



BALI-MBA | Democratic Republic of the Congo

SUMMER 2024 UPDATE

A local church leader talks about the importance of Bible translation in an Mba church. (L)
The team gathers to make progress on reviews of translated Scripture! (R)



STORIES OF IMPACT

Preserving and celebrating minority languages

The promotion of mother tongue use through the Bali-Mba initiative is opening eyes to the importance of preserving and celebrating minority languages. In a context where the Bali and Mba languages are often not used for trade or education, there is great risk of younger generations not knowing their linguistic heritage. The Bali-Mba team is working hard to prevent this.

One way they do this is by encouraging locals to enroll in literacy classes, and gain basic reading skills in their own language. Dieudonné, an elder of the

Bali church, was deeply impacted by this. One day, he shared: *"We speak our Bali language well, but I have just discovered that without being taught, there are many mistakes we make in speaking and writing. Learning a language is the best way to keep your language authentic."*

For Dieudonné, this initiative is strengthening his pride in his culture, and equipping him for the day the whole Bible is available in Bali. We celebrate the success of this initiative with him!



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Published translated Scriptures in Bali!** The Gospel of Luke was published and distributed, and the books of Acts, James and 1-2 Peter are fully reviewed and being prepared for publication soon.
- **Progressed consultant checks for the Gospel of John in Bali.** Chapters 1-7 are complete.
- **Translated two songs in Bali.** This is a wonderful way to add to the Bali language library, and strengthen local churches by promoting worship.
- **Built capacity in the Bali translation committee.** A training session was organized and delivered for Bali translators, resourcing them for the continuation of this initiative.
- **Published and began distributing the Gospel of Matthew in Mba.** Praise the Lord!
- **Welcomed a new Mba head translator.** This transition has gone well so far.
- **Moved Mba reviews forward.** Consultant checks for Acts are still underway, with chapters 7-12 completed last quarter.
- **Visited Mba churches to spread awareness about Bible translation and gain support for the project.** A prayer bulletin pertaining to the Mba Bible translation initiative was even distributed to local congregations.
- **Formed a new Mba language committee.** This group will help ensure that the translation initiative reflects the needs of the community, identifying goals and carrying them out to completion.
- **Held two Mba literacy classes last quarter.** That means 10 full literacy classes were held for Mba speakers last year alone!
- **Published 10 Mba literacy booklets.** These reading materials are full of cultural stories, and will encourage mother-tongue literacy.
- **Celebrated International Literacy Day** in the Mba community and held a gathering to promote Scripture-based mother-tongue literacy classes.
- **Continued to mobilize the Bali and Mba communities.** Community members are eager to access translated Scripture and have committed earnings from various agricultural activities to this initiative.



UPCOMING GOALS

- Publish the books of Acts, James and 1-2 Peter in Bali!
- Complete the consultant checks for the Gospel according to John in Bali, and the book of Acts in Mba.
- Finish translation and reviews of the book of Revelation in Bali.
- Record Bali translated Scriptures, namely 1-2 Timothy, Titus and Jonah.
- Dedicate the Mba 'JESUS' film now that it is fully recorded. We pray this movie ministers to Mba speakers.
- Start three new Mba literacy classes.
- Continue to collect Mba songs and stories to encourage Mba speakers to read and celebrate their linguistic heritage. It is encouraging to see a growing stock of reading materials in this language!
- Keep adding words to the Bali and Mba dictionaries. At this stage, the Bali dictionary contains 1,500 entries.
- Form two new Bali and one new Mba language committee, to help encourage local ownership of the Bali-Mba initiative.
- Continue to mobilize support in both language groups for Bible translation and literacy efforts. This is done through church visits, prayer bulletins, radio broadcasts and social media.



PRAY WITH US

- For the continued safety of the team, and for conflict to end in the country. Join us in praying for sustained peace in the name of Jesus.
- For a sense of direction and commitment in the translation team. May God strengthen translators in the midst of staffing and leadership changes.
- For protection from issues with equipment, so the work can move forward steadily.
- That God would touch the hearts of Bali and Mba people, both as they support this initiative and as they encounter the power of God's Word in their language.