



Mbandja Old Testament

The Word Saturating the Mbandja Community

Thank you for making it possible for God's Word to be sown into the hearts of the Mbandja people and for your continued prayers for the printing and distribution of the Scripture. Your participation in prayer is vital as we approach the finish line of this project.

Mightily Grows the Good Seed

"The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed ... It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants ..."
(Mark 4:31-32, NLT).

With growing expectation of the printing of the Old Testament, the Mbandja team and partners look forward to further manifestation of a truth Jesus taught in Mark 4. There he told a story about farming to illustrate how the kingdom of God works. He pointed out that a tiny mustard seed grows into a strong healthy plant larger than any plant in the garden. He told his disciples that like a seed, the Word of God must be planted in good soil; otherwise, it could be stolen by Satan or not planted deeply enough to bring forth fruit.

God's Word, planted deeply into the hearts of people, grows into a powerful life-transforming force. Thank you for helping plant the Seed of God's Word in the Mbandja people group. Please continue to water that Seed with prayer, knowing the harvest will be of an eternal value!

Making a Connection

The Mbandja way of life is still very similar to Old Testament culture, and they identify closely with stories of the patriarchs. Stories of the patriarchs spark the interest of non-believers, drawing them to read the Bible and be more open to the Gospel.

The Old Testament will enrich the people's understanding of God and connect New Testament teaching to Old Testament roots. As the Mbandja learn the history of sacrificing a lamb for forgiveness of sin, their understanding of Jesus as the Lamb of God will deepen.

The Mbandja community is in position for exponential impact as the Old Testament joins the New Testament in their heart language. Please continue to pray.



- Location: DRC, Africa
- Number of Speakers: 362,000
- Year Project Began: 1998
- Expected Completion Date: 2011

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Prayer Guide

Pray for the People and Protection

- **Pray that the spirit of peace will rest in the hearts of the believers and that unity and harmony will flourish as they embrace God's Word in their language.**
- **Pray for peace in areas affected by recent turmoil surrounding national elections and that team members have courage, strength and protection in the event of persecution.**

Pray for Printing and Distribution

- **Pray that the final product may be of the highest possible quality. Pray the published books will be delivered safely, undamaged and in a timely manner. Pray for the typesetting and proofreading needed to keep the estimated spring 2012 printing date.**

Pray for the Impact

- **Thank God for His promise in Isaiah 55:11 that says, "It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it" (NLT).**
- **Pray the arrival of the printed Mbandja Old Testament will have a powerful impact in the community. Ask God that neighboring people groups may also come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as the Mbandja people share God's Word with them.**
- **Pray as plans begin to formulate for the Bible dedication process, and that the Holy Spirit will use this celebration to ignite broad and lasting transformation.**
- **Praise God that this work has begun among the Mbandja and that it will continue "until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns" (Philippians 1:6, NLT).**

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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