



## ASKING FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

**The Solomon Islands**, an archipelago of over 900 islands stretched over 1000 miles of the southwest Pacific, is an independent country and a member of the British Commonwealth. Christianity came to the Islands more than 100 years ago and over 90% of the country identify themselves as Christians.

While Christianity is well established in the country, most Christians do not have access to God's Word in their own language. Solomon Islands Pijin, the lingua franca, is spoken by most people and a Bible is available in that language. However, acceptance and use of that translation has been slow. People's own languages are much more highly valued, and as the Scriptures are translated into those languages, they provide a deeper and more meaningful encounter with the Word of God.

About 40 years ago, around the time the country gained independence, national church leaders saw the value of translated Scripture and invited the Solomon Islands Translation Advisory Group (SITAG) to facilitate Bible translation ministries around the country. This ministry continues to advise and support translation, literacy and Scripture Use activities around the country.

Early efforts in Bible translation were often undertaken by missionaries and expatriate clergy. Today, Solomon Islanders are increasingly taking leading roles in Bible translation. A local Bible school, Islands Bible Ministries (IBM), is offering classes in grammar, Biblical exegesis, Biblical languages and translation principles to train Bible translators. In addition, IBM is also managing active Bible translation ministries.

### Let's Ask:

- That as Solomon Islanders read, listen to, and interact with the translated Scriptures that lives will be transformed and Christians will grow in their understanding of God and his plan for their lives. ... *Just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.* Ephesians 5:25-26
- For wisdom and grace as Bible translators wrestle with producing clear, accurate and natural-sounding Scriptures. *And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.* Psalm 90:17
- For wisdom as national leaders look to a vaccination plan when it becomes available. Thank God the Islands have been protected from COVID-19 entering the general population. *Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.* Psalm 100:4

**Unreached People Group:****Savosavo of Savo Island**

Population: 3000  
Primary Religion: Christianity  
Language: Savosavo

**Background:**

When Christianity came to Savo Island by the Catholic church, they introduced liturgy and Scripture in the Ghari language of nearby Guadalcanal Island, while the Anglican church used the Nggela language from another nearby island group. These two languages became the languages of worship, yet they are foreign and unrelated to the Savosavo language.

In the past few years, a growing interest in Bible translation has taken root on this small island. A Bible translation committee has been formed and is raising funds to support a translation. Several Savoans have taken classes at Islands Bible Ministry in hopes of joining the translation team.

- Praise God for the high interest and commitment to see the Bible translated into Savosavo. Psalm 119:105
- Pray the translation committee can help identify good candidates for the various roles needed for an active and productive translation team. Pray for those who are taking classes to understand the concepts taught and will have the ability to apply their learning to the translation task.

*Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. Exodus 36:2*