

THE 2019

FINISH LINE





THE FINISH LINE









DEAR FRIENDS,

Around the world, God continues to use his life-changing Word to draw people into his family. Through Scripture, people find comfort, wisdom, hope, healing and joy for every season of life. At Wycliffe Bible Translators, we rejoice when lives are transformed because people can understand the Good News in their own language.

But we know that there are still millions of people who are waiting to know the God who created and loves them.

In this booklet, you'll find 30 Bible translation projects that are within three years of completion. The final few years of translation work are often filled with trials and obstacles. Team members need prayer to persevere and help the communities they serve produce a clear translation that speaks to their hearts. Your prayers play a crucial role in completing each project and preparing the hearts of those who will receive God's Word.

Thank you for praying for these team members and communities. As we join together to cover people and projects around the world in prayer, we know that God will continue to be glorified.

Warmly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Creson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" and last name "Creson" clearly distinguishable.

Bob Creson
President/CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators, USA



ABOUT THE FINISH LINE

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

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

In the following prayer requests, an organization name listed at the end of the entry indicates a translation project handled by a partner organization. For most projects, the population is included after the country area name. But these 30 projects aren't the only ones in need; they represent more than 300 similar translation projects worldwide waiting to cross the finish line. To stay connected, check out:

wycliffe.org/finishline

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



wycliffe.org/joinprayer

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

To receive a printed copy of The Finish Line by mail, call

1-800-WYCLIFFE (1-800-992-5433 ext. 3870)

or email prayer_usa@wycliffe.org

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Each day in The Finish Line is packed with useful information. Here's an example with notes explaining what each section of the entry means.

LANGUAGE NAME

LOCATION

POPULATION

DAY 30: 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.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)

WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION





HOW DO I PRAY FOR TRANSLATION PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION?

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

PRAY FOR THE TRANSLATORS

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

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE

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

PRAY FOR PROTECTION

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

PRAY FOR PROGRESS

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



PRAYING THROUGH THE STAGES OF A TRANSLATION PROJECT

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

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

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

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

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



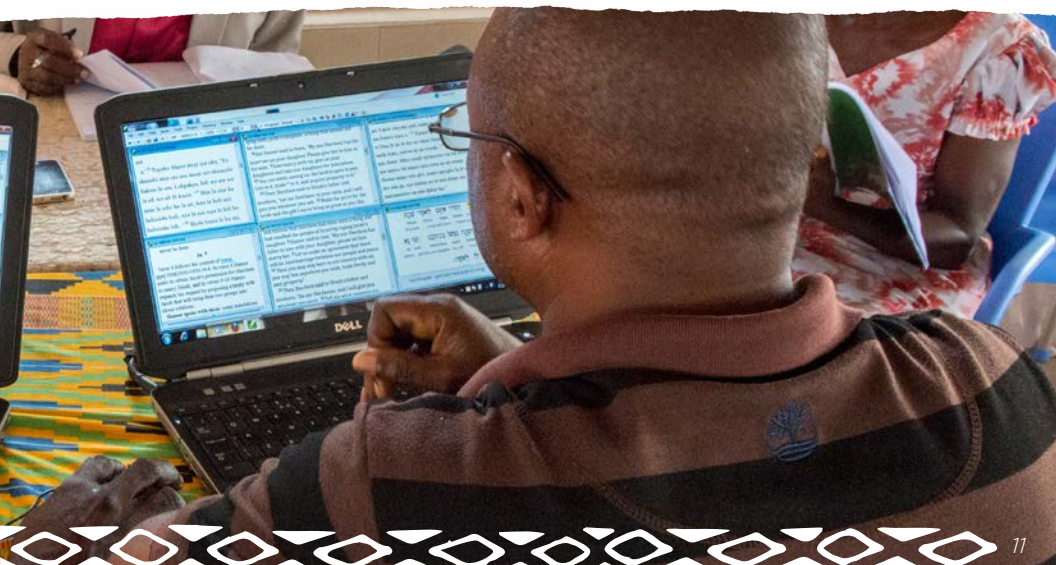
CONSISTENCY CHECK: Ensuring consistent translation of key biblical terms, important theological concepts, Bible names and parallel passages throughout the entire text. Reasons for necessary variations are clarified.

