

Tonga



Tongan Translation

Project: 102799
Non Tax Deductible



Overview

The 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 contemporary 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

population of Tonga

80,000

people this Bible translation project is aiming to impact

99.4%

literacy rate in Tonga

Goals

The goal of this project is to make a contemporary translation of the Bible in Tongan available and 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. The revised work will include the insertion of book introductions and section headings, which will benefit the members of the churches that use it.

In 2025, consultant checks and proofreading will continue for the Tongan Contemporary Bible, after which printing preparations will commence. The Tongan Revised West Bible is on its final proofreading and checking stages and is scheduled to launch during the last quarter of 2025.

The project is also working on a revision of the Tongan Moulton Bible and publishing it in print form. 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.

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 have a wider reach for the people of Tonga, encourage access to the Bible and Bible engagement for the people of Tonga, offering them an easily accessible understanding and engagement with God's word.

Testimony

"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, Project Coordinator

Prayer Points

- 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 South Pacific as they support and work on this translation project.
- Please pray for the team members of this project, especially for its Translation Consultant who is battling an illness.