

Prayer List: Colombia's Neediest Peoples

Will you pray specifically for these people groups in Colombia? Jesus is worthy of their worship!

Need Bible translation and church planting

Groups in this category vary in the amount of missionary engagement that they've had. The common factor is that they lack a complete New Testament and have had next to no translation of the Old Testament done in their language. Church planting attempts have also been minimal or none among these groups.

Andágueda

Due to their location, this isolated group has had very little linguistic analysis done. While their language is a dialect of Embera, it's possible that they would need an entirely separate translation project (at the least a dialectical revision of an existing Embera translation).

Baudó

The Medio Baudó people feel their language contains enough differences from their "upper" and "lower" neighbors that it merits a separate translation. Although small, there are multiple communities, and there are no established churches or efforts among them to date.

Tanimuka/Letuama

Though SIL/Wycliffe had a family working with them in the 1980's and 90's, there are only a couple of self-acknowledged believers, and one possible church effort in one of the 10+ far-flung communities. Twelve books of the New Testament have been translated and revised, along with a few Old Testament stories.

U'wa

There has been translation work done among other dialects of "Tunebo," but the U'wa people (located in the heart of rebel territory) remain unreached and hard to reach. No missionary or translation efforts have ever been attempted here.

Barí

Although Bruce Olson claims to have translated most or all of the New Testament into Barí (which he calls "Motilone"), we know of no Barí Scriptures in existence. Translators in Venezuela have been working with the Barí on their side of the border and made some progress. Their work has been fraught with conflict and financial needs (like much of Venezuela) and it remains to be seen how much translation will be completed by this team. To our knowledge, no engagement has been attempted here in Colombia since the days of Bruce Olson, and like the U'wa, their geographical location is a bit perilous.

Hupdah

This group continues to be in the forefront of our minds and prayers. While work has been done in the Hupdah communities in Brazil, nothing has ever been attempted with the communities in Colombia. Isolated, reclusive, and small, the Colombian communities stand in need of Christian ambassadors, and due to their linguistic situation, a translation work is much needed as well.



Need Old Testament and church planting

These groups are among the many in Colombia that received a New Testament translation as a result of the Bible translation enterprise at Loma Linda. While a lot of translation work was accomplished, much hard work done, and many sacrifices made, church planting (and Old Testament translation) took a back seat to getting as many New Testaments translated as possible. As a result, there are a number of groups that have completed New Testaments, but lack any sort of established church work.

Yagua

These villages are scattered along many little tributaries of the mighty Amazon. Although many of the Yagua have integrated into the dominant languaculture world by which they are surrounded, there remain a number of distant Yagua-speaking villages that stand in need of a Gospel witness. Old Testament translation work and a New Testament revision project are items that would need to be analyzed in greater detail to determine the need/feasibility of such an endeavor.

Carapana, Siriano, Tatuyo, Waimaha

The linguistically rich environment of the Vaupés was a major attraction to the linguistically minded efforts of Wycliffe and others. These four are merely representative of the many groups that we have identified in that region as having a New Testament but lacking a church or any active engagement attempts. Old Testament translation (if any exists), is limited to select passages, and in light of urbanization/modernization, in-depth analysis of these groups needs to be done to determine the validity of a translation project. Despite the unknowns on the translation front, there are many communities in need of a living gospel witness.



Need church planting

Some groups with access to a translation in their own language, or having largely assimilated into the national language and culture, still stand in need of people willing to live and work among them to share the Good News.

Embera Catío

Although two SIL ladies have completed the New Testament translation, and plan to continue with the Old Testament, they have restricted themselves to engaging Catíos that live in their own urban setting. As a result, there are many Catío villages that, unless someone takes the initiative to take the translated Word to them, will undoubtedly never hear the Good News.

Inga

There are missionaries working with some of the Inga communities, but there are conflicting reports as to the differences and needs among this group. Some contend that there is a second “Jungle Inga” group that needs its own translation work—although people closest to the situation tend to disagree with this assessment. Nevertheless, there are many isolated communities that stand in need of people to “stand in the gap” for them.

Although these are the two we’ve gathered the most information on, many of the other 90+ indigenous groups here in Colombia fall into this category. Many of these groups have integrated into the wider Colombian culture, but due to the lack of infrastructure in Colombia, there are still many isolated indigenous communities that stand in need of prayer and engagement.

Prayerfully,
MJM in Leticia, Colombia



Thank you for praying for these people groups. If you or your church have interest in serving any of them, please contact us for information.

