



wycliffe

— BIBLE TRANSLATION —

Intercessors for Africa

The **HIMBA**, numbering more than 50,000, live mostly in north-western Namibia and the Kunene province of Angola.



The **Himba** (Ovahimba) are very traditional people who have resisted conformity to westernisation. They practice polygamy and are a monotheistic people who worship the God Mukuru, as well as their clan's ancestors. Mukuru only blesses, while the ancestors can bless and curse. Each family has its own sacred ancestral fire, which is kept by the fire-keeper who approaches the sacred ancestral fire every 7 to 8 days in order to communicate with Mukuru and the ancestors on behalf of his family. Mukuru is often busy in a distant realm, so the ancestors act as Mukuru's representatives.

Translation work for the Himba Oral Bible translation project started at the beginning of November 2015. A steering committee comprising local churches is providing oversight to the project and local ownership is strong. Four stories have already been translated from the book of Luke and recordings distributed amongst the Himba. Mary's song from the beginning of Luke has been shaped into traditional Himba music.

The goal for the first phase of the project is 60 stories and the Gospel of Mark. The timeline for conclusion of this project is 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. The translation facilitators who work with the story crafters in the villages to produce a first draft of a story, which is shared in different communities including those in Angola.
4. The exegetical advisors who help refine the stories and the consultants who check for clarity, accuracy and naturalness.
5. Finance needed – R1,350,000