

Pioneer

Bible Translators



Praying for Papua New Guinea: Abu Language Group



Disappointment, heartache, frustration. These have all been part of the Abu people's experience with Bible translation. A translation program was started by expats in the early Eighties, but ended six short weeks later. In the more recent past, a new expat team started a program where two books were translated (Ruth and Jonah), but again the work was stopped. The translators had to leave PNG suddenly and were not able to return. No one in the Abu language area could take up where the missionaries left off, and so they waited. Again.

Anticipation, excitement, hope. These are the feelings they have expressed since PBT approached community leaders about joining the Lower Ramu Project. By participating in this project, they will be learning the mechanics of translation and not relying on an outsider, who may come and then go again.

The Abu language area consists of 22 villages, by far the largest of any of the participating language groups. They live on swamp-lands found between two great rivers, the Sepik and the Ramu. During the dry season the people are able to walk between villages. Once rainy season hits, walking ends and the people start using canoes to get from one village to another.

Since the Abu people were already engaged in translation, their situation is a bit different from the other groups participating in the Lower Ramu Project. Please pray for PBT leadership and Abu leadership as together they work out what LRP will look like for this area.

Also pray that the frustrations of the past would not carry into the future, but that God would use this situation to raise up spiritual leaders among the Abu.



Location of Abu in relation to the other groups involved in the Lower Ramu Project.

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a
light for my path.*

Psalms 119:105

Please be praying for:

- * God to raise up leaders in the community willing to serve on the community board;
- * the community board to be sensitive to God's leading;
- * God to open the hearts and minds of the Abu people to Him through the Lower Ramu Project.