



The Boma People

Youth Embrace Boma Scriptures

The Boma team is always delighted to hear examples of local communities embracing and using the Scriptures in their mother tongue. They were especially pleased to learn that young people are becoming interested in the Boma New Testament.

Tom, a man representing his church's youth committee, recently paid a visit to the team's office. His appointment was an exciting one — he came to buy Scripture booklets for an upcoming reading and retelling competition. Not only is this competition centered on young people, but it's expected to involve youth from 61 congregations all over the island!

Project coordinator Steph says, "We were happy to help Tom and were encouraged that the church is initiating such activities on their own, and that the Scriptures in the Boma language are getting into more and more people's hands!"

- **Thank God that Boma people are getting excited about the Scriptures in their own language. Praise Him for the individuals who are working to make the project known to people all over the island.**

Partnerships Blossom

The team is always looking for opportunities to partner with local churches and organizations. Their greatest desire is for every Boma Christian to own a Bible of his or her own to read, cherish and truly understand. It's doubly meaningful, then, when these partnership opportunities are initiated by a church or organization — it shows a true appreciation for Bible translation and the value of God's Word.

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) has an active ministry in Boma with their "Happy Hut" programs for children. Recently, a Happy Hut near the translation office started using Boma Scripture materials. The leaders were surprised and happy to see how easy the language is to use and how well the children understand it. Most children can even retell an entire Bible story after it's told to them in Boma!

- **Praise the Lord for CEF's commitment to the mother-tongue Scriptures. Thank Him for children's exposure to the Good News in a language they can understand.**
- **Pray that more churches and organizations will realize the importance of Bible translation.**



- **Location: Restricted access area, Southeast Asia**
- **Number of Speakers: 245,000 primary speakers; 2 million second-language speakers**
- **Project Goal: New Testament**
- **Year Project Began: 2008**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2015**

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A Painstaking Job

How many Bibles do you have in your home? And how many versions? Many of us own a multiple number of Bibles, each a different version that we can refer to for deeper understanding or added insight. We take it for granted that all of these English translations are available to us, and we don't give a second thought to the time and work that goes into preparing them for our spiritual edification.

In reality, translating the Bible is a heavy task. It takes long years of research and many stages of checking, rechecking and combing for errors. Not even one word can be faulty or out of place.

With this weighty responsibility on their shoulders, it's no wonder that the Boma translators take their time to get it right!

Drafting¹ and team checking² are currently at the center of the team's focus. They're slowly moving Matthew, John and Galatians through the drafting stage and James is in the midst of team checking.

Church Liturgy To Be Translated

The team has long seen the value of translating the church liturgy into Boma, but they've never moved it beyond the first step¹. Now a local church partner is pushing for it to happen soon. The liturgy — a prescribed form of public worship according to the Oxford dictionary — is a Sunday worship service heavily based on Old and New Testament Scripture portions and time-honored prayers.

Not only will having the liturgy in Boma be an asset for pastors, church leaders and congregations, but it can also help other vernacular language groups with their own translations.

In the next few months, the team plans to team check², and community test³ the drafted liturgy.

The Scriptures for All Denominations

In the past, the Roman Catholic Church of Boma hasn't been interested in partnering with the Bible translation project. But at a recent planning meeting, the team decided they're going to try and involve the Catholic Church anyway. If they agree to work with the team, the Boma Scriptures will be available to an even broader audience than ever.

- **Pray that this translated liturgy will be a tool for Boma Christians to have a deeper understanding of our Lord and Savior.**

- **Pray for doors to open for the team to begin dialog with Catholic leaders about their involvement in the translation work. Ask that the Lord will bless their discussions.**

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.

THE BOMA PROJECT UPDATE—2

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