



Language: Jarawara

Speakers: About 200



This Year's Need: \$13,240

Project Goal: New Testament completion

JARAWARA (jah-rah-WAH-rah)

AMERICAS — BRAZIL

THE PEOPLE

The entire Jarawara population lives in three small villages in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil.

The Jarawara people hunt, fish and garden to meet their family's food needs. For other necessities, they travel to a nearby town.

Some Jarawaras fear spirits, but only a few traditional shamans remain, and none are being trained to take their place. In years past, as other Brazilians moved closer, Jarawaras started abandoning some of their traditional customs.

The good news is that the Jarawara people have not abandoned their mother tongue! Even those who are able to converse about everyday subjects in Portuguese — the official language of Brazil — prefer to use Jarawara for talking about the deeper things of life.

Over the years, Christians have shared the gospel with the Jarawara, and nearly all of them are believers now. However, only a few Scripture portions and Bible stories are available to nourish and strengthen these believers.

THE PLAN

About 50 percent of the Jarawara New Testament has been approved for publication!

Between sessions with a translation consultant, the team facilitator is making revisions on the remaining books with a Jarawara man named Bibiri.

Bibiri was a great hunter when he was young. But about 20 years ago, a serious snakebite wound left him unable to continue hunting. Around the same time, he started to follow Christ. As his faith matured, Bibiri became a leader of the believers in his area, and today, he is their pastor.

Bibiri also plays a key role on the translation team. His language skills and deep understanding of the gospel have equipped him to help bring God's Word to his people. "We thank God for Bibiri's life," says the facilitator.

Along with translation work, the team recently revised a dictionary and published it online. It has already received many views. This year, they will publish the print version.

THE IMPACT

"The translation is very good!" said Kona, a new Jarawara believer.

He had just finished answering comprehension questions posed by a translation consultant while checking three books of the New Testament. Another Jarawara speaker was also helping, and he agreed.

Recently the team has been adapting all the Jarawara publications so they can be accessed on tablet computers. They started with just a few tablets to see how the Jarawara people would respond to this new technology. Because of their enthusiasm, more tablets are now being prepared for distribution.

The Jarawara people are hungry for God's Word. "The Gospel of Mark and the translated Bible stories remain in great demand," reports the project adviser. Soon the Jarawara people will be able to hold the entire New Testament in their hands!

Your prayers and investment will help the Jarawara people gain access to God's Word in their own language!