



# Amarasi New Testament

## A Lovely Language

Roni Bani, the primary translator and team leader, lives in the rural Amarasi area, quite a distance from the regional capital of Kupang. But he travels to town on occasion. Recently he was asked to lead a home church meeting for Amarasi speakers in town. About 100 people attended. Roni reports: "I prayed, read the Bible and preached in Amarasi." After the service, people came to him with their eyes full of tears, saying: "It was so nice to hear our lovely language used in our home church here in town. We long to use and hear our language in formal meetings like this, but the Indonesian language is so strong in this community. We're happy you used our language to talk to us in this sermon."

- Praise God that He hears and answers the desires of our hearts.
- Pray that church leaders will also hear and understand how powerfully a message communicates in our heart language.

## Looking Ahead

Roni and Oma, another translator, were disappointed that a consultant wasn't available to check the book of Hebrews. In the meantime, the team is continuing the back translation of Matthew and working to revise their draft of the Gospel of John.

You may recall that Oma's father passed away in April.

- Please continue to pray for Oma's family (her mother and brothers) as they figure out how to stabilize their lives in his absence.

## Important Denominational Meetings

The largest Protestant denomination in Timor recently held their annual meetings over twelve days. Attendees included denominational leaders, pastors and representatives from every congregation in the region. The meetings were accompanied by booths selling various items of interest. The local translation organization hosted a booth and drew crowds by playing audio versions of local language Scripture. Many Amarasi people attended because the meetings were held in their language area. They were excited about hearing Scripture and buying publications in their own language.

- Thank the Lord for the interest and excitement about Amarasi Scripture.
- Pray the Holy Spirit will use God's Word to bring growth in faith and understanding as people read and discuss Scripture.



- Location: Timor, Indonesia
- Number of Speakers: 80,000
- Year Project Began: 1998
- Expected Completion Date: 2012

- Pray for knowledge and diligence as translators revise Scripture and complete the back translation of Matthew.
- Pray that God will free time for Roni and Oma to devote to translation. Roni's teaching duties and Oma's first year university studies keep them busy.



*Amarasi women excitedly buy books in their language*



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### Independence Day Celebration

On Indonesian Independence Day, August 17th, celebrations were held all over the country. A large crowd attended the event in the Amarasi area, which was held in a big outdoor field. The team hosted a booth selling translated materials. Pastors, bishops, government workers and teachers purchased many books.

The team leader, Roni Bani, was the master of ceremonies for the event. He'd written a poem using both Amarasi and Indonesian, and he incorporated Scripture into some stanzas. He could see people nodding and smiling as they listened to his rendition of the poem. Roni hopes to organize an Amarasi speech competition for next year's event.

- **Praise God for Roni's creativity and for his position of respect in the community.**

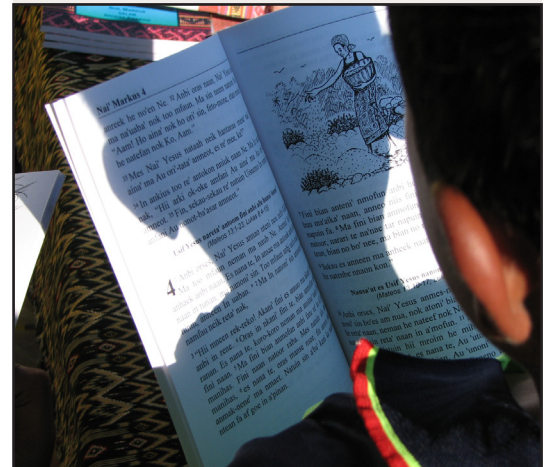
### Encouraging Scripture Use

Roni says: "As one of the leaders in our church and village, I get the chance to preach at church twice a month. I use this opportunity to read the Bible from Amarasi texts and to preach and pray in Amarasi, instead of in Indonesian. Since I've been doing this, we also have Bible reading competitions at our church more often."

- **Praise God for Roni's opportunities to model the use of Amarasi in church services.**
- **Pray that more and more churches in the area will also begin using their own language in services.**



*On Indonesian Independence Day, an Amarasi man reads Mark with full concentration*



*Even children are interested in reading the book of Mark*

#### Six Steps of Translation

- 1. First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
- 2. Team Check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
- 3. Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
- 4. Back Translation:** translators translate the draft "back" into a major language for a non-native consultant.
- 5. Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
- 6. Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

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