

Papua New Guinea

NON-TAX
Project No: N/A



Bibles and Maternal Health Care

Overview

Bible Society Australia is partnering with MegaVoice in supplying audio Scriptures and health messages for maternal and newborn baby care, through the work of Living Child Inc. in Papua New Guinea, in the most remote areas of East Sepik Province.



The Need

The villages in the Keram River system are some of the most remote in PNG. The local people — the 'River People' — are strong and resourceful, surviving on local produce. Churches are strong in this area. Yet these areas are not reached by government services; there are no telecommunications or government health services, and most people are non-literate. For years there have been cries for help and stories of suffering from people in these remote villages, especially in relation to youth and children.

40,000

population in the Keram area across 50 villages, with 150 households in each village.

3-5hr

drive between the villages and Wewak, the provincial capital (preceded by a boat trip from their villages)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness;"

2 Timothy 3:16, NIV

Goals

Bible Society is supporting MegaVoice, a prominent provider of solar-powered audio Bibles. MegaVoice is partnering with the charity, Living Child, which collaborates with the Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ (MECOC). This project distributes culturally relevant health information, aimed at enhancing outcomes for mothers and babies, with the content broadcasted through the local Christian Radio Station. Local Sepik-based women help develop this material, with essential supplies like clean birth kits, menstruation kits, and PPE for mothers supplied alongside assistance to frontline maternity health workers.

The MegaVoice devices distributed in villages are preloaded with the Tok Pisin Bible, and the translation and recording of Tok Pisin voice-overs for maternal and newborn health training videos, along with colourful flipcharts, are underway. Five villages are currently being reached, with plans to extend to two or three more.

In 2024, the ultimate goal is to ensure every household in participating villages has access to the Tok Pisin audio Bible and health training material, with plans to distribute 1,000 MegaVoice audio Bibles and 20 MegaVoice Envision video players.

Impact

This project has the potential to impact the mind, the body and the soul, as it includes both health training messages and the audio Bible on the MegaVoice players.

Since the introduction of the program groups in villages, church leaders say their churches are growing. They report that women are going to church as a result of listening to the audio Bibles, and many of their husbands are following them. There is the potential for a huge revival and church growth. Even children want to listen to the Tok Pisin audio Bibles.

Testimonies

"In March 2023 the women shared many stories of problems with drunkenness, gambling and violence in their menfolk. Kata, a village birth attendant from Korokopa village, said that she felt the church in her village was not strong. She described that families were not attending church and that if they did, and they started to read their Bible and put into practice the teachings of Jesus, this would make a difference. She carries with her a very old and worn-out Bible with tattered edges and dirt from fingering the pages. She said that the audio Bibles will help the people get back to the word of God especially because so many people could not read or write in her community." — Sara from Living Child Inc.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the team working within the project.
- Pray that the villages would receive Christ.
- Pray for safe travel in this very remote area.
- Pray for the expansion of this project into more villages.