

PROJECT NO: 102799

TAX | NON-TAX

South Pacific



Tongan Translation

Overview

Bible Society in the South Pacific are working on two new Bible translations and two Bible revisions in the Tongan language. The priority is the completion of the Tongan Contemporary Bible, which will meet the needs of the younger generations, as the translation uses today's Tongan language.

The Need

There is a need in Tonga — reported by church leaders — to make the Bible available in contemporary language, as well as digitising the Bible, so that as many people as possible can have access to God's word and be changed by God's truth.

There are social issues of major concern in Tonga including domestic violence, disintegration of family and kinship, youth unemployment, alcohol and substance abuse. Numbers of secondary school dropouts have increased, especially males, adding to youth unemployment.

In addition to this, the country endured a huge crisis in 2022 with the eruption of the Hunga, a Tongan volcano, 65 km (40 mi) north of the main island of Tongatapu. The eruption caused a tsunami which inundated parts of the archipelago, including the capital Nuku'alofa. The eruption affected Tonga heavily, cutting off most communications, as it was expected to take weeks to repair a submarine fibre optic cable used for Internet and telephone connectivity. The sound of the eruptions, together with the tsunami and the rain of ash which followed, traumatised many people. People are still recovering from the trauma and displacement of the eruption and tsunami, and there is more need than ever for God's word.



105.7k

people in Tonga.

99.4%

Tonga's literacy rate.

Goals

The goal of this project is to make a contemporary translation of the Bible in Tongan available by 2025 (published in electronic and print formats). Secondly, this project aims to make available a revised edition of the Tongan Bible (West translation) for easy access,

publishing it in electronic form in 2025. The revised work will include the insertion of book introductions and section headings, which will benefit the members of the churches that use it.

Another goal of the project (once

the Tongan Contemporary Bible has been completed) is to insert the deuterocanonical books into the Contemporary Bible for the benefit of Catholic congregations in Tonga.

Impact

This project aims to impact a total of 80,000 people with Bible translation and revision, based on the current population of Tonga. By the completion of a contemporary translation, and the digitisation of Scripture, this project will encourage access to the Bible and Bible engagement for the people of Tonga.

Testimonies

"The Tongan Contemporary translation project is the one project that has the support and has unified the church leaders in Tonga to work together on the translations of the Bible."

Mr. Viliami Falekaono, Coordinator of the project.

Prayer Needs

- Please pray for the people of Tonga, some who have had to move to the main island due to the severe damage caused by the volcano eruptions and the tsunami.
- Pray for the Tongan Translation Committee and their families and that they will return to normalcy soon.
- Pray that these translations will give the spirit of wisdom and insight so that people may know Jesus and trust in him.

