



Vanuatu Bible Translation

Overview

This project seeks to reach all the peoples of Vanuatu with God's word, through the translation and provision of the Bible. The project is undertaking four new translations of the New Testament, a revision of two Scriptures and the digitisation of three Bible translations.



The Need

In Vanuatu, 80-90% of the 234,000 Christian residents face a language barrier, as many do not have Scriptures in their own language and find it hard to read other languages. Despite 138 indigenous languages in a population of over 300,000, each language averages only 1,760 speakers. While English, French, and local trade languages are generally understood, they are not enough for many people's spiritual and worship experiences. Research affirms that reading Scriptures in one's dialect in church contributes immensely to people's understanding of the Scriptures.

The need to translate God's word into these languages is urgent, despite the smaller number of speakers in each language.

303,009

people in Vanuatu

80-90%

(approx. 234,000 people)
belong to the Christian faith

138

indigenous Oceanic languages

"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

This project aims to produce four new translations of the New Testament and the revision and digitisation of existing Scripture translations in other languages. The goal of this project is to see the speakers of these languages understand the Scriptures better and be more able to apply God's word to their lives.

In 2024, the specific goals of the project are:

- **Mele New Testament:** reviewing Acts and Romans, then typesetting the book of Acts.
 - **Ahamb (Axamb) New Testament:** reviewing the translation of the Gospel of Luke
 - **Erromango New Testament:** reviewing the Gospels, the Digital Bible launch of the Gospel of Matthew, and translation training for new translators.
 - **Futuna New Testament:** reviewing the Gospels of Luke and John
 - **Lelepa New Testament:** entering drafts of Matthew, Luke, John, and Ephesians into the Paratext software, and reviewing the Gospel of Matthew.
 - **Ngunese translation:** comprehensive reviews of various books introductions and formats throughout the year.
-

Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact with these Bible translations is 300,000 — the population of Vanuatu.

As a result of this Bible translation project, the people of Vanuatu who speak these languages will understand the Scriptures better and be more able to apply God's word to their lives.

Prayer Needs

- Praise God for Dr Sam Freney, Bible Society Australia's Translation Consultant, as he joins with Rev. Apenisa to work with Vanuatu translations on progressing the translation works in Vanuatu.
- Pray for the translators' training and for the successful continuity of their work. Pray that God blesses them with wisdom, strength and commitment.