



North Malaita Cluster

Translation Making Strides

The Baelelea and Baegu translation teams met in Honiara for three weeks of training and Scripture checking by consultants. They stayed in group housing and had access to office space as well as printers and vehicles. At the course, the Baelelea team finished checking Matthew's Gospel with a consultant and printed 50 trial copies. The consultant's check of Luke's Gospel for the Baegu team was completed too, and 50 trial copies were printed. Also, Baelelea translator Aloysius was set up with a satellite modem system to give him email and web access in his village. The next workshop is scheduled for April 2010.

To promote the translation project among mother-tongue speakers and to recruit more local people and churches to become involved, the teams conducted a community awareness course in Ailali village. The course was well attended and both teams were very encouraged by its effect on the participants. People in one Baelelea area want the team to come do an awareness course in one of their villages too.

- **Pray that as people in the local communities learn about the translation work they'll be enthusiastic to play a part in what God is doing in their midst.**

Trial Edition of Luke a Hit

The 50 trial copies of Luke in Baelelea were distributed by Aloysius and his four Scripture reviewers. The reviewers read Luke in churches and discussion groups to get feedback and to minister God's Word. People's responses were very positive.

The Baegu reviewers finished reading chapters 1-6 of Luke in churches and discussion groups and translator Erastus revised the other chapters (7-24). Village testing of the book has taken place as well. The 50 trial copies of Luke were circulated among the reviewers.

Matthew and Mark Moving Forward

Aloysius recently tested Matthew's Gospel in Baelelea for comprehension and naturalness. Next up is Mark's Gospel. Erastus is also revising Matthew.



- **Location: Solomon Islands**
- **Number of Speakers: 16,700**
- **Year Project Began: 2008**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2010**

- **Thank the Lord that the local Scripture reviewers are strong and motivated.**

- **Pray for the teams as they labor on the Gospels of Matthew and Mark in their respective languages.**



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Baelelea: “God Talks Intimately to Us”

Many Baelelea people are asking for trial copies of God’s Word. Luke’s Gospel is so popular in reviewer Jimmy’s village that he has to share around his one copy during the week with the villagers. It goes to a different house each night, then back to Jimmy to use on Sunday.

The biggest problem is that only a limited number of trial copies are available. Baelelea reviewer Stanslao has been reading one chapter after church every week in the village meetinghouse. Then during the week he leaves the trial copy in the church for people to use like a library.

Baelelea reviewer David said one man choked on his food when he heard David reading Luke one night. The man was so surprised to hear the Bible in his language. *“The meaning is so clear we don’t need the pastor to translate anymore.”*

Uneducated pastors and women are really happy for the translation. They say they can completely understand the Scriptures for the first time because their knowledge of English isn’t good. They’re very excited about the translation, saying to the team, *“God talks intimately to us in Baelelea. Hurry up and finish the whole New Testament so that we can use it in church and at home.”*

Baegu: “Today It’s Open to Us”

Baegu reviewer Peter said the trial edition is helping the reviewers make decisions on spelling and where to break or join words. They’re also getting good feedback from people on how to render key biblical terms such as *disciple* and *circumcision*.

Fred, a Baegu reviewer, gave seven copies of the trial edition to seven church leaders. Others in the area wanted copies too, so Fred took a two-day trip to make seven more copies. One church leader said they were reluctant to return the trial copies with their feedback because they liked using them in their churches so much.

At the end of the consultant’s checking of Baegu Luke, Fred was so excited he jumped to his feet and said, *“I have to pray.”* After praying, he gave a testimony. He said, *“For thousands of years this Gospel of Luke has been blocked to my people, but today it’s open to us. I know more than theology students because I can read this Gospel.”*

Reviewer Solomon said, *“This is the first time I’ve sat down and read a book of the Bible from beginning to end. Before, I’d only heard a pastor preach from a verse here and there. Now I feel like I know the whole story well.”*

- Praise God for the impact His Word is having on Baelelea-speaking people. Thank Him that an oral Bible study group is going well and enjoys good attendance.



Baelelea team checking Matthew’s Gospel

- Pray that people’s feedback will enhance the quality of the Luke trial copies.



Baegu team with trial copies of Luke

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