

PROJECT NO: 84132

TAX | NON-TAX

Papua New Guinea



Bible Translation for People without Bibles

Overview

Bible Society Papua New Guinea (BSPNG) is supporting seven Bible translation projects in seven different languages, working with partner agencies who will publish the completed works.

The Need

Papua New Guinea's (PNG) 840 tribal groups are crying out for the Scriptures in their own languages. Literacy surveys indicate a high number of people who are unable to speak English, and therefore are not able to read the Bible in English.

In the past, Bible translation work was often coordinated by foreign missionaries who lived among the people, often for years. Today, community church groups are themselves taking up the task, frequently with no outside support. A number of local language groups have approached the Bible Society for assistance and guidance to carry out translations of the Bible, or portions of the Bible, into their own language.

These groups, frequently church-based, are made up of dedicated souls, but often lack both material and technical resources to effectively carry out the work. Often these groups are in remote areas and working in isolation. They can only be reached by small dinghy or air travel, often in single engine mission planes landing on manually cleared grass airstrips. It is easy for these dedicated souls to lose their focus, and to even give up the work.

The Bible Society can offer technical support, but the simple costs of writing paper and pens, let alone computers or internet connections, are often beyond the means of the local groups.



85%

of the population in PNG live in rural communities which have few or no facilities such as electricity, running water, telecommunications.

840

distinct languages have been identified in PNG.

Goals

The goal of the project is to promote, encourage and support the Bible Translation work now being carried out by various language groups, often working in isolation in Papua New Guinea.

At present, the Bible Society of Papua New Guinea is supporting seven translation projects in Magi, Vula'a, Motu, Pa, Aekyom, Gogodala and Yuna. Bible Society also works with partner agencies publishing the completed works.

Bible Society's goal is to encourage and support the seven translation groups, with financial and material support, direct support and supervision through the National Translation Manager and regular visits and training workshops from

Translation Consultants, providing fully equipped 'Translation Centre' workplaces for translators, covering printing costs for trial publications and providing training for BSPNG's Translation Manager.

The project will also work closely with other translation partners — the Summer Institute of Linguistics, the Bible Translation Association (BTA) and Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT) — to ensure the most efficient use of resources to reach the maximum number of people.

Specifically in 2023, consultant checks (and in some cases, community reviews) are planned for the Magi Old Testament, the Gogodala Old Testament, the Vula'a Old Testament, the Yuna Old

Testament, the Pa New Testament, the Aekyom Old Testament and the Motu Bible.

One thousand copies will be printed of both the Gogodala Genesis and Yuna Old Testament portion. There will be training seminars held for all translation teams, and solar power equipment for Yuna, Gogodala and Magi will be replaced. New solar panel and accessories will be purchased for the Pa project, and five laptop computers will be purchased for the Motu and Gogodala projects.

Impact

Though the actual number cannot be assessed until after the translation projects are complete, it is hoped that over 200,000 will be reached with these seven Bible translations.

To have the word of God in mother tongues will provide a solid base upon which to build community and family life in a rapidly changing world. Translation work will also lead into other related activities such as literacy, based on Bible teachings.

Prayer Needs

- Please pray for the dedicated souls and local communities carrying out translation work.
- Pray for availability of resources to support the translators' minimal needs.
- Pray for additional consultants and training of the national Translation Officers.

