta, Oyda and Melo languages; Ethiopia (156,200)

The Konta, Oyda and Melo translation teams are moving forward proofreading their New Testament manuscripts multiple times before the New Testaments are typeset and sent for printing.

- » *Lift up* the teams as they typeset their New Testaments, asking God to grant them wisdom as they make decisions about how each page will look when printed. *Pray* that any final errors needing correction will be caught in a final proofreading of the manuscripts.
- » Ask Jehovah-jireh to raise up the finances needed for typesetting, printing and launching the New Testaments in public dedications.
- » **Pray** that the Melo New Testament can be recorded in Uganda, where the Konta and Oyda Scriptures were already recorded. As people listen to God's Word in their languages, **pray** for the Holy Spirit to penetrate hearts and draw them to a living, vital relationship with Christ.
- » Lift up each team as they begin to work on Old Testaments for their language groups.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG

#### KONSO; Ethiopia (242,000)

The translation team has been focused on preparing the 66 books of the Konso Old Testament and revised New Testament for printing, a massive task.

- » **Ask the Lord** to give them wisdom and strength to finish checking the spelling of all words in the Old Testament and to complete consultant checks of the revised New Testament.
- » **Pray** that the team members and their families will have good health and clear minds.
- » **Pray** that the detailed nature of their work will not overshadow the blessing the Holy Spirit wants to pour out as they work closely with God's Word.
- » **Ask Jehovah-jireh** to supply finances needed to cover the remaining project expenses and printing costs of the whole Bible.
- » **Thank the Lord** that the Konso have a great hunger for God's Word.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTH WEST SYNOD

#### ME'EN; Ethiopia (151,500)

The Me'en translation team turned over the final draft of the New Testament to the Bible Society of Ethiopia last year to perform the final manuscript checks. Printing is planned for early in 2019. Meanwhile, the translation team is drafting the Old Testament.

» *Lift up* the Bible Society of Ethiopia as they finalize the New Testament manuscript and have it printed. *Ask God* for a successful, error-free printing process.

- » **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to prepare the Me'en people to eagerly receive God's Word and be transformed in their hearts and lives.
- » **Pray** for many in the Me'en community to engage in literacy activities; there is high illiteracy in the area.
- » *Lift up* the translation team as they continue the long process of translating the Old Testament. May they experience unity and joy as they work closely with God's Word.

ETHIOPIA KALE HIWOT CHURCH; BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

#### NORTH GUMUZ; Ethiopia (160,000)

The North Gumuz team members are getting closer to the finish line with each passing month. As they carry on faithfully day by day, the translation steps they need to complete become fewer and fewer. Soon, all New Testament books will be at the typesetting stage.

- » *Lift up* the team as they work with a consultant to check the final book.
- » **Pray** for them as they check the New Testament manuscript for consistent punctuation, spelling and translation of key terms.
- » Pray for the typesetting team to have energy, alertness and wisdom as they make formatting decisions about columns, pictures, maps and the font. Ask the Lord to give the proofreaders clear minds and keen eyes as they proofread the manuscript multiple times.
- » **Pray** for a mistake-free printing process that will result in quality books.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in people's hearts so they treasure God's Word and are a people "... whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 144:15, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### SAHO; Ethiopia (230,000)

While virtually all of Ethiopia's Saho people claim to be Christians, the Saho who live across the border in another country follow a different major world religion. Church and denominational leaders hope that having the Scriptures in Saho will be a source of inspiration and discipleship as well as a resource for evangelism.

- » **Praise God**, the Saho translation team made such good progress last year that they are ahead of schedule! They completed the draft, team check and community check of the entire New Testament.
- » *Lift* them up as they are focused now on the final consultant checks. *Pray* that anything needing improvement will be found so they can produce an accurate, excellent and easy-to-understand translation.
- » As teams get close to providing a completed New Testament to their communities, they often encounter spiritual warfare. *Claim* God's victory on the team's behalf and that they and their families will "... be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY. COM

#### SHEKKACHO; Ethiopia (80,000)

The Shekkacho people live in the mountainous southwestern part of Ethiopia. After some delays, printing of the New Testament in South Korea began the end of 2018!

- » **Pray** for a safe shipment of the New Testaments back to Ethiopia, through customs and to the language area.
- » **Ask God** to lead the team to the best time and place to hold a dedication celebration. **Lift up** the need for funding to cover these costs.
- » **Pray** for the team to successfully implement literacy and Scripture engagement activities.
- » As they engage with God's Word, *pray* that the Shekkacho people will say with the psalmist: "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105, NLT).

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH; SIL; THE ETHIOPIAN
EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-ILLUBABOR BETHEL SYNOD

#### **SURI**; Ethiopia (26,900)

As the Suri translation team moves forward translating the New Testament, it seems that for every new step of progress they make, the enemy comes against one of the translators in personal ways.

- » *Claim* God's victory on their behalf and that they and their families will "put on all of God's armor so that [they] will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11, NLT).
- » *Thank the Lord* that they finished translating Genesis, 1-2 Thessalonians and James last year and also recorded Genesis for an audio and Scripture app. *Pray* for spiritual fruit from these Scriptures.
- » **Pray** for good progress on Mark, John and several epistles this year and that the Holy Spirit will encourage the team as they engage closely with these rich books.
- » **Praise God** that one of the Suri translators is finishing his bachelor's in Linguistics this year! **Lift** him up as he takes some biblical language courses to be of additional help to the team.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTHWEST BETHEL SYNOD

#### XAMTANGA; Ethiopia (300,000)

The finish line is very close — the Xamtanga New Testament has been printed, and a dedication will take place this year!

- » **Ask the Lord** to protect the books as they are shipped from South Korea to Ethiopia, go through customs and are transported to the language area.
- » **Pray** that a great spirit of anticipation will permeate the Xamtanga people and community as they await the dedication. **Ask God** to lead to a dedication date that allows many people to attend. **Pray** for unity in the committee that organizes the celebration.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to move in people's hearts so they fully comprehend that "... the word of God is alive and powerful ..." (Hebrews 4:12) and use it in their homes, churches and communities.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### ZAYSE; Ethiopia (18,500)

The Zayse translation team has been progressing well toward their goal of finishing the New Testament by 2021.

- » Last year introduced new working arrangements for the team. The married advisers to the project went to Europe for maternity leave. While they were away, the team translated a small catechism and basic Christian teachings into Zayse. *Thank the Lord* that the advisers were able to work via Skype, checking these items and doing a consultant check on the Gospel of Mark.
- » *Lift up* the adviser, Andreas, who developed health problems and had to extend the family's leave in Europe. *Pray* for improved health so they can return to Ethiopia to complete the translation work.
- » *Intercede* for the translation team who is committed to continue working on the translation. *Pray* for continuing creative ways to advance the translation along with motivating people and churches to use the Scriptures available to them.
- » **Pray** that God will "... accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20, NLT) during these months of less-than-optimal circumstances. "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTH WEST SYNOD

## **GHANA**

### AVATIME; Ghana (24,000)

The Avatime people joyfully dedicated the New Testament in their heart language two times — February 8, 2018, in the capital city of Accra, and March 17, 2018, in the central town of the Avatime people.

