

PROJECT NO: 84143

TAX | NON-TAX

Papua New Guinea



Renewing the Tok Pisin Bible



Overview

The Bible Society of Papua New Guinea (BSPNG) is revising the Tok Pisin Bible, which was first published in 1989 and became the biggest seller of any Bible in the country. The revision of the Bible will take into account the changes in the Tok Pisin language over the last 30+ years.

The Need

PNG's population of 8.9 million predominantly live in remote rural areas. PNG has over 800 known languages. English, Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu (the lingua franca of the Papuan region) are the official languages. Most of the population now speaks Tok Pisin and many children learn it as a first language.

Since the Tok Pisin Bible was published in 1989 (the original translation work began in the 1960s), there have been significant changes in the language, and Christians and church leaders began requesting a revision of the Bible. The BSPNG and the local church believes that an updated and improved modern language version will encourage people to use it more. The churches are keenly awaiting a revision.

8.9m

people in Papua New Guinea.

800

known languages in Papua New Guinea.

120k

people speak Tok Pisin as their first language (as of 2004).

4m

speak Tok Pisin as a second language (as of 2005).

Goals

The goals of the project are to:

- 1) make available a fully revised Tok Pisin Bible, in electronic, print and audio form for people to use at home and in church;
- 2) to produce a modern contemporary Bible version suitable for all age groups; and
- 3) to ensure that the Bible translation keeps in line with the

national standard of the Tok Pisin language.

The revision process began several years ago and, in 2023, the focus will be on drafting and checking the revised Bible text. There will be regional committee reviews and reviews by translation consultants. Training will also be conducted for seven new translators, two coordinating offices

will be established, and the Project Administrator and Translation Manager will visit teams in three regions to assess and evaluate performance.

In addition, reading groups will be established in the New Guinea Islands region, to identify any dialectal issues.

Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact is 7 million. In a population of over eight million, almost the entire population speak Tik Pisin (as a first or additional language).

Once the revision is complete, Christians across PNG will be impacted by their access to a Tok Pisin Bible in contemporary language, which will breathe life, faith, hope and Christian values into their lives.

Testimonies

"In Papua New Guinea the Bible is a huge treasure. People walk around carrying their Bible in a special bag, like a priceless gift. They do this even when the pages are worn and ragged around the edges and falling apart."

NZ Salvation Army Commissioner Yvonne Westrupp, who spent three years serving in PNG.

"There are many young people giving their lives to the Lord who are without Bibles."

Joel Peter, Bible Society of Papua New Guinea's (BSPNG) General Secretary.

Prayer Needs

- Pray that the huge and growing spiritual hunger for the Bible in PNG will be quickly met by the completion of this Tok Pisin revised Bible.
- Pray for volunteers trained in translation work, that they will have more time for translation checking, an essential part of the translation process.
- Pray that funds will be made available to provide power where there is no electricity, enabling translators and revisers to complete their work.
- Pray for ongoing support from churches, and communities.

