



## PROJECT PROFILE

# Majukayong New Testament

### PROJECT SUMMARY:

In 1992, Ignacio and Luthgarda Magangat moved to a Majukayong village and began learning the language to prepare for Bible translation work. Later they joined the Translators Association of the Philippines (TAP), and Ignacio completed the Gospel of Mark under their supervision. Luth has translated a number of hymns and has worked with Majukayong literacy projects. The Seed Company partnered with the project in 2002 to help complete the New Testament.

Majukayong religion includes a mix of Christian rituals and animistic beliefs. The people need to see the relevance of Scripture to life's daily challenges. Scripture in their mother tongue will help them develop a deeper, more personal relationship with the living Savior and lay aside dead rituals and animistic superstitions.

### THE PEOPLE

About 10,000 Majukayong people live in scattered village communities in the hills of Kalinga and Mountain Provinces on the northern Philippine island of Luzon. The majority of the Majukayong people are small-scale farmers who cultivate dry, hillside rice and use a slash-and-burn method to clear their upland garden plots. These hospitable, peace-loving farmers become fierce fighters when provoked. Revenge is an important cultural value. Inability to exercise revenge for offenses, or to avenge a loved-one's death, brings humiliation and shame.

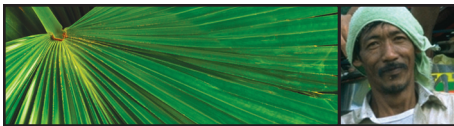
### THE NEED

For many years, the Anglican Church has had some influence among the Majukayong. But many clergy members were from outside the area and neither spoke the language nor understood the culture. So the Christian message has been unclear to Majukayong speakers. Unclear messaging has resulted in a syncretism of "Christian" ritual and animism.

People attend whichever church is holding services. People take mass when the Catholic priest comes to town. If the Anglican cleric is more available, Majukayongs follow that system. Their valiant efforts to exploit every system available demonstrate sincere interest in pleasing God. Being able to understand the Scripture in their own language is needed in order for them to develop a deeper, closer, more personal relationship with God.



- **Location:** Philippines
- **Number of Speakers:** 10,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 2002
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2012



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### THE PLAN

Ignacio Magangat and his wife, Luthgarda, from the neighboring Balangao community, became believers by reading the New Testament in their language. When the Balangao New Testament was finished and the expat translator returned to the U.S., the Majukayong people expressed disappointment, saying, “What about us?” The Magangats sensed God’s leading to work among the Majukayong through the Translators Association of the Philippines partnering with The Seed Company.

The Magangats trained three mother-tongue Majukayong speakers as translators. Ignacio is the project advisor. An SIL International translation consultant has been mentoring the team since the project’s outset. They continue publishing trial editions of Scripture portions as they become available.

### THE IMPACT

The translation team knows penetration of the Gospel into Majukayong culture will bring an end to the generations-old curse of revenge killing. And believers desire to understand God’s Word for themselves, rather than relying on visiting clergy to interpret Scripture from another language. The freedom Christ offers will liberate them from legalistic rituals and the fear that motivates animistic practices.

### JOIN THE TEAM

The Majukayong translators cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer.

Your 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 [theseedcompany.org/projects](http://theseedcompany.org/projects) to commit to invest and pray for the Majukayong team.

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