- » **Praise God** for his provisions for the translation team through the years physically, spiritually and emotionally and for providing funds for the dedications, much of it through offerings and moneyraising projects of the people themselves.
- » *Give thanks* for wide participation of churches and officials in the dedication, including a former Supreme Court judge who chaired the celebration, and the head chief who challenged people to study the New Testament for life transformation. He also encouraged parents to teach their children to read in their language.

» **Pray** for continuing wide distribution of the New Testament and that the copies will quickly become worn with frequent use. **Pray** that churches will use the Avatime Scriptures in their services and motivate people to use them in their personal lives and homes.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION — GILLBT.ORG; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### KAAKYE; Ghana (80,000)

A consultant goes over the translation with the team, checking for accuracy, clarity and naturalness. Praise God for providing new consultants for the Kaakye translation team! The national Bible translation organization has been training Ghanaians in modern Hebrew, and the availability of these consultants will speed up the remaining books of the New Testament by nearly 50 percent.

- » **Ask the Lord** to provide a committed and dedicated team to finish the remaining tasks as well as funding needed to continue the project.
- » *Lift up* the Kaakye people who will get to read the Good News in their language soon. *Pray* for a passion and excitement to grow in their hearts, prompting greater church and community involvement in the translation project.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION — GILLBT.ORG

### NYALOTA CLUSTER PROJECT — Logba, Nyangobo and Tafi languages; Ghana (18,300)

Praise God for all of the progress made this past year! Fourteen books were completed, and now the translation teams can almost see their dreams of a New Testament becoming a reality.

- » **Ask the Lord** to keep the translators and consultants healthy as they near the end of the project. **Pray** for wisdom, inspiration and a renewed sense of motivation to finish the few remaining books.
- » *Lift up* the Logba, Nyangobo and Tafi as they await their New Testaments. *Pray* that published Scripture portions already available will impact their communities and churches.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to use the Word to change lives so drastically that others cannot help but inquire who Jesus is.

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY, AND BIBLE TRANSLATION — GILLBT.ORG; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### VAGLA; Ghana (16,000)

The Vagla translation project experienced numerous spiritual attacks through the years, but God has the victory. The complete Vagla Bible was dedicated to the glory of God on April 21, 2018!

» **Thank the Lord** for faithfully providing strength, personnel and finances for this project through the years. A local leader expressed his gratitude in the ceremony and acknowledged the numerous benefits

the translation of the Bible into their language brings. He said that, for his people, dedicating God's Word had cultural, social, economic, political and spiritual implications.

- » The director of the national Bible translation organization said that the completion of the Vagla Bible was not the end of the project but the beginning of their effort to fulfill the Great Commission. *Pray* that the community and the clergy will collaborate and promote use of the Bible in transforming lives.
- » The local Bishop proclaimed, "This is the gift of God; with this translation, Vagla speakers can hear the Word of God, listen to God speaking, understand and live in the principles of God, for this is what will help them become apostles of God." *Pray* that the Vagla Bible will help the Vagla become apostles of God!

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION — GILLBT.ORG

# **KENYA**

## DIGO; Kenya (315,000)

Local missionaries have shown enthusiasm about the Scripture app the translation team developed. It has been opening more doors for relationships with Digo speakers and paves the way for sharing gospel truths. The translators feel encouraged to know the Digo Scripture app is widely used.

- » **Praise the Lord**, all books of the Bible were successfully checked by consultants last year, and now the team has begun their final checks before typesetting!
- » **Ask God** to give the translators wisdom as they work to finish all checks, a read-through, a glossary and typesetting of the Bible by the end of the year.
- » *Lift up* the translation team and their families; they need strength to complete the project.
- » A majority of the Digo community is Muslim. **Ask God** to bring his light to the community through the Scriptures.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY — BTLKENYA.ORG; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### **DURUMA**; Kenya (400,000)

With only three Old Testament books left to check, the Duruma translation team is much closer to seeing their dream of having a full Bible come true! The local church has already begun to plan a Scripture dedication for when the Bible is ready.

- » **Pray** that the translation team will finish all the consultant checks by the end of the year so they can begin typesetting and printing as soon as possible.
- » **Ask God** to prepare the people and soften their hearts to hear about his love for them. May they embrace the Scriptures and share them with everyone they meet.

- » **Pray** for the church as they begin to plan a dedication and other Scripture engagement initiatives throughout the year.
- » *Lift up* the translation team and their families. *Ask God* to continue giving them strength and peace as the end of the project comes into sight.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY — BTLKENYA.ORG; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### **GIRYAMA**; Kenya (751,500)

The complete Giryama Bible was sent to South Korea for printing last year! The translation team hopes to hold the dedication this spring.

- » **Pray** there will be no delays in the printing and shipment of the Bibles.
- » **Ask God** for unity in the Giryama church as they await the arrival and plan for a dedication.
- » *Lift up* the Giryama people as they read and listen to God's Word, that God's Spirit will apply truth to their lives and they will be impacted for eternity.
- » **Pray** for the church leaders and their congregations to embrace the Word in their language and use it in their homes and services.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY KENYA — BTLKENYA.ORG

#### ILCHAMUS; Kenya (30,000)

Praise the Lord, the translation team only has two more books to complete consultant checks before the entire Ilchamus New Testament is finished! The team has also started literacy classes in the community to prepare for the coming Scriptures.

- » Pray for wisdom and understanding as the team works with a consultant to complete checks of 2 Corinthians and Revelation.
- » **Ask God** to guide the team as they make final checks of the entire New Testament. **Pray** they will find any errors to correct or improvements to make.
- » **Pray** for peace in the community and protection for the translation team and their families. Some of the community members have been displaced from their homes because of a cattle-rustling conflict that they have with a neighboring community.
- » *Lift up* the Ilchamus church as they await their New Testament. May they be excited and use it in their daily lives.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY — BTLKENYA.ORG; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### POKOMO; Kenya (95,000)

The consultant checking and testing of the remaining Old Testament books progressed well last year. The team finished checking Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes and Zephaniah. Now they only have four more books to check before completion.

» **Rejoice** in all the progress made! **Pray** for wisdom and knowledge for the translation team as they consultant check the final four books.

