SEAGULL* PROJECT   JULY 2023

Distributing the Seagull phrasebook (June 2022)

Progress and Prayers | April to June 2023

Praise God that the Seagull team will soon hand Mark over to their translation consultant. After this, they will receive and process the consultant's comments, and they hope to have consultant approval of Mark by the end of 2023.

They have already drafted Matthew, their final NT book! They are now checking it for accuracy and also comparing it to parallel passages in the other gospels. **Praise the Lord for the good start and pray for good progress through all the steps of checking.**

They have been doing further checking of the new orthography using the text from Mark. Response to the new orthography has been good – but their orthography consultant wants them to check the orthography in the other two dialects of Seagull as well. An orthography accepted by all three dialects is needed in order to print the Seagull NT.

This is a challenge because there are no known believers in the other two dialects. (Testees need not be believers, but need to be reliably discreet.) In one dialect, a former MTT is hostile and has warned his community against them. Fortunately, some of their ministry partners are willing to do the testing for them. For the third dialect, the now-retired MTT is not hostile – but it is still difficult because there are no known believers. **Pray that God will provide 20 to 25 people from each of the three dialects for orthography testing.**

Fast Facts:

- **Languages:** Seagull*
- **No. of speakers:** 25,000
- **Christians:** <2%
- **Location:** Southeast Asia**
- **Project restart:** 2011
- **Project end date:** ~2025

Long-term Goal:

- **Translate the NT and selected OT books into the Seagull language.**

Seagull language speakers are found along the coastal areas of a Southeast Asian country. Formerly migrants from another country, their culture and religious beliefs have remained largely unchanged through the centuries.

Christians constitute 1.5% of Seagull population, while the rest belong to a majority religion. The community has been historically wary of Christianity due to its colonial association. Although house churches have been established among the Seagull people since 2001, they are struggling to survive as there have been many attacks by the enemy, especially on the leaders.

Engaging the community with the Scriptures is desired, but it needs to be done with much wisdom and sensitivity.

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Mid-term Goals (FY2024–FY2025)

- To test the new orthography in all three dialects of Seagull and obtain approval for it.
- To finish all checks on Matthew.
- To revise and check all books of the New Testament, as well as illustrations, maps, glossaries, front and back matter, etc. to prepare it for publication.

Prayer for the Seagull team

As they draw closer to the completion of the NT, they can sense the enemy's opposition increasing.

- **Continue to pray** that the team can remain in their current office-cum-housing until their work is done.
- **Continue to pray** for good health of all the team members and their families.
- **Pray** that all their equipment will function well and not break down.
- **Pray** for unity and firm faith among the team members.
- **Pray** for good relationships with the Seagull communities, even among the non-believers.
- **Pray for protection from danger and evil.**

Forecast Budget for FY2024 (SGD)

ITEMS	FY2024
Salaries for three translators	4,800
Translation day-to-day costs	7,000
Translation office, various expenses	6,300
Other professional services	1,700
Administrative costs	3,300
Total Project Budget	**21,700**
Less other sources of income	*9,800*
Amount needed (S$)	**13,200**

*FY: The fiscal year runs from 1 October to 30 September of each year.

Funding Needs
FY2024: S$13,200

If you would like to support this project:
- by online transfer, please visit https://www.wycliffe.sg/giving-to-a-project
- by cheque, please make it payable to "Wycliffe Bible Translators (S) Ltd" [on back of cheque, please write name of the project, your name, mailing address, email address and contact number]

To find out more about this project and other ways you can be involved, please contact **Simon Wan at R200_Funding@wycliffe.sg or (65) 6225 7477.**

* For security reasons, pseudonyms are used for the language name and names of individuals.
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