



# Mende

## Old Testament Translation

Candles were very expensive in Sierra Leone. But the fear of demons and spirits prompted people to burn them at night for protection. The Mende people lived in the darkness caused by such fear until the New Testament came to them in their language in 2003.

Today the Mende translation team is working on the Old Testament. The translation project has led to renewed interest in the Mende literacy program. Individual faith is deepening as people carry out Bible studies in groups. It has led to faster spread of the Gospel as translated portions are used for evangelism.

Community leaders participate in the translation project by offering valuable suggestions and moral support. When one Mende man was asked to serve as a reviewer he exclaimed, "Today is my happiest moment in life, as I have been yearning to be part of this noble work of bringing light to our people."

The translation team firmly believes that translated Scripture makes an impact for eternity on both the individual and the world. They continue to faithfully serve to bring the Old Testament to the Mende language community.

## Goals

- Complete consultant checking of Nehemiah, Ezra and Esther.
- Conduct community checking and review in several Mende towns.

## Impact

- The translation work stimulates interest in the Mende literacy program.
- Personal and community relationships are strengthening as people take Scripture to heart.



### COUNTRY

Sierra Leone

### PARTNER

Bible Society  
of Sierra Leone

### POPULATION

2,048,000





...I have been yearning to be part of this noble work of bringing light to our people.

## Pray

- Praise God that the translation has progressed so far and so well.
- Pray for health and safety for the translators as they continue in their steadfast commitment to the project.
- Pray that more Mende speakers will come to know Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

## Give

Help bring the Mende language community deeper access to Scripture in the language that speaks most deeply to their hearts. You can give them the tools they need for personal spiritual enrichment as well as effective outreach to their people.

Kɔlɔ kɛ nya bi wooma tawao  
nga bi mahugbeelɔ mia gbi  
le ba li na, tawao nga walo  
a biyei gbɔma ndɔɔlei ji hu;  
ajifa ngɛɛ gbuwa bi wooma  
kelekee ngi na wie bi gama  
ngi ndenga.

—Genesis 28:15



**Lutheran Bible  
Translators**

Call Lutheran Bible Translators at **660-225-0810** or visit **[lbt.org/project/mende-translation](http://lbt.org/project/mende-translation)** to make your commitment to the Mende language community today.