

TRANSLATIONS AT THE FINISH LINE

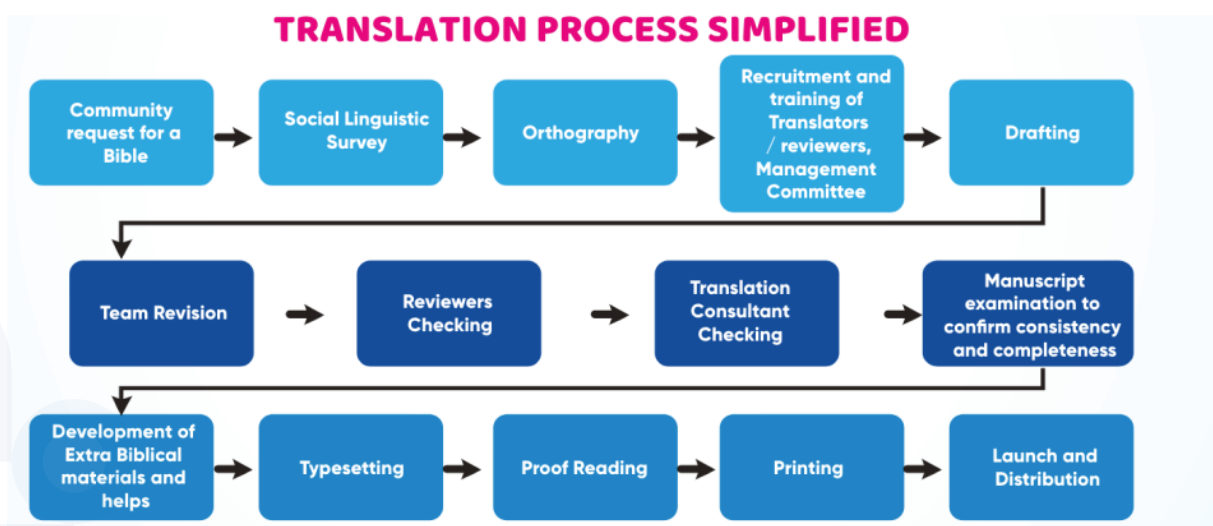


Bible Translation & Literacy (E.A.)

Over the last year, our project teams in Chonyi, Waata, Upper Pokomo, Chuka, Tugen and Marakwet communities, whose translation work are nearing completion have worked tirelessly to complete their Bibles. Their urgent goal is to give their communities the word of God in a language they understand best. The first five communities are due to receive the New Testament Bibles while the Marakwet is completing their full Bible. While at it, some teams have had to retract because of unintentionally missed step or detail that needed to be rectified before proceeding to the final stage. The thought of re-doing can be tormenting but praise God who has given the translation teams and experts the skills, tools, patience and the grace to endure. We therefore write to you to praise God with these teams and pray for these remaining critical stages before the launch and dedication. We are not only excited that these translations have come this far, but also encouraged that the end is so near, when we get to see their communities interact with the Word and their lives transformed.

The final stages that each of the project mentioned in this communication are simplified in the table below and summarized through this link

<https://www.btlkenya.org/stages-in-the-translation-process/>



The Chonyi New Testament.

The Chonyi community are found in Kilifi County, Coastal part of Kenya. They number about 200,000 people. Translation work in this community started in 2015. The New Testament has been completed, awaiting dedication and launch on Saturday, 17th August 2024. Preparations towards its **dedication and launch** are underway both at the BTL Nairobi office in Nairobi and locally, among the community members.

- Praise God for the safe arrival of the Chonyi New Testament.
- Pray for the ongoing dedication plans. Pray for unity in the two planning committees that have been established.
- Pray for the local committee as they mobilise the Chonyi community for a fundraising event scheduled for 16th June aimed at raising funds to meet the dedication expenses. Pray for the Lord's provision.
- Pray for the dedication date, that it is preserved and brings joy to the community as they receive the word of God in their language.



The Chonyi local dedication committee in one of the planning meetings.

The Waata New Testament.

The Waata community are found in six counties of the Coastal Region, namely; Taita Taveta, Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu, Marsabit with the majority based in Kilifi County. Their population is about 21,000. Bible translation work in this community started in 2011. The New Testament has been completed and submitted for the **final checks in preparation for printing.**

- Pray that the final checks phase will be hastened and the Manuscript ready for publication in good time.
- Pray for the team involved, for accuracy and clarity.