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

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

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

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



ASKING AND RECEIVING: The 1,000th New Testament

In 1985 Keliko Pastor David Gale went to a conference in Juba, South Sudan. There the clergy were asked to read or sing Scripture in their own language, but he couldn't participate. God's Word wasn't available in Keliko. The language hadn't even been written down.

This moment brought Pastor David to tears and sparked a desire for his people to have God's Word in their own language. He and fellow Keliko leaders declared Matthew 7:7 as the theme of their translation project: "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you" (NLT).

These faithful Keliko leaders and generations that followed would cling to this verse.

The team eagerly started a translation program, but civil unrest created many difficulties for them and their families. As a result, the project came to a halt before they could finish developing the written language.

But the Keliko continued to faithfully ask, seek and knock — for 10 long years.

When God opened the door again, the team restarted the work. Despite having to move the project to different locations and be away from their families, the translators would not give up. Even when the Keliko were forced out of South Sudan and scattered to refugee settlements in Congo and Uganda, the project moved forward with a team of pastor translators led by Pastor David's grandson.

Today the Keliko are still displaced and facing hardships, but you wouldn't know it from the joy they express. Thirty-three years after Pastor David's vision came to life, the Keliko received what they asked God for — Scripture in their own language!



On August 11, 2018, the Keliko New Testament with Old Testament portions was dedicated in northern Uganda. This dedication also marked an important milestone. Keliko was the 1,000th New Testament completed with the engagement of Wycliffe USA and SIL International — a primary strategic partner.

Wycliffe's Chief Operations Officer Russ Hersman and staff involved with the project were recognized at the celebration along with representatives from SIL, Wycliffe Germany and OneBook of Canada.

The Keliko New Testament is now being eagerly received by the people and leaders of various churches living in the refugee settlements. A robust literacy program is drawing even more readers.

The Keliko people have been featured for several years in The Finish Line, and your prayers helped bring their New Testament to completion. Please continue to pray for the Keliko as they use these Scriptures and work toward the full Bible.



DAY 30
(Page 35)

DAY 1
(Page 17)

DAY 29
(Page 34)

DAYS 14-15
(Page 25)

DAY 21
(Page 28)

DAY 20
(Page 28)

