



wycliffe

— BIBLE TRANSLATION —

Intercessors for Africa

The Zimbabwe **TONGA** or Batonga people number about 137,000. They live in the area from Kariba and Binga to the Victoria Falls, with the main concentration around Binga.



Historically, the **Tonga** have looked to the Sikatongo, a priest who ensured that the spirits would take care of them and make their crops grow. The Tonga are mostly subsistence farmers and are called the “River People”, as their identity and livelihood are tied up with the Zambezi River. When Kariba Dam was built, the people group was split into two, with the majority on the Zambian side and a smaller group in northern Zimbabwe. The Zambian Tonga have a Bible which cannot be used by the Zimbabwean Tonga because the language has changed. Some key words are even offensive to the Zimbabweans.

A council of local Tongan churches has taken ownership of the Bible Translation project, with 11 Tonga pastors eager to translate the Scriptures into their heart language. One is an exegete who gained Bible translation experience doing the Shona translation. The project began in November 2015 and many stories have since been translated. When tested in the community, the feedback has been extremely enthusiastic. The goal of this project is 40 stories for oral distribution and a written Gospel of Mark by September 2018.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Open minds and hearts to accept the truth of the scriptures as they hear His Word in their heart language.
2. Their lives to be transformed.
3. Wisdom, ability and protection as they travel, for the exegetical advisor and the pastors translating.
4. Reliable and regular internet access.
5. Wycliffe to ensure that funds are kept flowing, training is provided and consultants are available to check the accuracy of the work. Pray especially for funds to get through to the people through the Zimbabwean bank. The total estimate is R1,961,000.