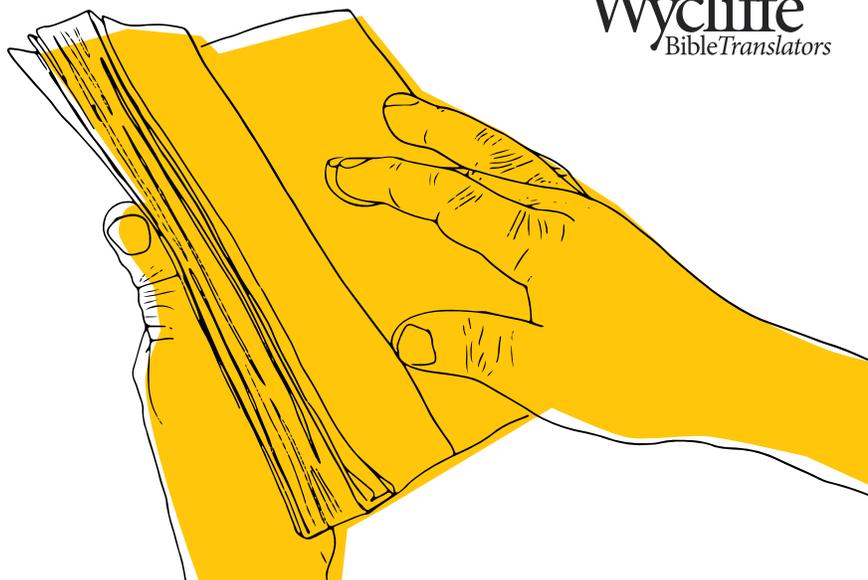


THE FINISH LINE



PACIFIC 2019

PACIFIC ISLANDS

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

The Carolinian translation team is working on the final read-through of the New Testament!

- » **Lift up** the Carolinian team member doing the final read-through. He has reached the middle of Revelation but is suffering from serious health issues. **Pray** for God's touch and enabling so he can complete the final chapters and the translation consultant in the U.S. can process his corrections and feedback. The New Testament can then be prepared for publication.
- » **Pray** that the Nukuoro team can finish the final read-through of the complete Bible. They are struggling with many health issues and also need God's touch and enabling.
- » **Ask God** to open doors so the consultant can visit the Pa'umotu team this year to help them complete the Gospels and Psalms for publication.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

NIUAFO'OU; Kingdom of Tonga, Pacific Islands (1,500)

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

- » **Thank the Lord** that the team has found a new way to review the translation that results in better progress.
- » A consultant is checking the final books of Scripture. **Ask God** to fill him with wisdom so that an excellent translation will result.

- » **Lift up** the team as they test the Scriptures with local speakers to ensure they are clear and sound natural. **Pray** that the testing will continue at a good pace so the New Testament can be published this year.
- » **Pray** for those who will prepare the manuscript for printing. They need strength and wisdom to make decisions about formatting and what to include in the book so it is attractive and easy to use.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ARUAMU; Papua New Guinea (10,000)

The Aruamu received their New Testament in 2004. They wanted more Scripture and now hope to have the complete Bible in 2020!

- » **Thank the Lord** for diligent members of the translation team who have persevered and are approaching the finish line.
- » **Lift up** the team as they work with a consultant to finalize the last four Old Testament books.
- » **Ask God** to fill them with special energy, alertness and wisdom as they check the 39 books of the Old Testament for consistent spelling and translation of key terms, do a final read-through with local speakers and begin the typesetting process. This is an immense task. **Pray** for each participant to complete the tasks they are assigned.
- » This is the first Old Testament Pioneer Bible Translators has done in Papua New Guinea. **Praise God**, and **pray** the typesetting will go smoothly.
- » **Pray** that the team will "... be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10, NLT).

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS PAPUA NEW GUINEA — PBTPNG.ORG

BARUGA; Papua New Guinea (2,230)

June 9, 2018, was a historic day for the Baruga people — they received God's Word in their own language!

