

Samoa



Samoaan Translation

Project: 102798
Non Tax Deductible



Overview

This project seeks to complete the translation of the Samoan Old Testament in contemporary language, to join with the contemporary New Testament which was completed in 2009. With the completion of the Old Testament translation, it will be possible to publish the whole Bible in contemporary Samoan language.

The Need

The Samoan communities have requested the translation of the Old Testament into the contemporary language after the completion of the New Testament in 2009. Samoa is politically stable, and the culture is very supportive of the Christian message. This religious freedom helps in gaining support and acceptance for Bible translation work.

The estimated population of Samoa is 205,557 (Census 2021), and 27% of Samoans are under 15 years old. Whilst the Bible Society has maintained the old versions to meet the older generation, it is also working at meeting the growing needs of younger and future generations. Nearly all Samoans are literate. Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 14; however, only a small fraction of the population has completed secondary school. Moreover, there is still a great demand for printed Scriptures to benefit those living in rural areas.

100K

people may be impacted by this Bible translation project.

27%

of Samoans are under 15 years old, emphasising the need for this translation in contemporary language

12

Minor Prophets books have had a complete community (external) review.

Goals

The goal of this project is to publish, in print and electronic formats, a complete Contemporary Samoan Bible, thereby ensuring that younger generations of Samoan speakers will better understand the Scriptures.

In 2025, the translation team will focus on drafting several Old Testament books, conducting reviews, and advancing the translation process. The drafting of Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, 2 Kings, and Proverbs will be prioritised early in the year, while internal reviews will be conducted for books such as Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel, and Psalms.

Community reviews for Ezekiel and Jeremiah will be carried out, allowing local input to refine the translations. Consultant checking for Ezra, Esther, Song of Songs, Lamentations, and Daniel will be facilitated, ensuring accuracy and alignment with biblical standards.

Impact

The total number of people who may be impacted by this Bible translation project is 100,000.

It is hoped that this meaning-based translation will bring transformation in the lives of all Samoans from all walks of life. The completed Bible will also assist in equipping the Church for a new Samoan generation.

Testimony

“The Samoan Contemporary Old Testament project [members] met in Apia, March 18–22. They worked through the translation of Jonah and Zech 1–8. Two of the translators were present, Reverend Nu’u and Elizabeth, along with a team of local Christians (previously unassociated with the project) who came to help check the level of the language of the translation as well as help assess the accuracy of the text ... There were another 3 or 4 who joined us during the week too. They’re involved to help read and proof the translation, and are excited to work on a Bible that will be able to be understood by lots of people.” — Sam Frenay, Bible Translation Consultant, Bible Society Australia

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Samoa translation team, for God to give them strength, inspiring their commitment and dedication to this project.
- Pray for Church leaders in Samoa and the Samoan church community. Pray for more awareness of this project in Samoa so that more will support this Bible mission work.
- Pray for the completion of the 12 Minor prophets’ books in 2025.