



Helong New Testament

Ordinary People do Extraordinary Things

On September 3, after over 10 years of hard work, the team submitted the Helong New Testament and book of Genesis for printing! This volume will also include 63 Helong songs. The team reports: "As a team, we marvel and thank God for how He used ordinary people to do extraordinary things."

- **Praise God for this wonderful accomplishment and for granting the team graciousness, patience and endurance.**

Overcoming Challenges

The final typesetting stage presented numerous challenges. One of the major issues was that the typesetting program refused to automatically import the 2,800 manuscript footnotes. So the typesetter had to manually insert each one! In addition, the Indonesian music notation for the songs was *really* difficult to produce, so this involved dozens of re-edits. However, God amazingly provided expert help exactly when the team needed it!

Misriani Balle, the primary translator, reports: "God is so powerful! I felt and saw His power and guidance when working on the Indonesian music notation and book introductions."

- **Thank the Lord for His amazing help in overcoming typesetting challenges and in providing the right skills to complete the final details.**

Extra Help at the Right Time

Two volunteers just "happened" to be in Darwin, Australia during typesetting. They were willing to check that each footnote reference in the entire manuscript pointed to the right verse. They also verified book and chapter headings and confirmed that chapter numbers and page numbering were correct. God provided the right people at the right time!

God's Choice Possession

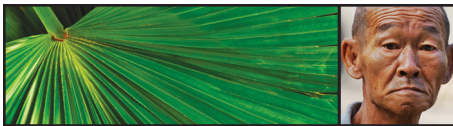
"Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above, who created all heaven's lights. Unlike them, he never changes or casts shifting shadows. In his goodness he chose to make us his own children by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his choice possession" (James 1:17-18, NLT).

The team received suggestions for the final manuscript after the typesetting was complete. One suggestion from Semau Island was to change the name for the book of James. The name is Yakubis, but they wanted it changed to Yakobus. Many people on



- **Location: Timor, Indonesia**
- **Number of Speakers: 20,000**
- **Year Project Began: 1998**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2011**

- **Give God praise for all the willing hands and eyes He provided when needed.**



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the island remember a man named Yakubis, who used black magic to kill people. Even though he's dead, some folks are still afraid of him and associate his name with evil.

We are God's favorite kids. Nothing any of us can do will gain us greater merit or cause Him to love us less. He never changes, so He will never reject us. What comfort there is in the unchanging, perfect character of our loving, heavenly Father!

- **Pray that Helong speakers will understand the difference between the God who loves them and the capricious spirits they've traditionally feared.**
- **Ask God to draw them to the truth and to confirm His Word in their hearts as they receive Scripture in their own language.**

Preparing to Celebrate

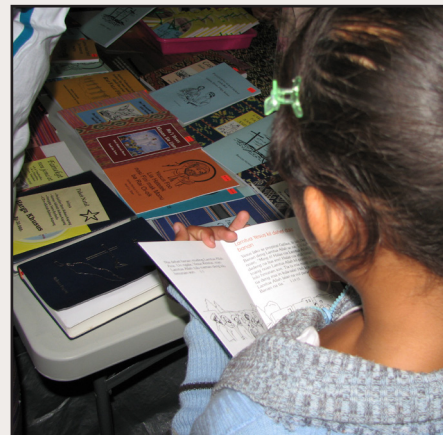
The Helong team hopes to dedicate the New Testament next year, perhaps on Pentecost Sunday. But many details need to be discussed and arranged.

- **Pray that people will join together to help with this special event.**

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 people were excited about buying Scripture publications in their own language.

Right: Children are interested in reading the parable of the Good Samaritan. Far Right: A girl reads a booklet entitled "Jesus Has Power to Save Us."



Helong men read Scripture on the way to Semau Island

- **Pray the Holy Spirit will use God's Word to bring growth in peoples' faith and understanding.**

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.

HELONG NT PROJECT UPDATE—2

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