



Kobas New Testament

PROJECT SUMMARY:

During the 1960s, evangelists from a nearby people group brought the Gospel to the Kobas who live in Southeast Asia. However, because of limited access to Scripture and little education, many pastors and believers still fear traditional spirits and live a very legalistic Christianity.

The Kobas need a clear translation of God's Word so they can have a solid foundation of truth to guide their lives. Only then will they be able to live in the peace and grace God's kingdom offers.

Under close review, the team will produce rough drafts by adapting Scriptures from completed translations available in two nearby, related languages.

With Scripture in their mother tongue and God's Word in their hearts, the Kobas believers can grow strong in faith and mature in their Christian beliefs. They can develop a more personal relationship with God.



- **Location:** Southeast Asia
- **Number of Speakers:** 4,400
- **Project Goal:** New Testament and Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2008
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2015

THE PEOPLE

The Kobas people live simple, self-sustaining lives. They raise gardens to feed their own families and some grow peanuts as a cash crop. Most homes are made of local materials, including grass-thatched roofs.

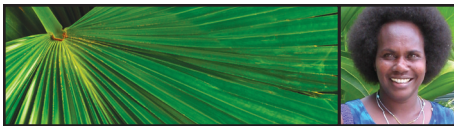
Good health is a significant ongoing concern. Malaria threatens constantly, and at least one individual received a positive HIV/AIDS diagnosis recently. Life expectancy is low and infant mortality high. Some young people cope with hopelessness by abusing drugs and alcohol. Suicide is common.

BACKGROUND

Though many Kobas became Christians when evangelists from a nearby language group brought the Gospel in the 1960s, most Kobas believers remain caught in the fears and practices of their traditional animistic background. Some still practice animal sacrifices.

In 2004, missionaries published the Gospel of Mark. Since that time, a local team helped complete translations of James and Acts.

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Paul, the advisor for this project, has worked with the Kobas community for many years. Having finished an extensive linguistic analysis of their language, he continues to compile a comprehensive dictionary. A 10-year literacy project has taught many people to read, making mother-tongue Scriptures accessible to people in the local churches, and whetting their appetites for more of God's Word.

THE NEED

One clear example of the need for pastors to have greater access to mother-tongue Scriptures is their lack of understanding the basic principles of forgiveness and grace. When one of the translators explained from Acts 2:21, that, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," several pastors commented that they had never realized the need to do that. Their concept of Christianity is legalistic, believing that doing the right things will please God and earn one's salvation.

The Kobas people need more of the Scriptures to understand God's power over evil spirits. Only a clear translation of the Word will shatter the bondage of legalistic Christianity and bring the Kobas believers into the freedom of God's grace.

THE PLAN

The team will use a software program to produce rough drafts by adapting Scriptures from completed translations of nearby related languages and a few books in the Kobas language. Although these drafts require extensive revision, this process gives the team a jump-start on the translation process.

Their primary goal is to translate the New Testament and Old Testament portions so the Kobas believers can read and share well-translated Scriptures in their own language. This will not only produce a biblically sound Kobas Church, but will enhance church growth, as well.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Kobas translators cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer. Your financial investment makes translation possible, providing training, adequate computer equipment, translation supplies and living expenses for the translators' families. Your prayer helps translators and their families face problems such as sickness, conflict and spiritual opposition that can threaten their work.

Call The Seed Company toll free at 1-877-593-7333, or visit www.theseedcompany.org/projects to commit to invest and pray for the Kobas team.

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