



Baeggu

PROJECT SUMMARY:

On the northern end of Malaita Island, the Baeggu are one of the remaining five Bibleless people groups. Without a translation in their mother tongue, the Baeggu struggle to grow in their faith in God. Local cults and traditional religion easily sway many.

One man has decided to take a stand and translate the New Testament (NT) for his people. The local community, The Seed Company, SIL and Pioneer Bible Translators have banded around this man to help him translate New Testament portions in Baeggu.

THE PEOPLE

The Baeggu of the Solomon Islands number about 7,900. Most live in remote villages on the north end of Malaita Island and provide for their families through farming and fishing. Since a political coup in 2000, families struggle to make enough cash for basic supplies. School fees lay a heavy burden on most parents. And communities also need basic health services. Families who can afford it send their children to boarding school after sixth grade for a valuable education. But there are few skilled jobs in the tight city job market.

THE NEED

The first Christian missionaries arrived in the early 1900s. Today, most people consider themselves Christians. However, spirit worship, witchcraft and cults are prevalent. One group teaches circumcision and keeping other Jewish rituals as the way to please God. They also believe they are Jews, descended from Abraham.

Churches fight the animistic worldview, which is the basis of Malaitian thinking. One church elder has a fetish hanging over his door, to protect his family from pink eye. He says it's the same thing Moses did during the Passover in Egypt. Another elder rebukes people if they walk through the churchyard with a heavy load of firewood; they are not treating God as holy. Confused Christians easily fall prey to new teachings that sound religious, because they can't understand the English Bible that is commonly read in church.



- **Location:** Solomon Islands
- **Number of Speakers:** 7,900
- **Project Goal:** New Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2008
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2010



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THE TEAM

This project starts with Erastus, one highly experienced translator. He participated in the translation of the Solomon Islands Pijin NT and trained as a translation consultant in Papua New Guinea. Erastus brings twenty years of experience to the table. Now he has the honor of drafting the NT into Baeggu, his own mother tongue.

Since 2004, Erastus has used translation software to adapt a published NT in a related language to the Baeggu language. So far he has drafted Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts 1–20, all of which total more than half of the New Testament. The project staff expects to train one other Baeggu speaker to help him.

THE PLAN

The team will publish a part of the NT first, to immediately offer churches Scripture portions, before the team begins the next phase. Eventually, the team hopes to finish the New Testament and some of the Old Testament as well in future phases.

In addition to The Seed Company, SIL and Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT) will cooperate to provide training in workshop settings, consultant help and administrative services.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Baeggu translators in this 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 like 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 translators involved.