Picture above: Waata youth interacting with portions of Scripture of the New Testament in their language

The Upper Pokomo New Testament.

The Upper Pokomo people are found in Tana River County and live mainly along the River Tana, which is commonly known by the native speakers as *Chana ya Galana Maro* that means *River of Galana Maro*. The Upper Pokomo speakers are about 40,000 people. Christians are just about 25% which is equivalent to about 18,000 Christians. Bible translation work in this community started in 2015. The

New Testament has been completed and is **ready for printing**.

- Pray for these final phases of preparing the Manuscript for printing.
- Pray that this process is hastened.



Picture above: A Sunday service in one of the Upper Pokomo churches

The Chuka New Testament.

The Chuka people live in the five wards of Chuka, Tharaka Nithi county, Eastern Kenya, on the slopes of Mount Kenya. This community comprises approximately 170,000 individuals who are actively engaged in various agricultural pursuits such as dairy farming, tea and coffee cultivation, and crop farming. Translation in this project started in 2016, and the translation team has completed the translation of the New Testament. The Trial Edition is currently **being printed** at the BTL's Printing Press for the **Read-Through exercise** with the community, before it can proceed for publication.

- Pray for the printing of the Trial Edition of the New Testament. Pray for the team involved with the printing process and the machines to be effective during the process.

- Pray for the community as they prepare for the one month proofreading phase, to be in good health.
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The Tugen New Testament.

The Tugen people are a sub-tribe of the Kalenjin community and they live around Baringo and parts of Nakuru counties. They number about 200,000 people. Bible Translation in this project started in March 2015. The translators recently completed the translation of the New Testament and currently are involved in the **Read-Through exercise.**

- Pray for clarity and keenness as the community goes through the entire New Testament.
 - Pray for unity and harmony between the translators and community.
 - Pray for wisdom to address the feedback that is gotten from this exercise.
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Mr. Jonathan Chebii, one of the Tugen translators, briefs part of the Tugen community at the start of the Read-Through exercise on Monday, 3rd June.

The Marakwet complete Bible - The other 'hive' is almost complete.

The Marakwet are highland Nilotes. It is one of the groups forming the ethnolinguistic Kalenjin community of Kenya. They speak the *Markweeta* language. They live in Elgeyo- Marakwet County, however, some live in Trans Nzoia, and Uasin Gishu counties. They occupy the most beautiful scenery, forming the Great Rift Valley. They have an estimated population of 200,000 people. Translation work in this project started over 30 years ago with the New Testament

being completed, dedicated and launched in 2009. The full Bible is currently at the **Typesetting Phase.**

- Pray for the good health of translators and their families.
- Pray for the typesetter and the typesetting of this Bible. Pray for good health and attention to detail.
- Pray for healing of one of the key consultants in this Project, who's been unwell.
- Pray for a breakthrough as the team mobilises the Marakwet community to raise funds for publishing and dedication.
- Pray for peace along the Kerio Valley amidst the ongoing challenges of banditry.



Picture above: During the Marakwet Old Testament translation launch in July 2012. The Marakwet community had three years earlier received their New Testament. They, however, equated the New Testament to a half-beehive that the bees could not inhabit in order to produce honey. They thus requested a complete beehive (wrapped in grass), that is, both the NT and the OT in order to enjoy God's Word in totality. The beehive was symbolically used to represent God's Word, which is sweeter than honey.

Praise God that the other half of the 'beehive' is almost complete.

If you wish to financially support the final phases of these translations;

Please use Paybill No. 89 83 01
Account: Name of the Project.

UPCOMING EVENTS...



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Bible Translation & Literacy (E.A.)

Reaching the unreached communities with God's Word in their language

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10km Run
5km Walk

Date Saturday, 13th July, 2024
Time Time: 7.30 am
Venue Mama Ngina Waterfront

You can also give a donation to the cause or sponsor others to the Run

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ADULTS - Kshs. 1,500
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Mombasa, 3rd edition: Run for the Bibleless



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BIBLE TRANSLATION & LITERACY (E.A.)

The Dedication & Launch of CHONYI NEW TESTAMENT

Sat 17 AUG 2024

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Dedication and launch of the Chonyi New Testament



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