



ASARİ'O | Papua New Guinea

SUMMER 2024 UPDATE

Asar 'o children gather for a Scripture-based literacy class. Reading skills open doors for their future, and will enable these children to read God's Word for themselves!



STORIES OF IMPACT

A beloved team leader

The translation team now has a new team leader named Roman Saremo. Roman's involvement has had a great impact on the Asarī'o translation team. They are rallying behind his leadership. Roman is a spiritual leader and focuses on discipleship as part of the translation work.

The project coordinator shares, *"The translators are accepting this new focus, and we have seen growth in the team members already over the last quarter. We continue to pray for revival among the translation team and the community."*

Please join us in praying that this work would strengthen the translation team's faith, and have a great spiritual ripple effect on the language group as a whole.



The translation team participates in a Bible study together. With your help, translators are being disciplined through the translation process. Praise God!



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

The new Asari'ŋ Bible translation initiative has officially launched! Thank you for your support of Bible translation in this language group in Papua New Guinea. In the past six months, your generosity has made the following progress possible:

- **Celebrated raising \$10,240 for the Asari'ŋ Bible translation initiative this Giving Tuesday!** Praise the Lord. This support helped move the project forward in the new year.
- **Prepared a community Oral Bible Storying (OBS) workshop in the town of Bosamia.** This workshop will take place next quarter. The idea is to gather about 50 Asari'ŋ speakers and members of neighbouring language groups, and train them to share Bible stories and passages orally. This is a Scripture engagement method that will resonate in this oral storytelling culture. Preparations even included building houses to lodge participants!
- **Trained the team in Oral Bible Storying. Team members gathered in Ukarumpa for basic OBS training.** Those trained went on to spread awareness in their communities.
- **Continued literacy classes through Tok Ples Prep Schools.** Through these programs, children are learning to read in their language.
- **Organized a pastor training and women's conference in the region.** The workshop was a great success! This was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the local church and minister to Asari'ŋ speakers. A committee was formed and team members spread awareness about these events.
- **Celebrated the good start of translation work in 2023.** Though the Asari'ŋ team mainly focused on Scripture engagement activities and outreach initiatives this last quarter, work on the Gospel of Mark has begun. First drafts are underway.
- **Worked on language development.** This will ensure the sustainability of the Asari'ŋ language. Last quarter, the team participated in phonology research (study of patterns of sounds in a language), and hosted an early childhood education workshop, which was a success. A team of linguistic consultants and sociolinguistic researchers was also formed. They traveled to Asari'ŋ villages to encourage the development of a community-led language development committee. This shows encouraging local ownership of the program's activities.



UPCOMING GOALS

- Complete the written translation and reviews of the Gospels of Mark and John in Asari'ŋ.
- Host the OBS workshop for community members, and promote this Scripture engagement approach in the region. The hope is to see Asari'ŋ speakers begin to increasingly share the Gospel using this method.
- Strengthen the local Asari'ŋ church, resourcing its members to use existing translated Scriptures and new ones as they become available.
- Train more Asari'ŋ speakers through vernacular literacy programs. This also includes training teachers in vernacular literacy classes, so they are equipped to teach this content effectively.



PRAY WITH US

- For the maintenance and operation of equipment (computers, solar panels, batteries) in the village, which continues to be a challenge and cause of delays.
- That the practice of Bible reading would increase amongst Asari'ŋ people. Readership is currently low, but we pray for spiritual hunger in the four main Asari'ŋ villages and that this community would turn to God's Word as it becomes available!
- For the main Asari'ŋ translators, namely Cletus, Steven, Freddy and Rem, who are not followers of Jesus. May they come to encounter Christ personally. Pray for Roman, the team leader, as he balances his time spent on translation work and discipleship training.
- For forward progress on translation work, outreach and language development. May God grant the team perseverance and wisdom.