



PROJECT PROFILE

Nyungwe

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Nearly a half million Nyungwe people live enslaved by spiritual forces of darkness. Without God's Word in their language, they cannot access the wonderfully freeing truths contained in Scripture.

Local translators translate the Bible in a highly strategic way and make completed Scripture portions available immediately. Bible books are selected to speak directly to the people's most dire needs, like freedom from spiritual bondage. Audio recordings complement printed translations, speaking powerfully to many who struggle to read.

THE PEOPLE

These people of Mozambique are nearly a half million strong. Most live in the northwestern Tete province, where they raise cattle and goats along the Zambezi River Basin. Some tend gardens or small farms, but much of the soil is dry and sandy, making it difficult for families to raise cash crops. In the capital city of Tete, international coal mining and tobacco processing plants provide some jobs.

Two large neighboring people groups, Chewa and Shona, do have complete mother tongue Bibles. But Nyungwe is Tete's dominant language, with Portuguese used for wider communication. Those who live outside the capital, however, speak little Portuguese.

Many Nyungwe, possibly 30 percent, claim to be Catholics. While up to 40 percent claim to be evangelicals, probably 10 percent or fewer have had a genuine conversion. But evidence of their day-to-day lives suggests that most (even some of true believers) still practice magic. And almost all still live in fear of sorcery and the spirit world.

THE NEED

The Nyungwe live in constant fear, believing they are at the mercy of evil spirits, who control events in their lives. So these people live without hope. And without God's Word in the language they understand best, they also lack the truth to set them free—to know Christ personally and through Him to live victoriously over forces of darkness.

Pastors also need to shepherd their people in the truth, and they can't do that when they don't understand Scripture. Many

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- **Location:** Mozambique, Africa
- **Number of Speakers:** 420,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament and portions of Old Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 2010
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2016



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pastors are not clear on key Bible teachings, so they permit their congregations to engage in magic and seeking traditional healers. Indeed, there are some genuine believers, yet because Christianity is misunderstood by so many, believers are often shunned by their families. People are happy for family members to be “*Christian*,” if it doesn’t change anything they do! Rejection comes when new believers try to reject traditional practices of spirit worship and sacrifices. They need God’s Word to help them stand firm.

THE PLAN

Local churches, missions groups and The Seed Company have tailored a strategy for the Nyungwe translation. Plans are to produce what is called a “*Growing Bible*,” where translators complete a large selection of Scriptures. Then, scores of booklets are immediately printed for churches to distribute. And as translators complete more Scriptures, more booklets are printed, adding to the total message.

Four Nyungwe translators work to complete the first portions by late 2010, including Genesis, Jonah, Mark, Luke, John, Ephesians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. These selections are highly strategic, to deliver God’s message directly to the people’s greatest need of freedom from spiritual bondage. These Bible portions teach that God is Creator and above all creation (including the spirit world). The Gospels reveal that Jesus has authority over unseen forces. Ephesians teaches believers how to battle in spiritual warfare. And the pastoral books will give guidance to church leaders.

Audio recordings of the “*Growing Bible*” will complement the booklets. While literacy programs are in full swing here, many need to also hear Scriptures read aloud, to fully grasp their meaning. Scripture recordings are a big hit in many oral cultures.

JOIN THE TEAM

Nyungwe 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 like 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 to commit to invest and pray for the Nyungwe team.

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