- » **Thank the Lord** for faithful local translators through the years. As they held their copies for the very first time, they hugged one another, cried and spontaneously danced with joy.
- » **Praise God**, the New Testament is also available on Audibibles — small solar-powered audio players. Some Baruga families listened to them late into the night after the dedication.
- » **Pray** for increased distribution and sales of the New Testament; there were not many purchases at the dedication.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to apply the truths of Scripture to transform many Baruga lives. Widespread spiritual attacks since the dedication have caused social upheaval. **Pray** for discernment and power for God's people to use their new Scriptures and stand in faith until there is breakthrough.
- » The translation team would like to translate the Old Testament. **Lift up** this desire to the Lord as they trust God for funding, spiritual discipline and encouragement. They will be mostly working on their own in this very remote corner of Papua New Guinea.

SIL

BIEM; Papua New Guinea (2,200)

The Biem people live on several islands off the northeast coast of Papua New Guinea. Praise God, the Biem church is maturing as the elders faithfully shepherd it. Three missionary families served among the islanders for 10 years but now live on the mainland.

- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to continue to mature the believers. **Pray** especially for unity. The church is young, and with first-generation believers and leadership, there are challenges. **Pray** that, through the Scripture portions they have, the Biem will "... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NLT).
- » **Pray** that the believers will continually reach out to other Biem with the gospel.
- » **Lift up** the translation team as they would like to finish checking an extensive amount of Scripture by the end of this year. They need vision, endurance, God's wisdom and good health.

ETHNOS360 — ETHNOS360.ORG

BUSH MENGEN; Papua New Guinea (8,400)

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

- » In late 2016, the main Mungen translator, Rebecca, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She spent much of last year in her home country. **Thank the Lord** that, after six months of rest followed by working from

home, she was able to finish Matthew, John, Hebrews and Revelation, as well as format other books.

- » Rebecca returns to Papua New Guinea in early 2019 to work with a consultant and complete checks of these final four books. **Ask God** to show his power by enabling her and the team to complete the New Testament and prepare it for printing. They hope to have the New Testament in the hands of the Mungen people by the end of the year. "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26, NLT).
- » **Praise the Lord** that the Mungen church is growing and sending missionaries out to reach their own people with the gospel. **Pray** that they will soon be able to distribute New Testaments on their trips.

ETHNOS360 — ETHNOS360.ORG

BWAIDOKA; Papua New Guinea (6,500)

The Bwaidoka translation team made much progress last year! Five New Testament books were checked for comprehension, and new trainees have joined the team to begin translating the Old Testament.

- » **Pray** for God's grace, good health and stamina as the translation team works to finish revising 1 Corinthians, 2 Peter and Revelation.
- » **Ask the Lord** for the right consultants to commit to checking John, 1 Corinthians, Philippians, 2 Peter, 2-3 John, Jude and Revelation.
- » **Thank the Lord** that an initial book of seven New Testament epistles was published last year. As the people wait for the complete New Testament, **pray** that these epistles will draw them to the Lord and mature those who are already believers. **Pray** for the new trainees to learn much as they take classes to improve their skills.

BWAIDOKA TRANSLATION COMMITTEE; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL; UNITED CHURCH

DOROMU-KOKI; Papua New Guinea (1,800)

September 2018 was a significant month in the history of the Doromu-Koki people. The Doromu-Koki New Testament was dedicated in the community area on September 16, followed by a dedication on September 22 in Port Moresby, the capital city, where there are also many speakers of the language.

