



**Language:** Aru Malay

**Speakers:** 100,000



**Dates:** 2019-2021

**Project Goal:** Old and New Testament portions

## ARU MALAY 2 (AH-roo muh-LAY)

ASIA — INDONESIA

### THE PEOPLE

Aru Malay is widely spoken by about 16 people groups who call Indonesia's remote Aru Islands home.

Although the language doesn't belong to any one group, it's the first language of tens of thousands of people. And its use in regional trade has grown considerably over the years. Today even people whose ethnic origins lie elsewhere can often speak it fluently.

For those who live in rural communities, livelihoods are often built around fishing and farming. Some other jobs can be found in the area's largest town, which was once a major trading port.

About two-thirds of the population identify as Christian. However traditional beliefs are prevalent, and some people live in fear of ancestor spirits.

Although portions of God's Word are now available in Aru Malay, more is needed.

Translated Scripture will help believers learn what it means to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, and equip them to reach out to others.

*Amended 10/2020*

### THE PLAN

We're partnering with Aru Malay translators to produce more of God's Word in their language!

In this 18-month project, local church leaders will provide ongoing leadership and direction to the experienced team.

Building on work completed in a previous project, staff members will publish the Gospel of John and record Acts in audio format. These books will also be uploaded to a mobile Bible app, allowing people to access God's Word on their phones anywhere, at any time.

Church leaders have identified other Scripture passages that they believe are urgently needed. As a result, two New Testament epistles — Ephesians and Philippians — will be drafted, along with portions of Psalms.

Other resources that will benefit local congregations will also be developed. In addition, the team will translate and publish the "Jesus Messiah" picture book, an illustrated narrative based on the Gospels.

### THE IMPACT

For some Aru Islands residents, the first Scripture in Aru Malay that they ever encountered was on the back of a T-shirt.

Translation team members created the shirts, which feature a verse from Luke, to help promote the Aru Malay Bible app. Some local pastors proudly wear them wherever they go.

Many church leaders are working hard to connect people to God's Word. They recognize that Scripture in Aru Malay has the power to break down barriers and bring about transformation in their communities.

But they're not alone. In the past, boatmen have shown support by transporting Scripture books from one area to another — free of charge. And some school teachers have used Scripture portions in their classroom instruction on the Christian faith.

"The local people," a project coordinator said, "want God's Word in Aru Malay."

**Your prayers and gifts** will help Aru Malay speakers gain access to Scripture in a language they clearly understand!