

Papua New Guinea



Supporting Bible Translators

Project: 84132
Non Tax Deductible



85%

of the population in Papua New Guinea live in rural communities, which have few or no facilities such as electricity, running water, telecommunications

840

distinct languages have been identified in Papua New Guinea

Overview

Bible Society Papua New Guinea (BSPNG) is supporting seven Bible translation projects in seven different languages, working with partner agencies who will publish the completed works.

The Need

Papua New Guinea's (PNG) 840 tribal groups are crying out for the Scriptures in their own languages. While Tok Pisin and English Bibles are available, many — especially in rural villages — do not speak English and are not fluent readers of languages other than their own first language.

In the past, Bible translation work was often coordinated by foreign missionaries who lived among the people, often for years. Today, community church groups are themselves taking up the task, frequently with no outside support. Several local language groups have approached the Bible Society for assistance and guidance to carry out translations of the Bible, or portions of the Bible, into their own language.

Technical translation support is needed, as well as help with the simple costs of writing paper and pens, computers and internet connectivity, which are often beyond the means of the local groups.

God is not unfair. He will not forget the work you did or the love you showed for him in the help you gave and are still giving to other Christians. – Hebrews 6:10, GNT

Goals

The project aims to support Bible Translation work in Papua New Guinea, specifically for seven language groups: Magi, Vulaa, Motu, Pa, Aekom, Gogodala, and Yuna. The Bible Society of Papua New Guinea will provide financial, material, and direct support, supervised by the National Translation Manager. Translation consultants conduct training workshops and offer equipped Translation Centre workplaces.

BSPNG will collaborate with partners such as the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), Bible Translation Association (BTA), and Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT) for efficient resource utilization.

In 2025, the project will aim to complete consultant checking and proofreading for Vulaa and Magi translations, translator checking of Motu translation, continued translation of NT books into Pa, completion of the translation of Genesis in Aekom, consultant check of remaining OT in Yuna, and consultant checking and continued translation in Gogodala. Training workshops, reviews, printing and other consultant activities are also planned.

Impact

It is hoped that over 200,000 will be reached and impacted by these seven Bible translations, though the actual number cannot be assessed until after the translation projects are complete.

To have the word of God in mother tongues will provide a solid base upon which to build community and family life in a rapidly changing world. Translation work will also lead into other related activities such as Bible-based literacy courses.

The enduring impact of this program will be seen and felt when thousands of Bibles in first languages are distributed among the people groups.

Testimony

“On the job training for national translators working under the supervision of Bible Society of PNG. Seven translators from the Central province have attended a two-day Paratext training to learn and be shown how to do resolve issues that teams are grappling with. It was a time well spent with the teams.” — Joel Peter, BSPNG General Secretary

Prayer Points

- Please pray for the dedicated souls and local communities carrying out this translation work.
- Pray for availability of resources to support the translators' needs, which are in fact minimal.
- Pray for additional consultants and training of the national Translation Officers.