

PROJECT NO: 102798

TAX | NON-TAX

# South Pacific



## Samoa Translation



### Overview

This project seeks to complete the translation of the Samoan Old Testament in contemporary language, to join with the contemporary New Testament which was completed in 2009. With the completion of the Old Testament translation, it will be possible to publish the whole Bible in the contemporary language.

### The Need

The Samoan communities have requested the translation of the Old Testament into the contemporary language after the completion of the New Testament in 2009. Samoa is politically stable, and the culture is very supportive of the Christian message. This religious freedom helps in gaining support and acceptance for Bible translation work.

The estimated population of Samoa is 200,149. About one-third of Samoans are less than 15 years old. Whilst the Bible Society have maintained the old versions to meet the older generation, it is also working at meeting the growing needs of younger and future generations. Nearly all Samoans are literate. Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 14; however, only a small fraction of the population has completed secondary school. Moreover, there is still a great demand for printed Scriptures to benefit those living in rural areas.

> 200k

people living in Samoa (as of July 2021)

33%

of Samoans are under 15 years old.

72

years old is the maximum life expectancy.

## Goals

The goal of this project is to publish in print and electronic formats a complete Contemporary Samoan Bible, thereby ensuring that younger generations of Samoan speakers will better understand the Scriptures.

Specifically in 2023, the project will work on drafting Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah. Internal reviews will be organised for Malachi – Daniel. On the completion of this review (peer review), the original drafters of the books are to make the necessary

editorial work and improve their translation drafts. Next, they can print the books and give it out for community checking or community review. Further editorial work based on feedback received are to be done as translation drafts are improved further.

A written back-translation of the books must be produced by an uninitiated native speaker (UNS) or a selected translator who has no connection with that book. This is produced for the translation officer

to do his/her consultant checking. Any comments on the book from the Consultant (after working on the back translation) are to be reviewed again by the original translator before it is ready for draft typesetting. A final proofreading is to be done before printing the book.

## Impact

The total number of people who may be impacted by this Bible translation project is 100,000.

It is hoped that this meaning-based translation will bring transformation in the lives of all Samoans (believers and non-believers). The completed Bible will also assist in equipping the Church for a new Samoan generation.

## Prayer Needs

- Pray for the Samoa translation team, pray for committed individuals to join the team.
- Pray for Church support for Bible work in Samoa.
- Pray for the completion of the 12 Minor prophets' books in 2023.

