

# South Pacific



## Bible Translation for Island Communities

**Project: 102801**  
**Non Tax Deductible**



# 95%

of the Tahitian population is literate;  
many primarily speak Tahitian, making  
access to Scripture in their native  
language essential

# 27 ½

years is the median age of individuals  
in the South Pacific, thus the need for  
accessible digital resources in heart  
languages

# 20,000

(estimate) Wallisian speakers — a  
significant population who would benefit  
from a Bible in their own language

### Overview

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Bible Society Australia is partnering with the Bible Society of the South Pacific to digitise and revise the 1884 Tahitian Bible, ensuring wider access through apps and the internet. This project also aims to provide the first complete Bibles in Marquesan and Wallisian, transforming lives and equipping local churches by 2026.

### The Need

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This project for the Tahitian, Marquesan, and Wallisian Bibles addresses the linguistic and spiritual needs of these island communities. Tahitian is widely spoken in French Polynesia, while Marquesan dialects are used in the Marquesas Islands, and Wallisian is spoken on Wallis Island. Despite high literacy rates, many still rely on spoken language, emphasising the importance of accessible Scripture.

The project aims to provide contemporary translations that resonate with younger, tech-savvy generations while ensuring traditional texts remain available for older community members. By including the Deuterocanon, the translations will meet the specific needs of local congregations. This project is a critical step toward preserving cultural identity and fostering community cohesion, especially in a region grappling with both historical and contemporary social challenges.

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*  
– John 10:10, ESV

## Goals

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Bible Society Australia is supporting Bible Society of the South Pacific in their strategy to digitise all Pacific Bible texts by 2025 and provide Scripture portions in every South Pacific language by 2033. This project, among others, aims to enhance and accelerate Bible translation work across the Pacific Region, ensuring every South Pacific language has access to Scripture.

This project specifically aims to provide Tahitian speakers worldwide with access to the Tahitian Bible in electronic form by 2025. The project also aims to make the Marquesan Bible available in both print and electronic formats for Marquesan speakers by 2026. Additionally, it seeks to deliver the first Bible in Wallisian for Wallisian Christians, significantly enriching their spiritual resources.

In 2025, this project will focus on typesetting and publishing the Tahitian Bible, completing community checking and corrections for the Marquesan Bible, and continuing the checking and correction process for the Wallisian Bible.

## Impact

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Completing these translation projects will enable the publication of the entire Bible in the heart languages of these communities, fostering greater accessibility for all language speakers. Bible Society envisions that these efforts will transform the lives of Tahitian, Wallisian, and Marquesan islanders — both believers and non-believers — while equipping local churches for future generations.

In 2025, 750 copies of the Tahitian Bible will be produced (in print and as an e-Bible). This will impact 95% of the global population, who will then have access to the corrected Tahitian Bible both in print and electronically.

There are also plans to print 1,500 copies of the Marquesan Bible and 500 copies of the Wallisian New Testament over the next two years.

## Prayer Points

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- Thank God for the Tahitian pastor who has worked with Dr. Hong, the translation consultant, to complete the proofreading and correction of the Tahitian Bible scanned text.
- Please pray for the follow-up work uploading the Tahitian Bible text and preparing a new print edition.
- Pray too for the Marquesan and Wallisian translators and reviewers.