



Dhao New Testament

Nearing the Finish Line

Michael Sina, the translation coordinator, writes: “Ayub Ranoh, Lazarus Aplugi and I are getting old, and we get sick more easily. It seems we’re always in and out of the hospital. I don’t want to die yet. We, the Dhao team, need to finish the translation for our people. During the process, we’ve learned so much. We know more about God, His heart, His commands, His promises and His teaching. We understand all of this more clearly after translating it into our language. Please pray for good health for those of us on the team who are older.”

- **Praise God for the diligence and perseverance of all the team members.**

Working for the Good of All

Helena Aplugi (Lena), a member of the Dhao team, worked hard the last few weeks to reproduce a Scripture booklet for 10 translation projects in the region. This involved editing computer files and pictures, in addition to printing and binding. The booklet is an illustrated version of the Easter story. All the teams greatly appreciated her service. But it means that Lena wasn’t available to work on Scripture revision for Dhao.



Lena reproduces pages for the story of Easter

Scheduling Delays

The team is anxious to do the final team review of the New Testament and Genesis. But they’re experiencing difficulty in scheduling an extended time together. In addition to Lena, other



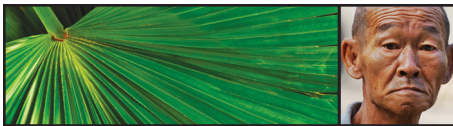
- **Location: Timor, Indonesia**
- **Number of Speakers: 7,000**
- **Year Project Began: 1998**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

- **Thank the Lord for Lena’s willingness to serve the translation cause in any needed role.**



Sepri, a translation center security guard, helps to bind the Easter story booklets





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team members were also busy the last few weeks, so the review was delayed.

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. People giggled as they heard their language, and many folks were excited about buying Scripture publications.

Blessings for the Team

Team members who've worked on the translation over the years continue to be blessed by their involvement. The Reverend Dr. Ayub Ranoh says, "Now when I read the Dhao text, it's more fluent and I understand a lot more. I'm learning some passages again and relearning some of the Dhao language as well (after being away from Ndao Island for a number of years). During the checking process, I was reminded of some Dhao terms that are almost extinct and not used in everyday conversation anymore. Anyway, I am ready to do the next step of Dhao!"

Translator Lazarus Aplugi reports, "I want to continue to learn from the Dhao Gospel of John. We know Jesus' heart from this Gospel. In my opinion, I've learned the most from the Gospel of John."

Michael Sina, the translation coordinator, writes, "When we read Scripture in Dhao, it brings us closer to other people, other churches and other denominations. When we, the Dhao people, use the same language, it gives us unity in the Lord."

- **Pray that the team will be able to schedule a convenient time for all team members to review together what they've translated.**
- **Pray for good attention to detail and for wisdom during the revision process so the translation will be even better than before.**
- **Pray the Holy Spirit will use God's Word to bring growth in faith and understanding.**
- **Pray also that people will tell others what they learned from the Good News.**
- **Give the Lord praise that we can never be too old or too experienced to learn from His Word.**

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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