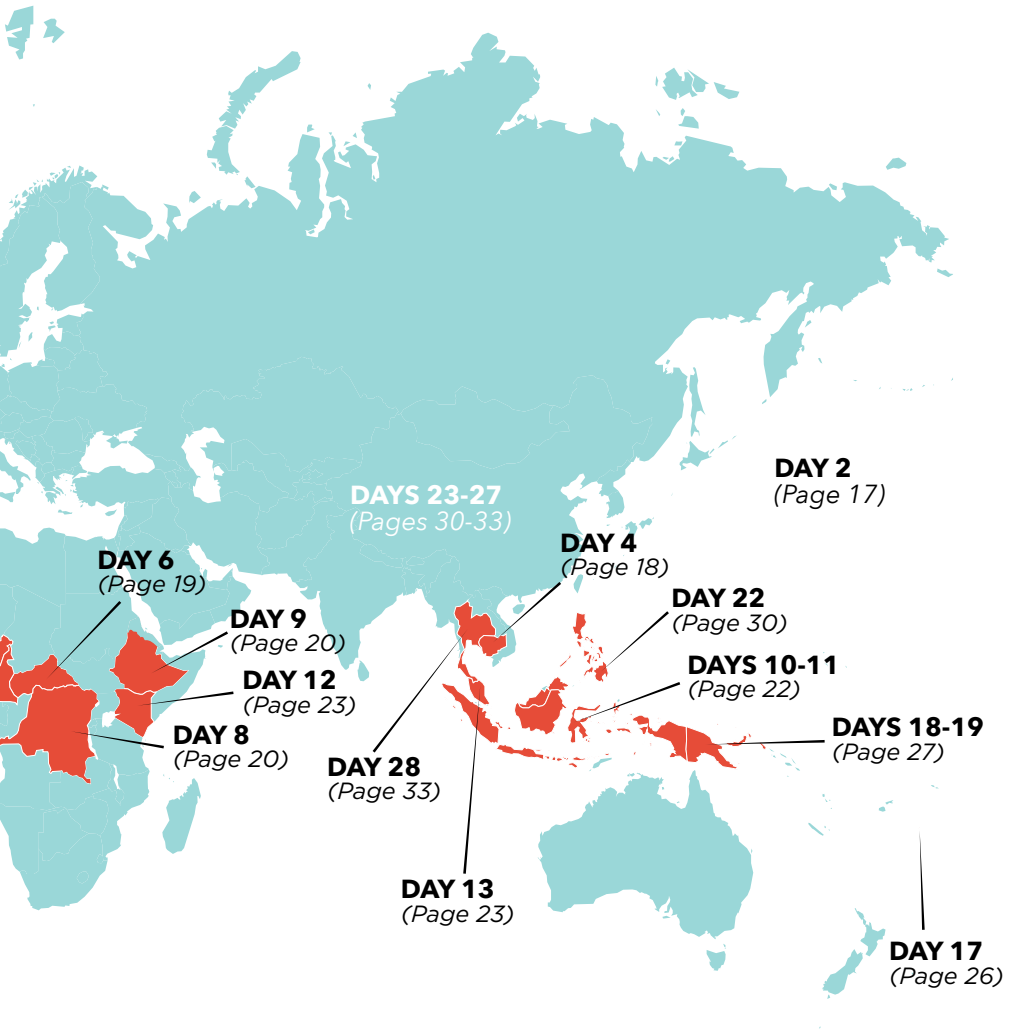
DAY 3
(Page 18)

DAY 7
(Page 19)

DAY 16
(Page 26)

DAY 5
(Page 18)

Together we're praying for people around the world. Use this map to navigate the daily prayer points throughout the book.





30 DAYS OF PRAYER

Note: The following section is comprised of a list of 30 projects and how to pray for them. Unless otherwise noted, each project is for a complete translation of the New Testament. We are so grateful for your prayers and partnership in Bible translation.

DAY 1: CREVICE*; Americas

Over the years, our spiritual enemy has discouraged this project with repeated obstacles. Last year was no exception; many setbacks slowed progress. But God will have the final victory!

- » **Thank the Lord** that an audio recording of the New Testament is in process. After each New Testament book is recorded, the text is sent to a typesetter to lay out for eventual printing as one book.
- » **Pray** for the recording to finish soon. The team would like to hold a dedication of the New Testament this year.
- » **Ask God** to strengthen the Crevice translation team spiritually and physically.
- » **Pray** that the Word will fall on fertile soil and produce a great harvest of righteousness as the Crevice listen to and read it.

DAY 2: IRATA*; Asia

A team has been working since 2000 to translate the New Testament into Irata, a language spoken by several million people.

- » **Thank the Lord** for the growing support of the translation project among local church leaders.
- » **Pray** that all New Testament books will be consultant checked by mid-2019.
- » Preparing the New Testament for publication is detailed work. **Ask the Lord** to give the team stamina, good eyes and wisdom as they check cross-references and finalize terms for key concepts. It is often difficult to find the best way to convey the correct meaning of Scripture in another language and culture. Sabbath, baptism and judgment have been especially challenging concepts to finalize.
- » **Pray** that a special edition of Matthew will be published for the many Irata speakers working in a nearby country.

*name changed

DAY 3: 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 to translate the Old Testament.
- » **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.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY, BURKINA FASO

DAY 4: TAMPUAN; Cambodia (40,000)

The translation team worked hard last year to check the final books of the New Testament with speakers in the community to make sure the texts are clear and sound natural.

- » **Pray** that the team can get good feedback on Revelation — the last book needing a community check — and for successful completion of all the consultant checks.
- » The team plans to make an audio recording of the New Testament in the second half of 2019, prior to typesetting and publication of the print version. **Ask God** to provide readers with strong, clear voices and a good, quiet recording location.
- » **Pray** that the recording will be completed in time for typesetting to begin by the end of the year. “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible” (Matthew 19:26, NLT).