- » **Ask God** to be with the Pokomo people and provide protection as they deal with flooding in their area.
- » *Lift up* the translation team and their families. May God keep them safe, and may they be constantly reminded of the peace and joy they have in Christ.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY — BTLKENYA.ORG; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### RENDILLE; Kenya (65,000)

The journey leading up to August 18, 2018, the day the Rendille people received the New Testament in their heart language, was a long one. There were periodic times of drought, famine and upheaval, but over the years lives were saved and the love of Christ displayed in acts of care. More importantly, many people became eager to possess God's Word.

- » **Praise God**, around 1,000 people celebrated the momentous event. Choirs even came from other language groups. Boxes full of New Testaments started their march to the venue on the backs of two camels. The jubilation was too loud for the camels, so the boxes were offloaded and brought in by colorfully attired women and men.
- » **Rejoice** that the New Testament is also available on audio and mobile phones! This is a nomadic community, and it has always been difficult to reach out to herders far away. **Pray** that many will access these Scriptures and find eternal life in Christ.
- » *Give thanks*, funding is available to translate the Old Testament. *Lift up* the team as they begin this immense task.
- » **Pray** that all the various denominations among the Rendille will use and promote the Rendille Scriptures in their homes, churches and communities.

AFRICA INLAND MISSION — EU.AIMINT.ORG; BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

## **SAMBURU**; Kenya (160,000)

A Samburu church has two audio players containing recorded Scriptures, which they call "The Treasure." Each Sunday, they give the players to two members to take home and listen to with their family and neighbors. The people like it so much that they are requesting to have the Scriptures for more than a week at a time. Soon they will all be able to have some "Treasure" to take home and keep forever — last year the New Testament was typeset, and trial copies are being tested!

- » **Rejoice** that the New Testament is almost available. **Pray** for a good dedication ceremony and inspiration for the translation team as they plan Scripture use and distribution strategies.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to create a passion for God's Word among the Samburu that leads to transformation in their lives and community.

» **Pray** for the start of the Old Testament translation project. **Ask God** to give the team strength and wisdom as they start this process. **Pray** for God's continuing protection over the translators and their families.

BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY — BTLKENYA.ORG; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### THARAKA; Kenya (180,000)

Despite delays in the publication process last year, the full Bible has been completed, and a dedication is planned sometime this fall! Thank God that he is faithful and his timing is perfect.

- » **Praise the Lord** for unity among the Tharaka churches as they prepare for the dedication and using the Bible in their homes and churches.
- » **Pray** they will work together to reach their community with the Good News.
- » **Ask God** to give inspiration to the translation team and church leaders for successful Scripture engagement strategies.
- » **Pray** for the Bible dedication to run smoothly and that people will be transformed by the Word. May this be the start of a greater interest and hunger for God in the community.

 $\begin{array}{l} {\tt BIBLE\ TRANSLATION\ \&\ LITERACY-BTLKENYA.ORG;\ SEED\ COMPANY-SEEDCOMPANY.COM} \end{array}$ 

# **MALAWI**

#### ELLOMWE; Malawi (1,000,000)

God has been good to the Ellomwe translation team. Last year they completed the translation of the Old Testament, and it was typeset!

- » **Pray** for quality printing and binding of the books at the printing firm and for safe delivery of the books back to Malawi.
- » **Praise God** that the first Bible study materials in Ellomwe, both written and audio, were developed last year and piloted among six villages. **Pray** as they are published that many Ellomwe people will take advantage of them and grow in their knowledge of God and love for the Scriptures.
- » **Pray** for a literacy program to be established and for ongoing personnel to promote it among this large group of people.
- » *Thank the Lord* for ongoing impact of the "JESUS" film in Ellomwe. As the Bible is delivered to the people this year and the "JESUS" film is shown, may many come into a personal relationship with Jesus who died for them and rose to give eternal life.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MALAWI; REFORMED MISSION LEAGUE; SEED COMPANY — SEED COMPANY.COM

#### LAMBYA; Malawi (60,000)

The coordinator and team leader of this project suddenly passed away in May 2017. He had had significant input into the translation process. Since that time, the team has struggled to maintain the level of progress they previously had achieved.

- » *Intercede* for the team as they move the Old Testament books through team checks and then work with a consultant to receive final approvals. *Pray* for encouragement and that they will "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10, NLT).
- » Another focus this year is using a special software program, Paratext, to check technical aspects of the manuscript like quotation marks, punctuation in general, spelling and consistent translation of key terms. This is necessary before typesetting can take place next year. *Pray* that they will find any errors needing to be corrected and other improvements to make.
- » As they await the full Bible, **pray** that people will read and discuss books already published, leading to increased numbers of believers as well as deeper maturity among existing believers.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MALAWI; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD — TWFTW.ORG

# **MOZAMBIQUE**

#### AKOTI; Mozambique (97,000)

The Akoti translation team is working to finish the New Testament by the end of this year. Church leaders are coming alongside the team to encourage them through to the finish line.

- » *Thank the Lord* for a renewed sense of vision for the team after some months of internal stresses.
- » **Pray** for stabilization, health and continued vision of the team as they integrate new members so they can finish well.
- » **Pray** for all the necessary consultant checks to take place this year.
- » **Ask God** to provide reliable internet connection between the team and an adviser who supports the team remotely from England and through onsite visits.

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# MEETTO; Mozambique (1,200,000)

The Meetto translation team had the book of John checked by a consultant who is a native speaker of a closely related language. His expertise in both language and cultural issues was invaluable to the team, and all were very pleased with the final version of John. The team has also partnered with a Christian nonprofit organization that serves African communities through literacy initiatives for new readers — the Little Zebra book project includes simple word books, Bible stories and local stories.

- » Ask God to strengthen the team for the work ahead.
  There are still several large books to be checked.
- » **Pray** that God would protect and provide for the translators, their families and their ministries in the local church.
- » **Pray** that the Little Zebra materials would prepare more people to be good readers of the Scriptures.
- » **Ask the Lord** to continue to grow and mature his church among the Meetto through the Scriptures.

SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

#### NYUNGWE; Mozambique (420,000)

The Nyungwe language community is preparing to celebrate the dedication of their New Testament, most likely during the dry season (May through September) when people can travel more easily.

- » *Pray* that the local churches, together with the Nyungwe translation team, will work together to make the dedication an unforgettable day for the Nyungwe language group.
- » **Pray** for the distribution and use of the translated Scriptures and its transformational power among the people.
- » *Lift up* the churches as they consider taking responsibility to initiate and implement an Old Testament translation project. *Ask the Holy Spirit* to bring about a spirit of cooperation among the churches. *Pray* that other partners will support them in the best way possible.

SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

### **NAMIBIA**

#### KHOEKHOEGOWAB; Namibia (251,200)

The Khoekhoegowab translation team pressed hard last year, completing the final three Old Testament books, typesetting the complete Bible, proofreading it several times and sending it for printing.

- » **Thank the Lord** for the perseverance of the team. As Isaiah 40:29 says: "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak" (Isaiah 40:29, NIV).
- » **Pray** for the printing in South Korea to go smoothly, resulting in strong binding and clear print. **Ask God** to protect the books as they are shipped to Namibia, go through customs and reach the language area.
- » Lift up those planning for a dedication this year, that God will lead to a time and venue where many can attend.
- » **Ask God** to use the Scriptures to draw people to himself, revealing his love for the Khoekhoegowab people. **Pray** for pastors to use the Bible in their services and to encourage daily use by people in their homes.

NAMIBIA BIBLE SOCIETY; SEED COMPANY - SEEDCOMPANY.COM

#### NIGER

# WESTERN NIGER FULFULDE; NIGER (500,000)

Praise God for technology that allows translation teams to work together, even with team members living on different continents, as in this project. For much of the time the last two years, team members located in Africa and North America have forged ahead with the translation, working by Skype.

- » **Thank the Lord** that typesetting was completed this way and the manuscript was prepared in two different scripts, Roman and Ajami, to reach a broader audience.
- » The books were printed in South Korea, and *praise God* they will be dedicated to God's glory early in 2019!
- » **Pray** that God will "... accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20, NLT) as the New Testament is delivered to the Western Niger Fulfulde in a language and script that speaks to their hearts. **Ask God** to raise up a whole host of new believers through his Word and for believers to mature in their faith.
- » *Intercede* for the translation team as they begin work on the Old Testament.

SIL; SIM INTERNATIONAL - SIM.ORG

# **NIGERIA**

### ALIS I RON; Nigeria (400,000)

The Alis I Ron speakers are very eager for the New Testament to be available in their language. Thank the Lord that, through the years, many have volunteered their time and abilities to assist the team.

- » **Praise God**, the wait is almost over the New Testaments are being printed in South Korea, and the team is planning for a dedication this year. **Ask God** to give them wisdom as to the best venue and time of the year so many can attend. **Pray** that many churches will be involved.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to prepare fertile soil in people's hearts so that, as they receive God's Word, their lives will be transformed and the whole community impacted.

#### BWAATYE; Nigeria (477,000)

This Bwaatye language project will let God's Word communicate to Bata people who speak the two dominant dialects called Bachama and Bata.

- » *Thank the Lord* that the project, nearing completion, continued on while sponsorship relationships were being worked out. *Pray* that this will be clarified and for God's provision to complete the project, including printing and dedication expenses.
- Only two books of the New Testament Matthew and Romans remain to be checked by a consultant.
   Pray that this can take place soon so the New Testament can be prepared for printing.

» **Ask the Lord** to protect the Bwaatye people and the project so God's Word can go forth unhindered.

### C'LELA; Nigeria (90,000)

Last year ended with the translation team preparing their New Testament for typesetting. They ensured that passages common to more than one Gospel matched correctly, that key biblical terms were consistently translated throughout the text, and they decided on a format that would make it easy for people to use.

- » *Lift up* the typesetter and translators as they lay the New Testament out for publication, proofread it multiple times, and send the final, proofed manuscript for printing. *Pray* for wisdom and unity as they work together.
- » **Thank the Lord** that, during a pastor's conference in 2018, the whole New Testament was checked by local pastors. This helped give them ownership of the project and created greater interest among them in using it and promoting it in their churches.
- » **Pray** for God's Spirit to awaken in C'lela hearts a strong interest in knowing Christ and a deep love for his Word.

#### DADIYA; Nigeria (30,000)

The translation team is moving steadily toward the finish line. By the end of 2018, they completed consultant checks on all New Testament books except for Romans and Hebrews.

- » Ask the Holy Spirit to give special wisdom and understanding to the team and consultant as they review Romans and Hebrews this year, two difficult books. The goal is to be accurate and have them communicate naturally and clearly.
- » *Lift up* the team's typist and computer specialist for God's healing. He still suffers with leg and foot pain from a venomous snakebite a year ago when he almost died.
- » **Pray** for the Dadiya Christian community to follow through with their pledge to contribute financially towards the translation program.

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#### **IBAAS**; Nigeria (50,000)

Good health is critical for translators, consultants and literacy promoters to have as they seek to provide God's Word to those who do not yet have it.

» *Lift up* the coordinator and sole translator for the Ibaas project. He has carried a heavy load of responsibilities and struggles with poor health and managing his diabetes. *Pray* for God's touch and encouragement. *Claim* Isaiah 40:29 for him: "[God] gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless (NLT)."

- » **Rejoice** that the New Testament has been submitted for printing! **Pray** that the final product may be of the highest possible quality. **Pray** for the books to be delivered safely, undamaged and in a timely manner to the Ibaas community.
- » Ask the Lord to lead those planning for a dedication to a venue and time where many people can attend.
- » Pray for great hunger among the Ibaas people for God's Word.

#### IKA; Nigeria (345,000)

The team diligently pressed forward on this complete Bible, and the printed copies arrived back from South Korea in Nigeria at the end of last year!

- » Lift up the dedication, that it will draw many lka to the Scriptures and a living relationship with Christ. Pray for God's Word to transform lives and the entire community.
- » *Thank the Lord* for the team members and their perseverance and faith through the project. *Ask God* to use the experience and training they have gained to minister to other language groups.
- » *Pray* for the training of church leaders and evangelists and for the Lord's blessings on Ika believers, that God will renew their strength to be salt and light in their circles of influence.
- » **Thank the Lord** for the missionary zeal of the Ika. For 10 years, they have faithfully prayed for a neighboring group to receive God's Word, and they are seeing glimmers of hope as they pray.

#### ITEN; Nigeria (50,000)

After many years of dedicated work by the translation team, advisers, consultants and administrative support people, the Iten will receive their New Testament this year. Hallelujah!

- » *Thank the Lord* for his faithfulness through the years and for each participant in the project.
- » *Lift up* those planning a dedication, that it will be all to the glory of God and attract the interest of both believers and nonbelievers.
- » **Pray** that, through the Scriptures, many Iten will "... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NLT).
- » **Pray** that the whole community will be impacted and that churches will flourish. **Intercede** for pastors, that they will use the New Testament in their church services and encourage people to use it in their homes.

#### KWOMA\*; Nigeria (100,000)

The translation team has been working through a series of final checks of the New Testament to ensure that the translation is free of errors in spelling and formatting and that key terms are consistently translated. This is tedious work. They have also been working on supplementary materials to include. They want to print the New Testament soon so people can begin to use it.