- » **Praise God**, Doromu-Koki speakers can now feed on God's Word in multiple formats: in print, audio, a Scripture app and on the Papua New Guinea Scriptures website! **Pray** for great spiritual growth among the people.
- » **Ask the Lord** to direct the translation team as they consider the future. There is interest in translating the Old Testament and church readings. **Pray** that the Lord clearly guides them.
- » **Pray** also that they will know what activities to plan for helping the people engage with the Scriptures.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

GIZRRA; Papua New Guinea (1,300)

2018 was a successful year as the Gizrra translation team completed more consultant checks, recordings and final group and village tests for their few remaining books of the New Testament along with Genesis, Ruth and Jonah. 2019 is sure to be an even better year as they continue to strive toward the finish line.

- » **Lift up** the team as they press to complete the last consultant checks in the first few months of the year.
- » **Pray** for peace and God's favor over the typesetting of the books this April. May the formatting and communication with the typesetter run smoothly.
- » **Ask God** to have his hand on the digital copy as it goes to the printer and that the books will be safe on the journey back to Papua New Guinea and the Gizrra people.
- » **Pray** that, through the Scriptures, many Gizrra will "... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NLT).

SIL

GUMAWANA; Papua New Guinea (500)

After many years of persistence and hard work, the Gumawana people are preparing to dedicate their New Testament and four Old Testament books on October 31! The manuscript was typeset last year and sent for printing.

- » The New Testament is not only being printed but also recorded. **Ask God** to provide strong readers that can communicate the Word clearly.
- » **Pray** for the printing process to move forward seamlessly and for the books to return safely to the village area.
- » **Praise the Lord** for the New Testament dedication scheduled for October 31. **Pray** for unity as the villagers plan this momentous occasion and for the books to arrive on time.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

KALULI; Papua New Guinea (4,000)

The Kaluli are advancing well on their path to a full New Testament! Last year the translation team consultant checked four books and wrote second drafts for the last three books left to complete the New Testament.

- » **Praise the Lord** for the amazing progress made on the Kaluli New Testament. **Pray** for wisdom and knowledge as the team finishes the final drafts. **Pray** for consultants to be available to check the final six books (Matthew, Ephesians, 1-2 Peter, Jude and Genesis).
- » **Ask God** to provide health, strength and wisdom as the team works with local pastors and church leaders to finalize details related to spellings and key terms.
- » **Pray** for team members to be able to reduce their village and local church responsibilities so they can focus on translation tasks.

SIL

MATO; Papua New Guinea (1,250)

Twenty-three years after the Mato first asked for someone to help translate the New Testament into their own language, their prayers have finally been answered! The typesetting is complete, and the books are being printed in South Korea.

- » **Praise the Lord**, the dedication for the print and audio versions of the Mato New Testament is planned for August 14, 2019, on the 24th anniversary of when the Mato asked for a New Testament. **Give thanks** that the "JESUS" film is also available in Mato.
- » **Pray** for safety as the books are shipped back to Papua New Guinea.
- » **Thank God** for the opportunity to hold several trauma healing workshops in the language area this year. The people are spiritually hungry and sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.
- » **Pray** for a new generation of translators to be raised up who can be trained to carry on the work of translating the Old Testament.

SIL

MENYA; Papua New Guinea (25,000)

February 23, 2018, was a beautiful, sunny day in the mountainous area where the Menya live. More importantly, it was a historic day as the Menya received the New Testament in their language and dedicated it to the Lord.

- » **Praise God** that his Word is available not only in print, but also on MegaVoice players (MP3 solar-powered digital audio players) and SD cards. By the end of June, almost all 400 MegaVoice units and 100 SD cards were in the hands of team members who sold them in villages and market locations.
- » **Pray** for increased sales of the printed copies and for God's Word, in both print and audio, to bring people to faith in Christ and eternal hope.
- » The translation team and some church leaders would like to translate the Old Testament. **Pray** that, if this is God's will, the community will take on ownership of the project.
- » The Wycliffe advisers on the team return to Papua New Guinea midyear to promote Scripture use and give additional training. **Ask God** to bring much fruit from these efforts.