DAY 5: 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.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY — CABTAL.ORG

DAY 6: 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

DAY 7: 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

DAY 8: 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 then 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

DAY 9: 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 to happen. 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



DAY 10: AMBONESE MALAY; Indonesia (245,000)

While the Ambonese Malay Bible translators were busy revising Matthew, Mark, Hebrews and Revelation, the Ambonese Malay Scripture engagement team also had a busy year. They held two trauma healing workshops to train people to process trauma using truths found in Scripture. They also developed a course to help people overcome alcohol addiction. The team helped church leaders and congregants gain confidence by praying, preaching and preparing devotions in Ambonese Malay.

- » **Ask God** to provide consultants to check the remaining books of the New Testament and the supplementary materials included with the text.
- » **Pray** for unity among the translation team members and for God's protection over their families so the translators can focus well on their work.
- » **Intercede** for the translation team as they proofread and make final revisions in preparation for typesetting the New Testament. They need wisdom, clear minds and strength.
- » **Pray** that more church congregations will use the Ambonese Malay liturgy and Scripture in services and that it will impact the lives of the congregants.

PROTESTANT CHURCH OF MALUKU

DAY 11: AUYE; Indonesia (500)

Give thanks that God searches for the one lost sheep and cares for every person. The Auye are hidden in a small area in the central highlands of Papua, the largest and easternmost province of Indonesia. But they are important to God and are getting closer to having God's Word in their language!

- » **Praise God** that final checks last year were made on Hebrews and Revelation.
- » **Lift up** the translation team as they finish the Gospel of Mark this year. When that is complete, they will do a final oral read-through of the entire New Testament to ensure it sounds natural and is clear. **Pray** that they will find any changes that need to be made before publication.
- » **Ask the Lord** to fill the team with wisdom, strength and joy as they anticipate the finished New Testament.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to work in Auye hearts so they will treasure God's Word and be a people "... whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 144:15, NLT).

SIL

DAY 12: 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 paving 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 consultant-checked 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

DAY 13: KELABIT; Malaysia (6,000)

Although the Kelabit had access to the Bible in a related language, it did not speak to their hearts. For a number of years they longed to have their own Scriptures. The Kelabit believe having God's Word in their own language is the greatest inheritance they can leave to future generations.

- » **Praise God**, a New Testament translation project was officially launched in April 2017. Drafts of each book have been completed by a team of about 40 volunteers, each of them with jobs elsewhere.
- » **Ask the Lord** to provide one full-time person to handle the final stages of the project and work with a consultant. This is a critical need. **Ask Jehovah-jireh** for finances to cover this person's salary.
- » **Pray** for team members as they check one book every two months in the community to find out if the text is clear and sounds natural. **Pray** for helpful feedback and that these checks will create interest in God's Word.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to keep the translation team unified. **Pray** for wisdom and leadership as the main translation facilitators organize trainings, workshops and handle some administrative tasks from afar.

KELABIT BIBLE TRANSLATION PROJECT



DAY 14: TONAC MIXTEC*; Mexico (50,000)

March 18, 2018, was a significant day for Tonac Mixtec speakers. Normally quiet and stoic, the Tonac Mixtec smiled, laughed and hugged each other as they celebrated receiving the New Testament in their own language. Over 600 people attended the dedication which was filled with speeches, music and Scripture readings. The six tiny Mixtec congregations who organized the celebration slaughtered two steers and provided half a ton of tortillas for the crowd to feast on.

- » **Pray** for wide distribution of the New Testaments and 200 devices with audio Scriptures among the mountainous Mixtec villages.
- » **Thank the Lord** that the New Testament is also available on the internet and in audio form. **Pray** for hundreds of Mixtecs to use these tools and be transformed by the message of God's love and grace.
- » A special dedication was held May 2, 2018, in a U.S. city with 3,000 Mixtec speakers. Up to 10,000 speakers live in the U.S. **Pray** that they will get physical copies or access to the Scriptures online.
- » **Praise God** that his light is penetrating the darkness. This project took years during which two missionary pilots lost their lives and are buried on a local hill, and the initial Wycliffe member died from complications of an injury sustained in the village. God was faithful, and his Word is offering hope and eternal life. **Pray** for a great harvest!