- » One remaining task is to consultant check a draft of their glossary of key biblical terms. **Pray** that God will provide a consultant to check this material and strength for the team as they press on to completion.
- » Funding has been difficult for the last few years, which has caused the project to be delayed. **Ask Jehovah-jireh** to provide the resources they need to finish without further setbacks.
- » The community is interested and expectant for the project to be complete. *Pray* that God will prepare the hearts of the Kwoma community to receive his Word and for lives to be transformed by the Good News about Jesus.

### LIS MA RON; Nigeria (160,000)

Lis Ma Ron and Alis I Ron are two related dialects needing their own New Testament translations. The Lis Ma Ron project is using a computer program, Adapt-It, with the Alis I Ron translation as the source text.

- » Praise the Lord for technology which speeds up Bible translation.
- » **Present** the Lis Ma Ron team to the Lord as they work toward completing the final consultant checks on the translation.
- » **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with his Spirit and with joy as they press forward each day. **Pray** that their families will enjoy good health so they can fully engage with the translation program.
- » **Pray** that many Lis Ma Ron will affirm with the psalmist, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105, NLT).

#### MAYA; Nigeria (50,000)

Ethnic conflicts delayed the final typesetting of the Maya New Testament last year.

- » **Pray** for peace in Nigeria and in the Maya area.
- » **Rejoice** that the New Testament is now being printed. **Pray** for an excellent printing process and timely and safe shipment of the books back to Nigeria and to the language area.
- » As the Maya people receive God's Word in their language this year, *claim* Isaiah 9:2: "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine" (NLT). *Pray* that they will treasure God's Word and experience both internal and external peace.

#### MGBOLIZIA; Nigeria (190,000)

Last year the Mgbolizia translation team began running the New Testament text through a number of checks to prepare it for typesetting. However, funding issues arose that put it on hold.

- » **Pray** that the issues can be resolved soon so that the New Testament can proceed through the steps of typesetting and printing.
- » **Ask God** to provide a way forward for the project that honors him and brings glory to his name.

» **Pray** that the delay will result in a greater hunger for God's Word among the Mgbolizia people as they await the final copies.

#### MWAGHAVUL; Nigeria (700,000)

God proclaims in Isaiah 55:11: "I send [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).

- » **Praise God** for the hunger for God's Word among the Mwaghavul people! They have reprinted the New Testament three times. A large number of enthusiastic Bible study groups, using a combination of audio and printed Scriptures, have resulted in an overwhelming demand for the printed New Testament.
- » *Lift up* the translation team as they forge ahead to complete the Old Testament. *Ask God* to grant them good health, stamina, wisdom and joy.
- » **Pray** that God will continue to grow passion in the hearts of the Mwaghavul people for his Word and provide all that is needed for them to receive the full Bible in their language.

#### NIGERIAN PIDGIN; Nigeria (30,000,000)

On June 15, 2013, the Nigerian Pidgin audio New Testament was joyously received in a public ceremony. A year earlier, the translation team had begun work on the Old Testament in audio format.

- » *Give thanks* for the determination of the team; they persevered through numerous challenges including intermittent electricity, political instability and illness.
- » *Intercede* for the administrator and consultant of the project who is battling cancer. *Ask the Lord* to graciously keep him, his family and the team encouraged.
- » The project is nearing the finish line. The team has final checks to ensure the texts are clear, accurate and natural sounding. **Pray** for God's mighty hand to be on the project so that soon the over 30 million speakers of Nigerian Pidgin can enjoy listening to God's Word.
- » **Pray** that people will continue to listen to and be transformed by the New Testament, leading to a great hunger to know the God of Abraham, Isaac and David as found in the Old Testament.

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# **REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

#### VILI; Republic of the Congo (50,000)

Paratext is a software program that provides translators with a wide variety of automated checks to evaluate the accuracy and consistency of a translation draft, and even compare a draft to original source texts.

» *Give thanks* that some of the Vili translation team members have received training in Paratext and in biblical languages to better equip them for current and future work.

- » The team lost one long-term member last year to liver cancer. *Ask God* to comfort the family and team, and to supply another team member or extra strength so the remaining team members can finish strong.
- » *Lift up* the team as they move through final checks and reading aloud the New Testament books to ensure they are clear and sound natural. *Pray* they will get good feedback from the community on the larger epistles.
- » *Pray* that literacy and oral strategies will reach as many Vili speakers as possible. And *pray* that the Bible translation project will become well-known among Vili communities in Congo and Gabon, where there are also speakers.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF CONGO; SIL

# **SENEGAL**

#### **NDUT**; Senegal (43,000)

The goal of this project is to provide the New Testament in Ndut along with selected Old Testament passages.

- » *Give thanks* for the 11 New Testament books that were checked by a consultant last year and are entering the final phases of publication.
- » *Lift up* the team as they move the manuscript through a variety of checks, including verification that key terms such as mercy and synagogue have been translated consistently.
- » **Pray** for good communication between the translators and the typesetter as they prepare for printing. **Ask the Lord** to give the team wisdom and knowledge for decisions that need to be made about formatting and illustrations to use.
- » **Ask God** to open the minds and hearts of the people seeing the "JESUS" film in their language for the first time and listening to audio recordings of the Scriptures. May the message be clear and spark conversations throughout the region.

SIL

#### WAMEY; Senegal (22,000)

The New Testament together with Genesis, in both print and audio formats, was dedicated to God's glory on January 5, 2019, in Senegal (and December 29, 2018, in Guinea). Hallelujah!

- » **Pray** for wide distribution of the New Testament and Genesis in each format and for effective promotion and follow-up that results in much fruit.
- » *Lift up* the local listening groups that are forming to listen to the Scriptures together. This is a great tool to reach the non-literate. SD cards with the recording for use in cellphones are also available. *Pray* for a great harvest as people listen to God's Word.
- » **Rejoice!** The "JESUS" film premiered in Senegal and Guinea last year. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to draw people who are now hearing the gospel for the first time through the film to himself.

- » **Thank the Lord** for apps the team created with interactive Bible stories.
- » Pray for great use of the WhatsApp Wamey group to promote Scripture and publicize a Facebook page where reading in Wamey is encouraged and events are announced.

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# **SOUTH SUDAN**

### DIDINGA; South Sudan (60,000)

"Today, God has come to stay here!" said Father Romeo Todo, Director of the Scripture Union in the Torit Diocese. He was speaking to a crowd of over 1,000 Didinga people in Chukudum, Kapoeta State, South Sudan, on March 3, 2018, as they received the New Testament in their language. And with it, hope has come to an area where conflict and violence, both political and criminal, have blighted many lives.

