



PROJECT PROFILE

Subanen North NT*

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Most of the Northern Subanen provide for their families by subsistence farming and by fishing. People have little or no money beyond the basic survival needs of their families. In Subanen culture, parents still arrange marriages, and the family pays a bride price. Traditionally, the Northern Subanen practiced a form of animism.

Protestant missionaries brought Christianity to the area and established churches in about 1950. Today several Protestant denominations and the Catholic Church have active congregations in the region. But without God's Word to give them a clear understanding of the Christian faith, many people turn back to the shaman priests of animism for help when trouble or illness comes.

A Filipino couple is serving as cross-cultural missionaries to the Subanen. Their church provides for their personal needs, but they need additional financial support to enable them to hire a mother-tongue speaker to insure a high quality of translation.



- **Location:** Philippines
- **Number of Speakers:** 85,400
- **Project Goal:** New Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 1999
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2012

THE PEOPLE

The Northern Subanen (soo-BAH-nen) people live on the western portion of the southern Philippine Island of Mindanao. They are scattered in villages among the hills and along the rivers of the Zamboanga peninsula. The Northern Subanen belong to a family of five identified Subanen language and cultural groups.

In Subanen culture, parents still arrange marriages and the family pays a bride price. Most of the Northern Subanen provide for their families by subsistence farming and by fishing.

THE NEED

In 1989, two Filipino translators began work among the Northern Subanen people. When Ryan Galorport and his wife Diolia (a nurse) went to live there and learn the language, the people had many health needs.

The Galorports began by designing community health programs, translating health booklets and training health workers. Their Community Health Education and Promotion program was awarded the Philippine Department of Health bronze award in 1994 and again in 1997 when they replicated the program in another area.

>>>



Subanen North NT

Now that Northern Subanen health needs are under control, the Galorports are working with local people to finish the New Testament.

Ryan and Diolia's health work has fostered a sense of trust within the community. The chairman of the tribal council, a committed Christian, is very supportive of the translation project, and the Church Leadership Council of the Christian Missionary Alliance (CMA) of the Philippines (which represents 37 Subanen churches) has asked for Bible translation.

THE PLAN

The Galorports began translation work in January 1999, with Reverend Olejeno Adiango, who has been working full time with them on translation. A Translation Advisory Committee has been formed and trained to work with the translators and to promote the Scriptures within the community.

The first 2-year pilot program (1999-2000) provided the Gospel of Luke in the heart language of the Northern Subanen people (the first New Testament book in their language) along with an accompanying Luke Bible Study Guide.

SIL and Translators Association of the Philippines, the Filipino Bible translation organization, provide the planning, consulting, training and accounting services required for the project. This translation effort will help the Northern Subanen Christians to grow in their faith and develop a deeper, more personal relationship with the Lord. The availability of Scripture will give them new tools for evangelism efforts.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Northern Subanen translators 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 Northern Subanen team.

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104
Arlington, Texas 76015
Toll Free: (877) 593-7333
www.theseedcompany.org
A Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliate

