

Papua New Guinea



Renewing the Tok Pisin Bible

Project: 84143
Non Tax Deductible



8.9m

population in Papua New Guinea

840+

known languages in Papua New Guinea

49%

overall project goals completed

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 speaks 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.

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 2025 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.

Impact

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

In 2024, the project saw the progress of consultant checks for five NT books, full committee review for 18 mostly OT books and translator revision of 35 books of the Bible. In 2025 the project hopes to achieve consultant checks for 15 books, committee review of 30 books, translator revision of 21 books, as well as three rounds of regional reviews.

Once this translation 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 in sharing the gospel with others.

Testimony

"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 Points

- 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 ongoing support from churches, and communities.
- 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.