

First Love International Ministries is translating God's word into the Waray language.

Paul and Margie Varberg have been missionaries to the three million Waray people of the Philippines for 32 years now. During this time God has helped them to plant a metropolitan church in Tacloban city, to start a student ministry that has ministries on eight campuses, and to start **Bethel International School** which has had over 330 students from Kinder through 12th Grade during the past few years.



There are three million Waray people, who populate a third of the island of Leyte and all of the island of Samar, in the middle and eastern part of the Philippines.



The primary focus of Paul's ministry at this time is to lead a team in completing a new formal **translation of the Bible** into the Waray language. The first translation of the Bible into Waray was done 90 years ago, in 1930. Then a paraphrase translation of the Bible into Waray was done 40 years ago, in 1980. However, the arrival of modern movies, TV, and the internet have brought many changes to the vocabulary of young people. This has made these earlier translations of the Bible sound very old fashion to young Warays.

In 2014, this team of translators began working on a new translation of the Bible into the Waray language under the supervision of Kermit Titrud, a senior consultant with Wycliff Bible Translators.



One of the goals of the team is for this to be a formal translation. Another of the goals is for this translation to use the vocabulary that Waray young people are using, because 50% of the three million Waray are under 23 years of age. We want these young people to not think of the Bible as a book written for their parents or grandparents, but as God's message for them.



The Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the translation, but now the team is meeting again. Please pray for God to guide the translation team as they do the final edit of the New Testament into Waray. Pray that we will be able to finish the final editing and publish the New Testament by the end of this year, or beginning of next year.

Barely 3% of the Waray people attend an Evangelical church. Having an up-to-date translation of the Bible in Waray will have a big impact on helping churches to reach the next generation.

You could help us by praying for our work, and by talking to your friends and Sunday school class about making a contribution to First Love for this project. We will need \$20,000 to print the first few thousand copies, once we are ready to publish the New Testament. God loves the Waray people and would like them to have an easy to read copy of his promises and commandments.

(Click on the link below to make a donation)

<https://firstloveinternational.kindful.com/campaigns/1056055?utf8=%E2%9C%93&campaigns=1056055&amount=>

***Should you have any questions about this ministry, or if you would like to get on the mailing list for regular updates on the progress, kindly email Paul Varberg at paulvarberg@gmail.com