DAY 15: TREE*; Mexico (10,000)

The team rejoices that an audio recording of the Tree New Testament was produced last year with the help of Faith Comes By Hearing. "It was a unique experience for those who helped us record," Fernando, one of the translators, writes. Some of the New Testament narrators learned to read in Tree! "This has been a blessing in their lives," he said. "We hope they'll continue to read the Scriptures and that their lives will be transformed."

- » The New Testaments will be printed in Mexico this year, and a dedication of both the print and audio versions will be held when they're available. **Ask the Lord** to raise up funds to cover publication costs.
- » **Pray** for a smooth and careful printing job so that copies will be durable and have clear print.
- » **Thank the Lord** for MegaVoice players, which are small hand-held digital audio players that are solar powered. These allow people to listen to the Scriptures wherever they are. **Pray** for listening groups to be formed all over the mountains of the Tree area.

*name changed

» **Pray** that God will “accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20b, NLT) in the hearts of the Tree people as they read and listen to his Word.

SEED COMPANY; SIL; UNIÓN NACIONAL DE TRADUCTORES INDÍGENAS

DAY 16: 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 and accurate and sound natural. **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 listening 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.

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

DAY 17: 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. Niuafu’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

DAY 18: 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 Mengan 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 Mengan 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 Mengan church is growing and sending missionaries out to reach their own people with the gospel. **Pray** that soon they will be able to distribute New Testaments on their trips.

ETHNOS360 — ETHNOS360.ORG

DAY 19: 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

DAY 20: TOBA; Paraguay (900)

A Toba translator named Julian testified, “When I thought about quitting my job as a Bible translator because there was a lot of criticism, I learned that the Apostle Paul suffered while bringing the Word of God to others, and now I remain content. The Word of God is very important for my life. I want to teach all the community when the entire New Testament is finished. I look forward to that day when we have the Bible in our language with great joy.”

- » **Give thanks** for God’s hand on the translators as they forge ahead. Last year they suffered floods and had limited time with their consultant; this year they will have more time with him.
- » **Ask the Holy Spirit** to keep the team spiritually healthy and give them wisdom when confronted with distractions.
- » **Pray** for clear understanding from the Holy Spirit so they can accurately translate the Word of God.

LATINOAMERICANOS EN TRADUCCIÓN Y ALFABETIZACIÓN; SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM

DAY 21: QUECHUA CLUSTER PROJECT — *Margos, Huamalies, Huaylas, North Conchucos, South Conchucos and Huacaybamba languages; Peru (950,000)*

This project, which will provide the whole Bible for six Quechua language communities, is amazingly close to the finish line.

- » **Thank the Lord** for helping the typesetter in Michigan complete the print-ready digital copy of all six Bibles. **Lift up** the woman in Peru proofing each copy to make sure formatting and punctuation are correct. She needs perseverance, strength and good eyes for this tedious but crucial job.
- » **Pray** each Bible moves through the publication process smoothly and arrives safely to the people. **Ask God** to provide funds needed for dedicating and distributing the Bibles.
- » **Pray** for the Bibles to be received with great fanfare and celebration.
- » **Intercede** for local Quechua speakers so they might creatively and diligently distribute the Bibles and reach the furthest villages in each mountainous language area.



» **Ask God** to work in the hearts of Quechua authorities, religious leaders, churches and schools so they will use and treasure their copies of God's Word.

SIL

DAY 22: EASTERN BONTOK; Philippines (6,170)

When the Eastern Bontok received the New Testament in 2004, they immediately decided they wanted the Old Testament too!

» Since the project began, three out of the four translators have left. **Thank the Lord** for the remaining translator's commitment and **lift** her up to our Father, asking him to fill her with vision, daily wisdom and excellent health.

