



Manmal NT Cluster*

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Strong political and religious opposition during the past few years hampered Bible translation in many languages of Southeast Asia. But translators from four different languages in the northern region of one South-east Asian country are already moving forward.

Church leaders recognize that spiritual maturity can only develop when people understand the message of the Bible at a deep level. Leaders at a large Christian university, together with leaders of several major denominations in the region, are assisting in this project. Together, the partners in the Manmal Cluster project are enabling translation work in four languages with the potential of encouraging other projects in the area.



For security reasons, pseudonyms have been used for the language name and names of individuals.

THE PEOPLE

Christianity came to the region during the past two centuries, and several denominations established churches in various language communities. The number of Christians has continued to increase in spite of increased persecution in recent years,

Strong political and religious opposition during the past few years hampered translation into many languages of Southeast Asia. Many governments deny or restrict outside access to their countries.

THE NEED

The government promotes the national language in schools and in the media. However, most people in the country do not use it as their first language. Some people can read the Bible in the national language, but since this is not their home language, people seldom read it outside of a formal context.

For the speaker groups in this cluster, regional or local language translation can be a very powerful tool for communicating the Gospel. But people in this region raise just enough food for their own families and don't have the financial resources to abandon their farms and focus on Bible translation.

- **Location:** Southeast Asia
- **Number of Speakers:** Total of 2,260,000 people in four languages
- **Project Goal:** New Testament plus Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2004
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2013



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THE PLAN

As Christians in this region prayed, God called mother-tongue translators from four different languages in the northern region of this nation willing to step out in faith to bring this dream to fulfillment. Several language teams worked together to establish a regional translation center. The Manmal teams are working there, translating the New Testament and some Old Testament portions into their language. The existing translation in a regional trade language is a resource for translation into their mother tongues.

This project employs a continual workshop approach that provides training the translators need. Experienced national-language specialists are taking leading roles in teaching and training new mother-tongue translation teams. One explicit goal of the project is to develop a sustainable, repeatable translation process that trainees can use to mentor native speakers of other languages.

THE IMPACT

The Manmal Cluster project is enabling translation work in four languages, and potentially encouraging many others to begin. Literacy and Scripture-use programs have been integrated into the project from the beginning. Radio broadcasts have stirred interest in reading and writing in the mother tongue.

Churches are implementing the Scripture portions into their services as they are translated. They're also encouraging individual use. The team is printing and distributing easy-to-read booklets in an effort to increase fluency in the local language and also to stimulate interest in reading the mother-tongue Scriptures.

JOIN THE TEAM

The translators in the Manmal Cluster project 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 Manmal teams involved.

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