

New Caledonia

NON TAX
Project No: 102956



Bible Translation

Overview

Bible Society in the South Pacific is coordinating this project to see the translation of the Old Testament in Ajië, the New Testament in Nelemwa and the digitisation of existing Bible translations among three other languages spoken in New Caledonia, to reach more speakers of each language with God's word.



The Need

There is a great need for Bible translation among the people and languages of New Caledonia. With a predominately Christian population, there is much support of the Christian message, and a great demand for Scriptures to benefit those living in rural areas and the outskirts of the main towns.

The population of New Caledonia is young, with 48% of the population being 24 years old and younger. These young people speak both their common national languages and their indigenous languages, and there is a great need to produce the Bible as an electronic text.

The work of digitising and reviewing the Bibles that were first translated by the early missionaries and translating or adapting the Scriptures into contemporary languages is ongoing, and crucial to meet the needs of the younger population.

285,498

people live in New Caledonia (2020, UN data)

48%

of the population are 24 years old and younger

96.94%

of adult population (aged 15 years and above) in New Caledonia are literate

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10, ESV

Goals

The goals of this project cover five languages spoken in New Caledonia. This project aims to proofread the scanned text of previous Bible translations, correct old typo and spelling errors caused by old translation inconsistencies, and scan errors due to old ink stains and faulty fonts.

The goals of this project are:

- To publish the revised Drehu Bible by 2024
- To publish a complete Ajië Bible by 2025
- To publish the revised Nengone Bible by 2025
- To publish the Nelemwa NT in 2026
- To publish the revised laai Bible by 2026

In 2024, the project will undertake the following activities towards these goals:

- For the Ajië Old Testament, a community review of Genesis to Malachi will be conducted.
- For the Nelemwa New Testament, an internal review of Matthew to Revelation will be conducted.
- The Drehu Bible will be proofread, with the scanned text under final review, preparing for typesetting.
- The Nengone Bible will also be proofread, and the wordlist to be checked and corrected, completing the project.
- The laai Bible will also be proofread, the wordlist will be checked and corrected, completing this project also.

Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact with Bible translation is 285,000. This is based on the population of New Caledonia.

The audience will be engaged by the Bible translation during the lifetime of the project, with language speakers involved at the translation stage as well as the review and checking of the translation process.

The people of New Caledonia who speak these five languages will understand the Scriptures better and be more able to apply them to their lives.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for New Caledonia and its people, pray for church leaders and the Bible Translation work and its successful completion.
- Pray for the team as they search for a new Translation Coordinator who can better coordinate the work.
- Pray for meaningful engagement with the Scriptures in New Caledonia.