» **Praise God** for the consultant who meets with the translator to help in the final revision. **Pray** that a translation consultant will be available soon to approve Isaiah, which is the last book needing approval.

» **Lift up** the translator as she then works with a typesetter to prepare the manuscript for printing. This is a detailed process with many decisions about formatting and extra helps to include. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to guide them as they work to make an attractive and easy-to-use book. They need special strength and good eyes for multiple proofreadings.

» **Pray** for the people planning a dedication — that it will bring God glory and draw many to the Scriptures. **Pray** for revival among the Eastern Bontok.

FIALIKIA SCRIPTURE SOCIETY

DAY 23: DUKO*; South Asia (100,000)

The translation team has conducted meetings with pastors and believers in villages around the area to demonstrate the value of studying God's Word in their language. The team is encouraging believers to stand strong in the face of persecution.

» **Give praise**, local believers and churches are using available translated Scripture portions in their churches and small house gatherings, and a Catholic priest is using them in his parish and catechism classes. **Pray** that the Scriptures will encourage believers and create a great hunger for the complete New Testament.

» The team has completed consultant checks of Matthew, Acts, Romans and 1-2 Corinthians and is working to finish checks of the few remaining books. **Ask God's Spirit** to give the team and consultant daily strength, alertness and wisdom to finish the checks and then prepare the New Testament for publication (which includes typesetting and proofreading).

**name changed*

» **Intercede** for believers who face persecution. One woman gave her life to Christ and was killed by a family member as a result. **Pray** for God's protection and strength for believers.

DAY 24: SIARES*; South Asia

Concerted prayer is needed for a breakthrough in this New Testament project.

- » **Lift up** the health of the key translator's wife. She has struggled with cancer for six years and now has damaged lungs from the radiation treatment. **Pray** that her health would be restored so that the couple can live in South Asia and engage fully in the work to complete the New Testament.
- » **Ask God** to provide more Siales speakers to help revise the drafts.
- » **Pray** for others to join the effort and check the drafts of the remaining New Testament books for comprehension. The team needs Siales speakers willing to read and believers willing to facilitate the comprehension testing. This is a necessary step before the consultant check.
- » **Praise God**, about 10,000 people have downloaded the Android Scripture app, and almost 400 have kept it on their phones. **Pray** for the development of a new phone app. **Pray** also that audio recordings will be made and used across multiple platforms.
- » **Pray** that the Siales will read the Scriptures and that the Holy Spirit would open their eyes to the source of truth and life. **Ask God** to radically transform Siales believers by biblical truths.

DAY 25: BAHAH*; Southeast Asia (1,200,000)

The goal of the Bahah project is to produce the New Testament and four books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Ruth and Jonah) in print and electronic form, along with audio recordings.

- » **Give praise**, Romans and 1 Corinthians are approved for publication, and 2 Corinthians has been submitted to a consultant to check. In addition, the four Gospels, Acts and Revelation have been revised, and audio recordings of the Gospels and Acts have been finalized.
- » **Lift up** the translation team as they press to meet these goals for this year: publish 1-2 Peter and Jude, draft Hebrews, finish revising 13 other New Testament books, and complete audio recordings of Exodus and 13 New Testament books. They need good health, clear minds, wisdom and God's Spirit to accomplish this.
- » **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to draw the Bahah into a personal relationship with the Lord through Scripture materials.
- » **Claim** Matthew 19:26 for the team: "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" (NLT).

*name changed



DAY 26: RESH*; Southeast Asia (25,000)

The Resh translation team made good progress on the New Testament last year. Five books were checked by a consultant, and Ephesians, Philippians and Revelation were drafted.

- » **Thank the Lord** for completion of a video about the life of Joseph. Recordings are also being made of Bible books, and a new Resh Scripture app has been published. **Pray** for these tools to be used to draw many people into Bible stories and a relationship with Christ.
- » **Ask God** to provide an ongoing visa for the facilitator of the team to live and work in the country.
- » **Lift up** a new Resh translator. **Pray** that God will use training and his Spirit to equip her to be a gifted member of the team.
- » **Pray** for one denomination to return to the translation partnership and that they will accept the new orthography promoted by the government.
- » **Pray** that Resh churches will enthusiastically embrace the Scriptures and be transformed by them.