SIL

MIGABAC; Papua New Guinea (2,900)

After 20 years of praying, planning and hard work, the Migabac people now have a full New Testament!

- » **Thank the Lord** for his faithfulness through the years. **Pray** for favor and wisdom as they plan a dedication for July 2019.
- » **Ask God** to give the translation team knowledge and strength to complete audio recordings of their New Testament so it can be distributed on audio players and as a smartphone app with synchronized text and audio.
- » **Pray** for the Migabac people as excitement for their New Testament grows. May they be motivated to read and study God's Word so they can have a new and growing relationship with him.

SIL

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

Typesetting for the Mussau-Emira New Testament was finished in June last year, and dedications are scheduled for May and June of 2019. Translation trainings were also held in May 2018 to prepare new members for the Old Testament translation team.

- » **Pray** for the safety of the books as they are printed and sent back to Papua New Guinea. **Pray** that the airstrip for Mussau Island will be ready for the dedication, as it has not been used since 2015.
- » **Rejoice** that dedications will be held for the New Testament in Mussau on May 29, 2019, and in Kavieng, the provincial capital, on June 5. **Pray** for collaboration and unity as the people plan the dedications.
- » **Thank the Lord** for new translators that are joining the Mussau-Emira team to help begin translating the Old Testament.

SIL

NEW IRELAND CLUSTER PROJECT — Fanamaket, Kandas, Label and Notsi languages; Papua New Guinea (4,150)

The finish line is getting closer for these translation teams. The Kandas New Testament was sent to the printer in July 2018, and the Fanamaket team will finish proofreading and final editing of their New Testament in early 2019.

- » **Praise the Lord**, the Kandas New Testament dedication is scheduled for April 2019! **Pray** for the safety of the books as they are shipped back to Papua New Guinea and then to the Kandas people. Both the New Testaments and visitors must travel on the ocean in small boats to reach the village area.
- » **Pray** for the Fanamaket team as they typeset their New Testament early this year. They hope it can be printed by the end of the year in time to hold a dedication in April 2020.
- » **Thank the Lord** that the Label team made progress on editing Romans last year. **Ask God** to give them wisdom as they work on the consultant check of their New Testament this year.

- » **Lift up** the Notsi team as they work to make up time lost last year due to health issues. **Pray** for perseverance and that they can get a number of books checked by a consultant.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA; SEED COMPANY —
SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

NOBONOB; Papua New Guinea (2,400)

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

- » **Give thanks** for good progress made last year. The team ensured that passages common to more than one book matched correctly and that key biblical terms were consistently translated throughout the text. They also did a group read-through to make sure the text was clear and sounded natural.
- » **Lift up** the team as they typeset the Bible this year. This is a detailed process that requires concentration, keen eyes, alertness and strength. **Ask God** to fill each participant with his Spirit.
- » They are also preparing a dictionary on the Nobonob language. Dictionaries bring prestige to the language and are popular with speakers. **Pray** for a successful publication of the dictionary.
- » **Ask God** to pave the way for a seamless printing process and safe shipment of the Bibles to Papua New Guinea. **Pray** for great interest among the people as they make sales before the dedication.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIBLE TRANSLATION ASSOCIATION — PNGBTA.
ORG

SIMBARI; Papua New Guinea (4,000)

The translation team spent three weeks last year checking the spelling of 10,000 Simbari words in the New Testament. Misspelled words undermine the credibility of a translation and make it difficult for newly literate people to read. It is tedious work but well worth it for the Simbari people to be able to read, study and be transformed by God's Word!

- » **Thank the Lord** for a number of books that were checked and proofread last year.
- » **Ask God** to fill the team with strength, stamina and his Spirit as they press to finish the final consultant checks begun last year on 16 books by the middle of this year. "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26, NLT).
- » **Lift up** the team as they then focus on formatting the New Testament for publication. This involves decisions like number of columns, font size and pictures to include in order to make the book as useable as possible. They will then proofread the draft manuscript. **Pray** for wisdom, good health and keen eyes.

