



## Tongan Bible New Translation and Revision

### Overview

Bible Society in the South Pacific is 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 to digitise 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. 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.



# 105,695

is the population of Tonga

# 80k

is the number of people this Bible translation project is aiming to impact

# 99.4%

literacy rate in Tonga

**"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly!"**

John 10:10b, ESV

# 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. They are currently in the stages of consultant checking and typesetting, both the Contemporary and the Revised West Bible before printing.

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.

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# 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.

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# 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

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# Prayer Needs

- Pray for the people in Tonga and the work of the Bible Society and the churches in spreading God's word.
- Continue to pray for unity and relationship building among churches and church representatives in Tonga and the Bible Society of the South Pacific as they support and work on this translation project.
- Please pray for the team members of this project, especially for Dr Maafu as he is battling illness.