

Pacific

Churches are present almost everywhere on the island nations of the Pacific, and there is no animosity toward Christians or the Bible. But without heart language Scripture, believers have difficulty growing in their faith and reaching others.

While the area has a long history of Bible translation work, local churches and ministries face many obstacles to addressing the area's remaining needs. These obstacles include: 1.) A shortage of well-trained people to ensure accuracy and clarity of translated texts, 2.) A great number of languages (Papua New Guinea alone has over 800, with 230+ still waiting to begin Bible translation), and 3.) Logistical challenges. Some areas have poor or no roads, while others can only be reached by boat.

As you pray through this journal, ask for more laborers in God's harvest field of the Pacific who will have innovation and creativity to address this area's logistical challenges. We join in praying Matthew 6:10 over this region: "May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

[VIDEO: What do we mean by "Pray for Zero"?](#)

Regional Praise

Local Churches Take Leadership in Papua New Guinea

In early June, Papua New Guinea Evangelical Lutheran Church invited members of Lutheran Bible Translators and Seed Company to meet to discuss local church oversight and ownership of Bible translation. Together, they envisioned Bible translation serving as a powerful ministry arm of the local church.

Two weeks later, the Evangelical Lutheran Church said they would like to establish their own Bible translation department! This major denomination in Papua New Guinea represents about 900,000 church members. It is an answer to prayer that they see the great need for Bible translation and wish to take leadership in the movement.

PRAISE

For Bishop Urame, who presented this proposal to the National Council.

PRAY

For an upcoming meeting in January 2024, when the Synod will hear this proposal.

Monday

And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

—Mark 16:15 (NLT)

PRAY FOR BIBLELESS PEOPLE GROUPS IN TIMOR

When you have multiple Bibleless languages remaining in a country, how do you decide which to engage first? That's what local partner organization [Unit Bahasa dan Budaya](#) in Timor is praying through right now.

PRAY

Take a moment to lift up all four of these languages, and pray for wisdom and discernment for our partner to know which to engage next, as well as God's perfect timing to bring Scripture to every single one of these people.

People Group	Population
Aadang	7,000
Abui	17,000
Alor Malay	18,000
Lembur	4,000

Pray Now

For the Seqa translation team in the Solomon Islands as they prepare for a consultant to check Leviticus in September. A remote people group, they've faced setbacks due to health and technology issues over the past year, but they continue to persevere.

Tuesday

God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

—1 Corinthians 1:9 (NLT)

PRAY FOR PARTNERS SIL Papua New Guinea + Huon Gulf Cluster

Our friends at SIL Papua New Guinea request continued prayer for the 10-language Huon Gulf [Cluster project](#) (we prayed for them on Wednesday in [March's Pacific prayer journal](#)).

PRAISE

- **Laugui Kala** translator Alinga is in his 70s and so passionate about the translation work that he wanted to resume (and even requested computer training) only a week after cataract surgery.
- **Patep** people now have Gospel readings for each Sunday in their language for the first time ever.

PRAY

- For lives to be changed in the [Kela Kala](#) community as the Gospel of Mark is tested and checked among the people.
- For the [Yamap](#) team as they meet with the other Huon Gulf Cluster teams in September for the first time in a year. They're wrapping up work on Luke and getting Matthew ready for the consultant to check.
- For the [Central Buang](#) team's internet connection as they consult with an advisor over Zoom.

Pray Now

For Rally Dakei, who is translating the Old Testament for roughly 4,000 people who speak the Duke language in the Solomon Islands, all while caring for his mother and looking for a good power source to help him work remotely. A young Duke woman is currently training at [Islands Bible Ministries](#) and praying about joining him.

Wednesday

But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became.

—Exodus 1:12 (NLT)

Ba totonai qai ngangangulu vivivaria sira sa, qai vavaivapidoko tu lalaodia beto qai qaqatia doru eqa sira na tinoni Izireli ko ira na tinoni Ijipi tu ba qai pangongoroniria

—Exodus 1:12 (Luqa, a language in the Solomon Islands)

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT Luqa of the Solomon Islands

Most Luqa people identify as Christian, but they have a great need for sound biblical teaching in their language. They've translated and are actively using the New Testament, and now they're working on the first few books of the Old Testament. This translation project won't stop at impacting Luqa speakers; it will also be a source text to help the neighboring Kubokota people group translate the Old Testament.

PRAY

Translator Stephen has had to leave the Luqa project due to medical issues. Pray for healing and for the remaining team members to have stable internet as they continue preparing Exodus for September's consultant check.

Pray Now

For continued grace and good health for the Kubokota team as they complete final consultant checks to finish up their work in preparation for publishing the entire New Testament.

Pray Now

For the Tikopia translation team in the Solomon Islands as they continue to finalize the New Testament (a follow-up request from [June](#)). Pray that Tikopian people will provide useful feedback about the New Testament through the app that is now available on Google Play.

Thursday

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

—Ephesians 4:12 (NLT)

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

**Pray for Vinny Febri Setiawati Bria,
a Future Translation Consultant in West Timor**

Vinny was already serving as an ordained minister of the [GMIT church](#) when she answered God's call to serve in Bible translation. Recognizing the importance of the work, her leaders granted her unpaid study leave while she completes her internship.

Already, Vinny has started checking New Testament books under the supervision of a translation and linguistics consultant. After she completes her internship, Vinny will return to serving as a pastor but will be given space to do about four consultant checks per year. Currently, the GMIT church is partnering with more than 12 language groups to translate Scripture. Vinny will help them expand and accelerate their work.

PRAISE

Vinny is getting trained at a relatively young age and will be able to contribute to translation work for decades to come.

Pray Now

For a new Oral Bible Storytelling project among three language groups in Vanuatu. Two of these groups only have Scripture portions, while another is revising the Bible. Please pray for this project to start on time and for everyone (including 28 storytellers) to come together safely for the first workshop September 25 (there are logistical challenges; many are going by boat).

[Click here to watch a video](#) of interns Georgie Reman (who we prayed for in [December](#)) and Robert Pel spreading awareness in local churches about this project. For fun, see how many words you can understand in Tok Pisin, a creole language spoken throughout Papua New Guinea.

Friday

Rise up, O Lord, in all your power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts
—Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

IMPACT STORY

Niuafao'ou and Zabana People Receive New Testament

In June, we prayed for the [Zabana](#) and [Niuafao'ou](#) dedications, and God answered! The month of July saw both of these people groups receive the full New Testament.

Watch this video to get a glimpse of the Zabana festivities in the Solomon Islands, unhindered by the rain:

[Video: Celebration of Zabana Scripture](#)

PRAY

- For both of these people groups, in which almost all of the people identify as Christian, to leave empty forms of religion for true freedom in Christ through the power of God's transforming Word.
- For even greater community support for the Zabana team as they translate the Old Testament and have Genesis checked by a consultant in September.

Pray Now

For those who will be introduced to the need for Bible translation and the Pray for Zero movement tomorrow, September 2, at the [ReachOut Missions Conference](#) in Australia. Ask that participants will adopt a Bibleless language to pray for.