DAY 27: SHATIKHA*; Southeast Asia (15,000)

Thank the Lord for missionary efforts of the Shatikha church. Last year they began house churches in two new villages, studying newly-translated Shatikha Scriptures. They also visited a neighboring country to build relationships with Shatikha people there, paving the way for broader use of the Scriptures.

- » **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to water these churches and relationships. **Pray** also for many Shatikha to become interested in the gospel and start their journeys to become followers of Jesus. **Lift up** three men who serve as church leaders, that God will be glorified as they reach out to neighbors of another major religion.
- » The translation team is pressing on through typesetting and printing of the New Testament leading up to a dedication. **Ask God** to protect the health of the Shatikha translator, the two advisors and all their families.
- » **Cover** the team in prayer this year as they near the finish line. "... The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16, NLT).

DAY 28: NORTHERN THAI; Thailand (6,000,000)

After 20 years of hard work, the Northern Thai New Testament was dedicated on February 2, 2018! The festive celebration took place under the shade of a tamarind tree on the grounds of a theological seminary in Chiang Mai, a city in northern Thailand.

- » **Praise God** for his faithfulness in providing people, prayer and finances through the years to see this project across the finish line.
- » A mother at the dedication shared that she discovered her 12-year-old son — who usually gets lost in video games and doesn't like to do homework — engrossed in a book. It was the Book of Acts in Northern Thai! He was having so much fun reading in the language he speaks at home that he didn't want to put it down. **Pray** that this will be the response of many when they read God's Word in Northern Thai.
- » The New Testament was published in both Thai and Lanna scripts to reach a wider audience. **Pray** for wide distribution and that people will use it in their homes and churches, declaring with the psalmist, "The very essence of your words is truth ..." (Psalm 119:160, NLT).

SEED COMPANY — SEEDCOMPANY.COM; SIL

DAY 29: HAWAII PIDGIN; United States (600,000)

Joe, one of the team's translators, is 90 years old and has served on the Hawaii Pidgin translation team since the beginning of the project. The New Testament was published in 2000, and the team continued to translate the Old Testament.

- » **Praise the Lord**, the team finished a third and final proofreading of the Bible at the end of last year. It was a tedious and time-consuming task, but it resulted in an improved translation.
- » **Give thanks** that God blessed the team with strength to press on with their work and gave consistent internet access. From Oklahoma, Joe was able to connect with translators in Hawaii, consultants in other locations and a proofreader in Arizona.
- » **Pray** for an excellent print job, resulting in quality books with strong binding.
- » A smartphone version of the Scriptures may be released this year. **Pray** that Hawaii Pidgin speakers will quickly access it and be transformed as they read God's Word! **Ask the Holy Spirit** to impact lives as the full Scriptures become available digitally, in print, on the smartphone app and an audio recording.

SIL

DAY 30: CENTRAL SIBERIAN YUPIK; United States/ Eastern Russia (1,400)

After many years, Central Siberian Yupik speakers now have the New Testament in their language!

- » **Praise God** that two New Testaments were produced — one in Cyrillic script for Russian Yupik speakers and one in Roman script for American Yupik speakers. The books were dedicated to God's glory and purposes last September in three locations — two on St. Lawrence Island and one on the Alaska mainland. Joy was evident as people held God's Word in their language for the first time.
- » **Give thanks** for one married couple and two women who, as a team, persevered through incredible challenges over the years. They encountered multiple serious health issues and worked in a very isolated location.
- » **Thank the Lord** for Faith Comes By Hearing, who recorded the New Testament. It is available now on the internet, smartphones and radio.
- » **Pray** that God's Word, in printed and audio forms, will have a transforming result in the lives of the Yupik people.

Thank you for praying for these 30 translation projects.

Don't stop now!

Sign up to receive prayer email updates, which
includes a 30-day Finish Line prayer
guide for each month, our e-newsletter and more!

wycliffef.org/joinprayer



spp5073

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. — *1 John 5:14 (ESV)*

Wycliffe®

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

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