ETHNOS360 — ETHNOS360.ORG

TIGAK; Papua New Guinea (15,000)

While in his home country, one of the translators carefully studied the Gospels of Matthew and Luke in order to arrive at their proper meaning and interpretation and make initial drafts of each book.

- » **Praise God** that when this family returned to Papua New Guinea last year, the translator immediately began to work with the rest of the team on these books. **Pray** that the team will all be encouraged by what they learn as they review and refine these key books about Christ's life.
- » The team is pressing to get as close to possible to finishing the New Testament this year. **Lift them up** to the Lord, asking for his power and strength and for minimum interruptions to the translation process.
- » **Pray** that Tigak speakers will be available, during their busy lives, to listen to the translation read aloud and ensure it communicates clearly and naturally.

ETHNOS360 — ETHNOS360.ORG

URA; Papua New Guinea (2,400)

Last year, the translation team made final checks and decisions on formatting the New Testament, and it was sent for typesetting. The team hopes to hold the dedication for their New Testament in the spring of 2020.

- » **Rejoice** that the Ura New Testament is now in the final stages of completion! **Pray** that it can be sent to Korea by midyear and for a smooth printing process and safe delivery of the books back to the village area.
- » **Pray** for God's direction as the team records the New Testament. **Ask God** to provide the people and a place for the recording. **Pray** for sufficient funding to cover the recording, Audibibles (small audio players for oral people living in remote locations without electricity) and SD cards with the Scriptures.
- » **Ask the Lord** to soften the hearts of the members of a cult threatening the acceptance and distribution of the gospel in the area. **Pray** God will show himself to them in a way that changes their lives and the lives of everyone around them.

SIL

VITU; Papua New Guinea (8,800)

This New Testament project faces unusual challenges. A translation team couple in the Netherlands has been working remotely with Vitu speakers in Papua New Guinea to complete the final stages of the project. In addition, the wife is battling cancer and experiencing side effects of treatments.

- » **Ask the Lord** to use available recordings, printed Scripture portions and a Bible app to bring people into a vital relationship with Christ.
- » **Pray** for Vitu believers to support the project with prayer, finances and personal involvement.

» **Lift up** the couple in the Netherlands, asking God to give them wisdom, focus and strength to finish the Vitu New Testament. They are proofreading the manuscript and making final corrections in the recorded edition.

» **Pray** that the New Testament can be printed and delivered safely to the community in Papua New Guinea in time for a dedication this fall. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to raise up a great harvest of souls among the Vitu people.

SIL

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

The Vula'a translation team has been pushing hard to move the drafted Old Testament and revised New Testament books through the steps leading up to publication.

- » Due to various circumstances, not as much progress was made last year as hoped for. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to move so that progress is expedited and God's power is demonstrated.
- » **Pray** for the team to have focus, strength and perseverance so they can complete all necessary team, village and consultant checking this year. **Pray** for consultants to be available when needed. When all these steps are completed, the manuscript can be typeset and printed!
- » **Pray** that the Vula'a will say with the psalmist, "I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure" (Psalm 119:162, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WARAN; Papua New Guinea (3,000)

The translation team hopes to hold the dedication of the Waran New Testament in late June this year.

- » **Thank the Lord** for progress made last year. The team checked to make sure key terms and spelling were consistent throughout the manuscript and then worked with a typesetter to finalize the digital copy before sending it to a publisher for printing.
- » **Ask God** to oversee the printing process and shipment of the books back to Papua New Guinea and the community by June.
- » **Give praise** that the team also recorded the New Testament so it can be put on SD cards and distributed with the printed New Testament this year.
- » **Pray** that the Waran people will eagerly receive God's Word and that the New Testament in their language will transform the lives of those who read it and hear it.

