



Sena New Testament

Sena's Great Desire

Many Sena people are open and ready to receive God's Word. They take pride in their language and long to see it developed. The Portuguese national language is confusing and misunderstood for many Sena speakers. They desire the clear, inspired Word of God in the language that speaks to their heart.

- **Praise God for the open hearts of the Sena people. Pray for truth and understanding to reach their hearts through Bible translation.**

“Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God — which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13, NLT).

Uplifting Gatherings

The team was blessed by two recent conventions, both held in Mozambique. The annual conference in July uplifted pastors and other ministry leaders.

The team was also enlightened at a Culture-meets-Scripture workshop held by SIL. There they discussed topics like African worldview and Sena culture. It's common for many Sena people to confuse old African tradition with Scripture truths. The team realized not all their traditional concepts and practices are wrong.

How reaffirming to hear that God's Word is the only road to transformation. It is vital to view the world and its practices through a biblical perspective.

- **Thank the Lord for the opportunity the team had to view their culture in light of biblical truths. Ask God to help them put their knowledge into practice.**

Translation Tidbits

The Sena team is almost finished with the New Testament translation. While the consultant checks⁵ the New Testament books, the team back translates⁴ and final checks the entire New Testament to send to the Bible Society for checking, publication and distribution. They work diligently to produce a high quality Bible translation for the Sena people in their heart language.

The team was delighted when German volunteer Katharina helped compile a grammar sketch of the Sena language. The

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- **Location: Mozambique, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 1,900,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2005**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

It is vital to view the world and its practices through a biblical perspective.

- **Praise God for all the progress the team has made. Pray that they will continue to be focused and diligent in their work. Ask the Lord to bless the team and the Bible Society as they publish the New Testament.**





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structured sketch serves as a valuable resource for translation work.

A recent linguistic workshop also helped the team understand narrative biblical portions. Workshops improve their translation and result in a translation the Sena people are proud of.

- **Continue to pray for the health of the translators and their families. Pray for Pastor Silva, who has diabetes.**

Perpetual Prayer

The team's success relies on the power of prayer. They know that "humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God" (Mark 10:27, NLT). Prayer partners are dedicated to uplifting the team regularly. Warriors in prayer fight to help bring the Word of God to Sena in the language that speaks to their heart.

- **Ask God to bless Alberto and João, the two youngest members of the team, as they continue studying theology. May God also bless Pastor Silva and Pastor Arcanjo in their upcoming graduation.**

- **Pray continually for the Sena team. May God's blessing abound on all those who are partners in prayer and giving.**

Six Steps of Translation

- 1. First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
- 2. Team Check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
- 3. Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
- 4. Back Translation:** translators translate the draft "back" into a major language for a non-native consultant.
- 5. Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
- 6. Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

SENA NEW TESTAMENT PROJECT UPDATE—2

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