



# Ndali

## THE PEOPLE

At least 220,000 Ndali people live on a plateau in southwest Tanzania and northern Malawi. Like many Africans, they grow corn, millet and cassava to feed their families. Several Ndali speakers are quite well-educated, including one woman who holds a doctorate and teaches foreign languages and linguistics at the University of Dar es Salaam. The Ndali people are industrious and hard-working. They love their language and set up a language committee several years ago.

## THE BACKGROUND

Christian missionaries brought the gospel to the Ndali area about 100 years ago, and today virtually all of the Ndali profess Christianity. However, Scriptures are only available to them in the Swahili language, which most people don't understand at a deep level. Without understandable Scriptures, Christians lack the foundational truths that lead to practical applications for Christian living. Pastors see this lack of depth within their congregations, and church leaders recognize they are failing to reach young people in their society. While some pastors don't appear interested in teaching the Bible, many Godly pastors and other leaders have been praying for Scripture in Ndali for many years.

Eager to begin a Bible translation program, an Ndali translation and literacy team has been attending workshops offered by SIL in Mbeya, Tanzania. The team started work in 2003 and has laid a foundation for translation with careful linguistic work. They developed a new way of writing their language, and they have been compiling a dictionary and studying how their language functions.

Some team members are teaching Ndali people to read so they will benefit from the new translation. The team began by drafting Jonah, Ruth and Mark, and their progress will continue from there. The professor who teaches in Dar es Salaam has indicated an interest in contributing to the Ndali translation program.



- **Location:** Tanzania
- **Number of Speakers:** 220,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament plus Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2005
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2015



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### THE PLAN

Several times each year, the Ndali translation and literacy team joins teams from nine other language communities at the workshops in Mbeya. Some workshops cover topics such as dictionary compilation, alphabet development, discourse analysis and computer use. Others focus specifically on certain books of the Bible. During these sessions, participants work with each other and with trained biblical scholars to understand the meaning of the various Scripture books. This collaboration and sharing of resources speeds up and improves the quality of translation.

SIL members in Uganda and Tanzania serve as advisors, linguists and consultants to assist the teams. Several Tanzanians fill important project roles, and more will join the staff in the future. An advisory council of Tanzanian church leaders meets annually with the advisors and consultants to discuss progress and to plan the next steps for each translation team. Even as they work, team members continue to explore new approaches and technological resources that may benefit their work and lay a foundation for Bible translation into additional languages of the region.

### JOINING THE TEAM

The Ndali translators can't accomplish their goals alone. They need your help. Your financial partnership will provide computers, translation materials and salaries for the translators. It will also supplement travel costs for workshop facilitators and consultants who work closely with the teams. Please prayerfully consider how God might use your gift to speed the translation of His Word.

The team is also in great need of your prayers. Translators and their families will depend on your prayer support as they give of themselves to see the Scriptures in their language. Consider making a commitment to pray regularly for the Ndali translation team and for the Ndali speakers who are waiting to read God's message in their own language. Please call The Seed Company toll-free at 1-877-593-7333 to express your commitment.

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