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS PAPUA NEW GUINEA — PBTPNG.ORG

POLYNESIA

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

Give thanks, Pukapukan people from many places gathered in the Cook Islands last August for a conference on Bible translation and the Pukapuka language. It was the first such gathering convened by the Council of Chiefs of Pukapuka.

- » **Lift up** the translation team as they process feedback from Pukapuka speakers on the New Testament and Psalms, complete consultant checks, and finalize an index of topics, key terms and a small concordance to include in the New Testament.
- » **Ask God** to give them wisdom and good health as they begin typesetting this spring in Holland.
- » **Pray** that the final digital file can be sent to Sri Lanka midyear for printing and for the books to have clear print and strong binding. **Pray** for the safe arrival of the Puka Yā (Holy Book) in time for a dedication tentatively scheduled for late 2019 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.
- » **Pray** that each community will support the translation project and for unity in planning for and attending the dedication.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to bring great fruit from daily Scripture readings posted on Facebook, by email and on the new website www.pukapuka.world.

WYCLIFFE NEW ZEALAND – WYCLIFFENZ.ORG

SOLOMON ISLANDS

BAEGUU; Solomon Islands (10,000)

The Baeguu people live on North Malaita Island, the second most populous island of the Solomon Islands. Fifty years ago, a young boy named Erastus dreamed of having the Bible in his own language. As a grown man, he became the lead translator in the Baeguu New Testament translation project.

- » **Praise God**, that dream came true! On Sunday, March 25, 2018, Baeguu speakers gathered in Aifa village in North Malaita to celebrate the launch of the New Testament.
- » **Thank the Lord** that leaders from a number of churches and denominations participated in the launch and prayed a blessing over the New Testaments. The Anglican Bishop of Malaita encouraged people to purchase a copy, read it, learn from it and use it well to feed on God's Holy Word.
- » **Pray** for the Scriptures to have great impact in the Baeguu community and in individual lives.
- » **Thank the Lord** that the New Testament was recorded last year by Faith Comes By Hearing, and audio copies are now available. **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to use these print and audio versions of God's Word in people's lives.

SEED COMPANY – SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

ZABANA; Solomon Islands (3,600)

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

- » **Thank the Lord** for progress made last year on the difficult but profound book of Romans.
- » **Lift** the team up as they move ahead this year to translate 1-2 Corinthians and Hebrews. These are the last books to be translated before the final review of the New Testament that leads to the publication process. **Ask the Lord** to give them insight into the meanings of these important books and to translate them so they are clear and natural sounding.
- » **Pray** that the team will grow spiritually as they work so closely with God's Word.
- » **Give thanks** that the Zabana people already have 12 New Testament books in printed form to feed on. **Pray** for spiritual fruit from these books.

ISLANDS BIBLE MINISTRIES

VANUATU

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

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

- » **Give thanks** that the Baki New Testament will be published this year! Last year the team worked hard to finish all consultant checks, a final read-through and typesetting.
- » **Pray** for God's hand on the New Testament — for functional printers, a smooth book-binding process, and secure packing and shipping of the books to the village area.
- » **Pray** that, as the Baki receive God's Word, they will "hear God's word, cling to it, and ... produce a huge harvest" (Luke 8:15b, NLT).
- » **Lift up** the Lamén translation adviser and the local translator, that they will make time to complete the final village checks and edits of the Lamén New Testament. It's a challenge, and they need energy, good health and the power of the Holy Spirit.

MEREI; Vanuatu (600)

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

» **Thank the Lord** for raising up several highly qualified translators in the community. **Ask God** to give them special wisdom and an ever-increasing love for God's Word. They have been working to complete all the epistles.

» **Pray** that the translators will have good health, perseverance and focus as they press forward to finish the New Testament.

» **Pray** that the Meri people will declare with the psalmist: "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105, NLT).

 A complete list of all projects, sorted by area of the world, can be downloaded anytime from [wycliffe.org/finishline](https://www.wycliffe.org/finishline).

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