

Papua New Guinea

NON TAX
Project No: 84143



Tok Pisin Revision Translation

Overview

The Bible Society of Papua New Guinea (BSPNG) is revising the widely popular Tok Pisin Bible, taking into account the changes in the Tok Pisin language over the last 30+ years.



The Need

Papua New Guinea's (PNG) population of 8.9 million predominantly live in remote rural areas. PNG has over 840 known languages. English, Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu (the lingua franca of the Papuan region) are the official languages. Most of the population now speak Tok Pisin and many children learn it as a first language.

Since the Tok Pisin Bible was published in 1989 (the original translation work began in the 1960s), there have been significant changes in the language, and Christians and church leaders began requesting a revision of the Bible. The BSPNG and the local church believes that an updated and improved modern language version will encourage people to use it more. The churches are keenly awaiting a revision.

8.9m

PNG Population

840+

known languages in PNG

49%

Overall Project Goals completed

"There are many different languages in the world, and every language has meaning!"

1 Corinthians 14:10, NLT

Goals

The goals of the project are to 1) make available a fully revised Tok Pisin Bible, in electronic, print and audio form for people to use at home and in church; 2) to produce a modern contemporary Bible version suitable for all age groups; and 3) to ensure that the Bible translation keeps in line with the national standard of the Tok Pisin language.

The revision process began several years ago and, in 2024, the focus will be to make available the fully revised Tok Pisin Bible in electronic, print and audio formats. The Tok Pisin Revised Bible is currently 41% translated and is estimated to be completed by December 2025

Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact is 7 million. In a population of over eight million, almost the entire population speak Tok Pisin (as a first or additional language).

By 2023, more than 15% of the Old Testament books had been revised, and the book of Romans was 100% reviewed by the full committee. Three members were resourced with solar equipment, and two with new computers.

Once the revision is complete, Christians across PNG will be impacted by their access to a Tok Pisin Bible in contemporary language, which will breathe life, faith, hope and Christian values into their lives.

Having the Tok Pisin Bible in modern day language will help people in their homes, their social values, their education and their witness beyond their own people group.

Testimonies

"It is our belief and hope that by serving others together as a team will ensure greater impact from increased capabilities and multiplied power for the Kingdom business. In this training we covered Biblical terms rendering, progress and assignment, roles and responsibilities, Scripture reference settings, punctuation and character inventories, and different features of Publishing Assistant and InDesign program as well for Translation Officers."

— Joel Peter, BSPNG General Secretary

Prayer Needs

- Pray that the huge and growing spiritual hunger for the Bible in PNG will be quickly met by the completion of this Tok Pisin revised Bible.
- Pray for volunteers trained in translation work, that they will have more time for translation checking, an essential part of the translation process.
- Pray that funds will be made available to provide power where there is no electricity, enabling translators and revisers to complete their work.
- Pray for ongoing support from churches, and communities.