



Ketning

THE STRATEGY

The Ketning people live on the rugged mountainsides of remote, jungle islands. When the Ketning first requested an Old Testament translation it seemed an incredibly difficult task. Though Ketning translators could be trusted to create reliable drafts of the Scripture, it was difficult for consultants and advisors to provide crucial support. Today, technology is changing that.

The Ketning project will be the first Seed Company project to make extensive use of distance consulting to make the work possible. Distance consulting leverages single side-band radio to provide remote teams with more reliable email, voice communications, international Skype voice communications and internet access for real-time viewing and editing of computer files. This allows consultants to limit the number of expensive and difficult visits they need to make to keep the work moving and provide needed oversight.

THE BACKGROUND

Until the mid 1970s, almost all Ketning people were animists, venerating ancestors, participating in revenge killings, exercising “black magic,” and practicing cannibalism. When Christians from the neighboring Dani group shared the Gospel with them things began to change.

In 1983, translators Andrew and Anne Sims celebrated the publication of the Ketning New Testament with the Ketning believers. The New Testament was a powerful encouragement to the local church and remains central to the 80 local congregations. The entire team recognized that an Old Testament translation was important, but various obstacles prevented the team from moving forward including their very remote location.

THE NEED

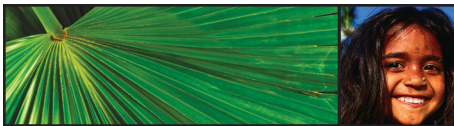
For more than ten years, pastors have been asking for help to translate some critical Old Testament books into their language. The Ketning church is strong and growing in its outreach to three neighboring language areas. Their Scripture use and their vision for outreach means that their leadership, their own membership and the three target groups will all feel the impact of these Old Testament books. These portions are essential for understanding Biblical history and the person and character of God.

The Ketning language is closely related to several others in the region, making the already translated New Testament a potential source text for other translations. This project could provide the framework for a cluster strategy that would bring the Bible to these groups.



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

- **Location:** Southeast Asia
- **Number of Speakers:** 15,000
- **Project Goal:** Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2008
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2013



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THE TEAM

Two teams of five translators will live together in two different locations in the Ketning-speaking region. The teams will follow the Ketning cultural style, drafting their translations through consensus. Having a team in each place will help the production momentum, accuracy and the morale of the translators. Each group was chosen by local church and social-political leaders.

Andrew Sims will serve as the project advisor, checking in with the team regularly through distance consulting methods and making periodic visits to the project.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Ketning 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 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 Ketning team.

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