

# Samoa Translation



Project: 102798  
Tax-Deductible

## Samoa

### Overview

Bible Society Australia is working with the Bible Society of the South Pacific (BSSP) to support the translation of the Samoan Old Testament into a contemporary, meaning-based version that everyday Samoan speakers can clearly understand. Building on the Contemporary Samoan New Testament completed in 2009, this project will allow the full Bible to be available in modern Samoan for the first time. With Scripture central to Samoan life and faith, this updated translation will help younger generations engage deeply with God's Word, strengthening families, churches, and communities for years to come.



### The Need

Samoa is a vibrant, strongly Christian nation, where the Samoan language shapes cultural identity, community life, and faith. While older Samoans rely on traditional Bible translations, younger generations increasingly need Scripture expressed in contemporary language to understand and apply it to daily life. Churches have long requested this new translation to meet the needs of today's families, youth, and future generations. A contemporary Old Testament — paired with the already-published Contemporary New Testament — will ensure all Samoan speakers can confidently read and understand the full Bible in their heart language.

- **100K** people may be impacted by this Bible translation project.
- **47%** of the population in Samoa are children and adolescents (0–19 years) as of 2024.
- **20 years** is the median age, emphasising the need for this contemporary translation.

### Goals

This project aims to complete and publish the full Contemporary Samoan Bible in both print and digital formats, ensuring Scripture remains accessible, relevant, and life-giving for the next generation.

In 2026, the translation team will continue progressing through drafting, reviewing, and consultant checking of Old Testament books. Planned activities include Stage 3 external reviews for Ruth, Esther, Daniel, Micah, and Zechariah 9–14; internal reviews for Genesis and other books; and Paratext training to strengthen local capacity. These milestones will move the project significantly closer to preparing trial editions and readying books for final checking and typesetting.

## Impact

Once completed, the Contemporary Samoan Bible will make Scripture clearer and more accessible for Samoan speakers across all ages and education levels, with a total expected reach of 100,000 people. It will support churches in preaching, teaching, and discipleship, while also strengthening cultural and spiritual identity.

In 2025, the project made strong progress despite local challenges. Internal reviews were completed for the Old Testament books of Ruth, Esther, and Daniel, with

community reviews scheduled for early 2026. The Translation Consultant's visit clarified roles and strengthened both internal and community review teams, ensuring smoother processes ahead. Church engagement increased significantly, with 11 church leaders receiving updates and expressing support for the translation work. Translators and reviewers also grew their skills in Paratext and collaborative review, building long-term local capacity for Bible translation in Samoa.

## Impact in Numbers

# 12

Minor Prophet books prepared in electronic form for trial/community testing in 2025.

# 3

Old Testament books (Ruth, Esther, Daniel) completed internal review in 2025.

### Testimony

"The Samoan team has had an incredibly difficult time recently... Yet when we met in Apia to work through the Minor Prophets, the team showed remarkable perseverance. We read each section carefully, addressing issues of clarity together. Despite setbacks and loss, their commitment to producing a clear and faithful Samoan translation remains strong, and the Minor Prophets are now close to completion."  
— Sam Freney, Translation Consultant, March 2025

## How Your Support Helps

### \$50

will help cover costs for community reviewers to test draft translations.

### \$250

will help support translation workshops and Paratext training for the team.

### \$3,000

will help fund consultant checking to ensure each book is accurate and ready for publication.

"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**