- » **Pray** that Didinga speakers would be excited about the New Testament in their language. May they apply it in their daily lives so that they can have an intimate relationship with God.
- » **Ask God** for ever-greater opportunity and desire for spiritual depth within the local church services as they read from God's Word.
- » **Pray** for school teachers to be inspired to teach the Scriptures and that the character of children and young people would be formed by the Word.
- » **Pray** that the Didinga would be advocates for translation in other languages of South Sudan.
- » **Ask God** to bring an end to the conflict and violence in the country. May the Holy Spirit use the Didinga people to bring about repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation.

SIL

# GBAYA; South Sudan (16,000)

In spite of war and insecurities, the Gbaya team has persevered in their translation efforts, making trips to safe areas in order to work. Praise God, they completed typesetting of the Gbaya New Testament and Old Testament portions last year and sent it for printing.

- » **Pray** that the Gbaya may soon enjoy the treasures of God's Word and find comfort in his love for them.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to teach them to apply God's truth in their daily lives as they grow in their knowledge and relationship with him.
- » **Pray** that the translated Scriptures would be used in schools and that the character of children and young people would be shaped by the Word.
- » *Lift up* the Gbaya church as it engages with the Scriptures in church services.
- » **Pray** for appropriate work for the Gbaya translators as the project ends.

#### KELIKO; South Sudan (70,000)

On August 11, 2018, the Keliko New Testament was dedicated amidst great rejoicing! It was the 1,000th New Testament with Wycliffe and SIL involvement. The following day, there was another celebration at a refugee camp where tens of thousands of Keliko are displaced because of insecurity.

- » **Pray** that the displaced Keliko would be drawn together to support each other spiritually and materially. **Praise God** that they have always found a warm and sincere welcome in Uganda. May the Lord bless the northern Ugandan communities for their generosity.
- » *Thank the Lord* for the courageous men and women who pressed on with the project in spite of inconvenience and life-threatening circumstances. One team member said, "Praise God for keeping us alive."
- » **Rejoice**, the keliko.org website went live last year, providing Keliko speakers with the ability to view the "JESUS" film in Keliko, watch Bible story videos and listen to the Keliko New Testament.
- » Pray that the literacy program would be effective and sustainable
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to draw the Keliko to the Lord, reminding them that in Jesus, "... now [we] have confidence in a better hope, through which we draw near to God" (Hebrews 7:19, NLT).

SIL

#### TENNET; South Sudan (10,000)

Praise God, the Tennet translation team completed typesetting of the New Testament with Genesis, Exodus 1-20, Ruth and Jonah last year and sent the manuscript to South Korea for printing.

- » **Pray** that the books will arrive safely back in South Sudan. Tennet community members would like to hold dedications in Juba, the capital, and three villages in the language area. **Ask God's Spirit** to anoint these occasions, bringing glory to God and hope to the people.
- » **Ask God** to guide community and church leaders as they plan for sustainable literacy and Scripture engagement programs in the midst of war and limited travel.
- » **Pray** for the growth of the Tennet church and the work of the Africa Inland Church.
- » **Pray** that the New Testaments waiting for distribution would be preserved untouched in an environment where termites enjoy eating paper.
- » *Lift up* the country and people of South Sudan, *asking the Holy Spirit* to bring repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation.

SIL

## **TANZANIA**

# MARA CLUSTER PROJECT — *Ikoma language;* Tanzania (36,000)

The Mara Region lies in the northwest area of Tanzania, bordering Lake Victoria and Kenya. It is the most densely populated area of Tanzania with the fewest churches. A wide variety of denominations comprise the churches, and a majority of people call themselves Christians, but without God's Word in their languages, traditional religion claims people's loyalties.

- » *Give praise*, the Ikoma translation team finished consultant checks for 1 Corinthians, 1-2 Peter and Jude last year. They also reviewed a number of books in the community to make sure they were clear and sounded natural.
- » *Lift up* the team as they have a goal this year of finishing consultant checks for the final books of the New Testament (Mark, Romans, 2 Corinthians and Hebrews). *Ask the Lord* to grant them good health, concentration and wisdom.
- » Pray they will have profitable trips to the community area to check the remaining books with a reviewers committee.

SII

# MARA CLUSTER PROJECT — *Jita language;* Tanzania (205,000)

Pastor Magesa, one of the Jita translators, visited his home village of Butata for a funeral. While he was there, he was given the opportunity to preach in church. He preached most of the sermon in Jita, and people loved it! Old people, young people, men and women all understood the message. By the next day, word had spread that Magesa preached in Jita and people were very excited.

- » **Praise the Lord**, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy and Titus are now available to Jita speakers; they were printed last year.
- » *Give thanks* for the Holy Spirit guiding the team as they translated Matthew. Initially they borrowed words from Swahili for the words "snake," "pig" and "wine," but when testing the book in the community, they discovered more natural Jita words for these items. The translation is much better now!
- » *Lift up* the team as they finish consultant checks for Mark and Romans and draft John and 2 Corinthians this year. *Pray* for insight, good health and spiritual blessing as they work so closely with God's Word.

SIL

# MARA CLUSTER PROJECT — Kabwa language; Tanzania (14,000)

Kabwa is one of eight languages in the Mara Cluster. Thank the Lord that last year the Kabwa team finished consultant checks for the books of Matthew, Galatians and Revelation.

- » *Give praise* for successful Scripture engagement activities. During a community check of portions of Scripture drafts, the translation team visited the local market and played the recording of Genesis from the Kabwa Scripture app. People quickly gathered around, and lively discussions took place, with one person making his point by writing a word on the ground in the sand. Several books were sold. Later that day several people were seen reading their newly-bought books. *Pray* for great spiritual fruit and increasing hunger for God's Word.
- » **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with wisdom, stamina and clear minds as they press forward to finish the books of Mark, Romans and 2 Corinthians this year.

SIL

# MARA CLUSTER PROJECT — Kwaya language; Tanzania (70,000)

Makunja, a 25-year-old Kwaya man, purchased a copy of the Gospel of Luke in Kwaya in the past and was also given the three letters of John by his father. As a new reader, it took him a while to get through the books, but he finally did so and was very excited — the message of the books was clear to him and different from what he had previously understood when he read Swahili versions.

- » **Praise God** that when people encounter the Word in their language, it speaks clearly and forcefully.
- » *Thank the Lord* that, through Makunja, three other Kwaya people were drawn in when they heard him read and wanted to hear more. He taught them to read, and now they all read Kwaya well! *Pray* that more and more Kwaya people will be drawn to Christ and be able to read and listen to the Scriptures.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to anoint the translation team as they seek to finish the books of Mark, John and Romans this year. **Pray** for good support from their families, perseverance and insights into the powerful messages of these books.

SIL

# MARA CLUSTER PROJECT — Simbiti language; Tanzania (113,000)

Last year the Simbiti translation team was so far ahead of schedule for finishing the New Testament that they began drafting the book of Genesis!

- » *Thank the Lord* for this tremendous progress. Simbiti will be the first New Testament published in the eight languages of the Mara Cluster.
- » **Pray** for the team as they begin to prepare the New Testament for publication. It is a detailed process, and they need strength, wisdom and good teamwork as they work together to finish the final checks and begin the typesetting process.

» *Give thanks* for community members who were trained to serve as reviewers of the translation. They compared the Simbiti translation of Bible books with those same books in Swahili, the language of wider communication. Their goal was to make sure that the Simbiti translation was natural and acceptable to the Simbiti community. *Pray* that these reviewers will continue the excitement they felt in participating by promoting the Simbiti Scriptures in their communities.

SIL

# MARA CLUSTER PROJECT — Zanaki language; Tanzania (100,000)

The eight languages in the Mara Cluster lie in the northwest of Tanzania, bordering Lake Victoria and Kenya. It is a densely populated area with few churches. Thank the Lord that the Zanaki translation team drafted the book of Romans last year and also finished the consultant check on the Gospel of Matthew.

- » **Praise God** for the creativity of the team in engaging children with Scripture. They produced a comic book in Zanaki called "Jesus Messiah" which is very popular with children. **Pray** for the children to come into God's kingdom as a result and grow up loving Jesus as Messiah and Lord.
- » Ask the Lord to empower and give health and strength to the team as they work this year on finishing consultant checks on the books of Mark, Romans and 1 Corinthians and drafting the book of Hebrews. Pray for spiritual encouragement as they work on these rich books.

SIL

# MBEYA A CLUSTER PROJECT — Kinga, Nyakyusa-Ngonde and Vwanji languages; Tanzania (1,223,000)

As the Kinga audio recording team read aloud the entire New Testament last year, they were impressed with the breadth of God's plan to redeem mankind. Saul Lwilla, Kinga translator, said on completing the recording, "God's words in our language — they speak to us! They speak to us! They speak to us!"

- » **Praise God**, the Nyakyusa and Kinga New Testaments have been printed and will be delivered to these communities this year. **Pray** for people's hearts to be open to hearing what God says in his Word. **Pray** that pastors and church leaders will hear the cry of these communities and use the New Testaments for preaching and teaching in the mother tongue in addition to the national language.
- » **Ask God** to impact many lives as they listen to the audio recordings of these New Testaments, reaching those who cannot read or prefer audio versions.
- » *Lift up* the Vwanji team as they diligently work to see their New Testament through the typesetting and printing process this year. *Pray* for God to grant them health, endurance and joy.

» It has become difficult for foreigners working in Tanzania to receive permits to live and work there. *Pray* for favor so that those impacted can continue to work there.

SIL

# MBEYA B CLUSTER PROJECT — Malila, Ndali and Sangu languages; Tanzania (360,000)

Last year The Finish Line prayer partners prayed for Joshua, the 3-year-old son of Mponzi, the Sangu translator. Joshua had been paralyzed after a fall, but praise God, he is now running and playing! "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16, NLT).

- » **Praise God** that all three of these teams have advanced steadily. **Lift up** the Malila team as they see their New Testament through typesetting and send it for printing. **Ask God** to give them strength, alertness and wisdom for decisions they need to make, and keen eyes for multiple proofreadings. **Pray** for the Malila community to be hungry for God's Word.
- » **Pray** for the Ndali and Sangu teams as they prepare their New Testaments for typesetting. This is a detailed process. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to keep them unified and give them success. **Pray** for fertile soil for God's Word to penetrate so they will surrender to Christ and be transformed.
- » All three teams are recording the "JESUS" film in their languages. *Pray* that the words and deeds of Jesus will come alive in a fresh way when they see him portrayed on the screen, speaking their languages. *Pray* that they will accept Jesus' invitation to give them rest and salvation.
- » **Ask God** to keep doors open for workers from other countries to continue working in Tanzania.

SIL

# MBEYA C CLUSTER PROJECT — Bena, Nyiha and Safwa languages; Tanzania (1,454,000)

Last year, prayer warriors using The Finish Line asked God to lead to a local radio station that would allow Bena Scripture broadcasts. God heard! And praise God, the programs have awakened huge interest in the Bena community for God's Word.

- » The final books of the Bena New Testament are ready for consultant checks. *Pray* that the translation team will work with both urgency and accuracy as they draw close to the finish line.
- » *Give thanks* that as the Nyiha team reviewed Romans and Hebrews in the community, the books changed people's ideas of law and grace.
- » **Pray** that Nyiha pastors will clearly see how important the Nyiha Scriptures are and use them when they are published.

- » **Pray** that the Safwa translators will enjoy unity and health as they press forward to complete the Safwa New Testament. **Lift up** the literacy and Scripture-use workers as they travel on mountain roads and prepare the Safwa community for God's Word. **Pray** for safety and for God's Spirit to prepare fertile soil.
- » Recently, government permits for people from other countries to work in Tanzania have been difficult to obtain. *Pray* for grace and favor so those involved in Bible translation can continue to live and work there.

SII

#### NGONI; Tanzania (312,000)

About 80 percent of Ngoni speakers consider themselves Christians. The other 20 percent follow another major religion. Cultural traditions still greatly influence their lives and are foundational to their identity. Even among professing Christians, the interweaving of their faith with traditional religion is common.

- » **Praise God**, the Ngoni New Testament is being printed and will be available to Ngoni speakers the latter part of this year! They can use it to find out which traditions line up with truth and which are false. **Pray** that people's eyes will be opened "... to see the wonderful truths in your instructions" (Psalm 119:18, NLT).
- » The "JESUS" film has been recorded, and an audio edition of the New Testament will be available soon. *Pray* for many to watch and listen to these media and come into a personal relationship with Christ.
- » *Lift up* the translation team as they promote these materials and plan a Scripture dedication. *Ask God* to give them strength, courage and good health, and to provide funding for the dedication and outreach events.

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#### YAO; Tanzania (500,000)

About 14 percent of the Yao population is Christian, but many mix traditions with their faith. Most Yao practice another major religion that is gaining strength. The team is including Old Testament portions with the New Testament to communicate God's message meaningfully to them.

- » *Rejoice*, the New Testament will be delivered to the Yao people later this year when it arrives back from the printer! In addition, the "JESUS" film has been recorded, and an audio version of the New Testament will be available soon. *Pray* that hundreds of Yao will read, watch and listen to the Scriptures and agree with the psalmist: "The very essence of your words is truth ..." (Psalm 119:160, NLT).
- » The translation team is already working on the Old Testament, beginning with Genesis, Exodus and Leviticus. *Ask the Lord* to keep them and their families healthy and to fill them with strength and courage as they press forward.

