



PROJECT PROFILE

Paranan New Testament

THE PEOPLE

The Paranan people live in Palanan, a remote coastal region of Luzon Island in the northern Philippines. The region is inaccessible by road, so people depend on small wooden boats to transport them to other coastal towns where they receive medical help and purchase needed supplies. They support their families by farming, but because strong typhoons and heavy rains batter the region six to seven months a year, they can barely raise enough food to provide for their own needs. When they have extra produce, they sell it to purchase important staples. The items they order typically take two or three weeks to arrive by boat.

THE BACKGROUND

Paranan speakers were first introduced to Christianity in the 1950s. But because they lacked Scripture in their language, many combined Christianity with their traditional animistic beliefs. Two efforts by Philippine cross-cultural workers in the 1980s and 1990s produced 43 percent of the New Testament in Paranan, but work stopped when they left. Today, as a result of the previous Scripture translation, Paranan pastors lead five churches, and other churches have been planted.

THE NEED

The New Testament is available in the regional language of Tagalog, but few Paranan can read it with understanding. Because they still lack a significant part of God's Word in their language, the church continues to struggle. Traditional religion, which depends on the use of magic and spirit placation, still dominates the lives of most Paranan. Many who openly profess Christianity still rely on some aspects of their traditional religious system. The local church is convinced that without all of God's Word in their language, it will be difficult for many Paranan to overcome the cultural barriers that prevent them from trusting God fully.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Three Paranan speakers have now teamed up to complete the remaining 57 percent of the New Testament, with one translator following God's leading to resign his teaching position in order to translate full time. He and another schoolteacher on the team each completed two years of college, and both are active church members. The third translator, a youth pastor, is eager for his students to have access to God's word in their language.

God has provided new momentum for the project. The team has identified ways to improve the previously translated materials and is eager to finish the job. Mission agencies in the region are prepared to offer additional training for the translators. Perhaps most importantly, eight church denominations in the region are enthusiastic about translation and see its benefit for the Paranan people.

Paranan Project



- **Location:** Philippines
- **Number of Speakers:** 15,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament plus OT portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2004
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2012



Paranan New Testament

THE RESULT

The Paranan have long believed that knowledge brings strength. In the past, traditional healers used this belief to maintain their influence. Knowledge and wisdom from God's Word will counter the influence of the healers, strengthen the church and free many who are held captive by their traditional animism. Paranan believers are eager to correct the half-truths many Christians believe, to evangelize further among their own people and to take the message of God's love to other language communities.

JOINING THE TEAM

The first two-year phase of this project is ready to begin and the team is eager to translate, but the project needs financial partners. Project funds will provide a computer, salaries, training, travel costs, and project supplies and materials for the translation team.

In addition to funding, the team needs partners who will faithfully pray for all aspects of the project. Your prayers—for the people, the progress and the reception of God's Word in Paranan—will insure the successful completion of the translation. Please consider your role in helping the Paranan speakers access God's word in their mother tongue. Call The Seed Company at 1-817557-2121 to affirm your commitment.