» **Pray** for funding to cover celebration and Scripture promotion events along with the salaries of the translators. Most of their children are in the upper levels of school which cost more.

LIFE MINISTRY TANZANIA; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY. COM; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

# **TOGO**

#### KABIYÈ; Togo (975,000)

The momentum of the Kabiyè Old Testament project is picking up! The book of Joshua was printed last year, and the books of Numbers and Daniel are expected to be published this fall.

- » A number of books need to be checked by a consultant. *Pray* for consultants to be available and that the Lord will grant them wisdom as they check the Scriptures for accuracy and naturalness.
- » *Lift up* the health of the translators and their families during this busy season.
- » Pray the local churches will use the available Scriptures (New Testament and Old Testament portions) in services and encourage their use in daily life.
- » **Thank the Lord** for his grace and protection over the translation team for everything they have been able to accomplish and the lives that are being changed through their hard work.
- » *Ask God* to bless the partners and donors who faithfully pray and give so that the Kabiyè will have the complete Bible.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCRIPTURES IN KABIYÈ; BIBLE SOCIETY OF TOGO; SIL

#### LAMA; Togo (258,000)

Last year was full of many training opportunities for the Lama team. There were several workshops throughout the year relating to confirming the translation of key terms, the principles of interpretation in churches, and training on Paratext 8-a Bible translation computer software.

- » **Thank God** for all the progress made last year! The book of 1 Chronicles was reviewed, and now many more books are ready to be checked.
- » **Pray** for health, strength and wisdom for the consultants and team members as they approach the finish line. May they be motivated to finish strong and see their vision come to life.
- » Ask God to provide funds to be able to have a literacy team coordinator.
- » *Lift up* the Lamba people who will hear and read more of God's Word in coming months. *Ask the Lord* to soften their hearts and open their minds to accept the Word and have their lives forever changed by Christ.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF TOGO; CULTURAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE LAMA LANGUAGE; SIL

## **UGANDA**

# KUPSAPIINY; Uganda (181,000)

Living on the slopes of an extinct volcano, the Sapiiny people speak Kupsapiiny. While most profess Christianity, many don't have a personal relationship with the Lord. Animistic religion is widespread. Although the Sapiiny have several Bible books, this project will give churches the whole New Testament along with Old Testament portions in their language.

- » As the translation team presses forward, **pray** for translator Patrick's health to improve, and **thank the Lord** for raising up a new translator, Joel. **Pray** that he will fit well into the team.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to give special understanding and wisdom to the team as they translate using a difficult spelling system and strive to use the best Kupsapiiny possible.
- » **Pray** for effective literacy activities and that many Sapiiny people will learn to read their language.

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## **WEST AFRICA**

#### BULONGISH; West Africa (6,000)

The Bulongish people live in an area dominated by another major religion. They love their language and actively use it.

- » *Thank the Lord* for amazing progress the translation team made last year on the New Testament! Final consultant checks of all 27 New Testament books were completed, and the New Testament is now being printed.
- » **Pray** for an excellent and smooth printing process that will result in durable books with clear print.
- » **Ask the Lord** to protect the books as they are shipped from the printer to the language area.
- » *Lift up* those planning a dedication, hopefully by this summer.
- » Above all, *pray* for the Spirit of God to use his Word in Bulongish to open hearts to Christ and give them eternal life.

#### RAMA\*; West Africa (60,000)

Located in two countries in West Africa, the speakers of the Rama language will receive their New Testament this year! The manuscript is being printed in South Korea, and will then be shipped to the language area.

- » **Pray** that the community will receive the New Testament with joy and that every part of their lives will be transformed by the power of God's Word. As listening groups are organized to gather together to listen to the recorded New Testament, **pray** that many will attend and have their lives changed.
- » Thank the Lord that one of the translators from the

Netherlands and her daughter could spend time in the Netherlands recently where the 10-year-old daughter had two surgeries to repair both of her eardrums. *Pray* that good hearing results from these surgeries.

» **Ask the Holy Spirit** to guide the team as they make decisions this year concerning the continuation of the translation project to complete a whole Bible.

# SAHELANGUE\*; West Africa (2,000,000)

The wait is over — this major language group in four countries of the Sahel now has access to the full Bible in Arabic script! It was dedicated last year.

- » **Praise God** for his hand on this project and for faithfully bringing it to this point. **Thank the Lord** for each participant on the translation team and in the design, typesetting and printing phases. **Thank Jehovah-jireh** for providing the needed resources.
- » **Pray** for wide and effective distribution. Eleven of the proofreaders in the project made significant faith goals concerning the number of Bibles each one will distribute. Because less than 1 percent in the language group are Christian, opposition is possible. **Ask the Lord** to keep believers safe and allow them to travel in the area.
- » **Pray** for successful development of a smartphone app so that people can download the Bible.
- » **Pray** that God will "... accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20, NLT), transforming lives of the Sahelangue people through his Word in a language that speaks to their hearts.

#### YIBE\*; West Africa (15,000)

The Yibe translation team has been working on translating the New Testament and Old Testament selections. Having completed the consultant check of Revelation, the team hopes to have the books of Romans and Hebrews checked this year, the final books needing a consultant check.

- » Ask God to provide the right person to check these books.
- » Pray for the Lord to grant the team health and wisdom as they work to meet their translation goals for 2019.
- » *Lift* the Yibe to the Lord with joy. "As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:3, NLT).

#### ZAMBIA

#### NKOYA; Zambia (146,000)

Last year, the Nkoya Old Testament project moved through the final steps: Typesetting was completed, and it was sent for printing!

- » **Praise God** for his hand on the project and the excellent progress made.
- » Ask God to protect the Bibles as they are shipped to

Zambia and for the shipment to clear customs quickly. The team would like to launch the Nkoya Bible in the first quarter of 2019.

- » **Pray** for God's Spirit to anoint the dedication ceremony and that it will reflect God's love to the community.
- » **Pray** that, through the Scriptures, many Nkoya will "... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NLT).

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#### SOLI; Zambia (54,400)

The Soli New Testament took faith and hard work. It was a longed-for destination but also the start of a new journey of discovery and understanding for the Soli people.

- » **Praise God** that on April 28, 2018, about 2,500 people gathered to celebrate and dedicate the Soli New Testament! The people could begin a new chapter in their walk with God. Dancing, music and speeches abounded, and stories of victory and loss, and of blessing and sacrifice, were shared.
- » **Pray** for a great harvest among the Soli as they read God's Word and apply it to their hearts and lives.
- » *Lift up* the translation team as they continue to translate Old Testament portions. *Pray* for The Word For The World as they oversee the Old Testament translation team.

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