



CREE INITIATIVE Canada

SPRING 2022 UPDATE

(Left) A translation class. (Right) Cree children celebrate their value.

STORIES OF IMPACT

The Oji-Cree Kingfisher Lake community loves the Gospel of Mark!

This past summer, the Gospel of Mark was published in Oji-Cree. It has received very positive community feedback. Following a blessing service at St. Matthews church in Kingfisher Lake, copies of the translated Scripture were distributed. Since then, after reading the Gospel, several community members have expressed their gratefulness and excitement to the translation team. One man read his copy of Mark twice in the first few weeks and came to the team asking when the next Gospel would be available.

Like watching a movie

After reading Scripture in her mother tongue for the first time, Mary*, an Oji-Cree speaker in Kingfisher Lake, told the translation team it felt different than reading it in English. **She explained that when she read translated portions of the Oji-Cree Bible, it was so vivid and clear that, "[...] it felt like I was watching a movie!"**



A celebration of the newly translated Gospel of Mark in Kingfisher Lake



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- With travel and gathering restrictions in place, many initiatives have been postponed or cancelled. Periodic interruptions may occur.
- Started preparations to hold the annual First Nations translation workshop in April 2022. In light of the pandemic, please pray that the gathering can occur safely in person!
- Published and distributed the Gospel of Mark in Oji-Cree! The community received it very positively.
- Began recording an audio version of the Gospel of Mark in Oji-Cree. It will eventually be added to the app.
- The Oji-Cree mother-tongue translation team was able to present their translation project at a regional indigenous education conference. Pray this will reach more people wanting to read Scripture in Oji-Cree!
- Completed the consultant review of John's Epistles. The team is eager to make them available to Oji-Cree speakers.
- Started drafting the Gospel of John in Oji-Cree.
- Published an Oji-Cree community language website with 20 cultural videos. The response from the community has been very positive.
- Started initial work on developing a full Scripture-based trauma healing program for the Western Swampy Cree community. This training program equips clergy members and lay leaders with tools to address trauma within their communities, especially the wounds fostered by the residential school system.



UPCOMING GOALS

- Finish the publication and audio recording of John's Epistles in Oji-Cree.
- Continue translating the Gospel of John in Oji-Cree.
- Publish Oji-Cree liturgical selections. The team is starting with church services.
- Resume in-person language lessons and language learning camps for the Western Swampy Cree.
- Produce series of 30 Mission: Literacy! booklets in Western Swampy Cree on biblical stories, in partnership with the Canadian Bible Society. Produce a Bible video as well.
- Conduct a workshop on language development for Cree mother-tongue translators in the next three years. Scripture engagement and translation workshops bring together indigenous translators from different communities for mutual learning and encouragement.
- Identify and begin projects with other Cree language groups.



Pray with us

- That God would continually use the translated Scriptures in Oji-Cree to bring healing and change people's lives.
- For the grieving and processing of indigenous communities following the discovery of children's unmarked graves at multiple residential school sites. May there be healing and restoration.
- For the publication and recording of John's Epistles, and drafting of the Gospel of John in Oji-Cree. May they lead many to encounter Jesus!
- That God would provide a trained assistant for the Western Swampy Cree team, to help complete the Mission: Literacy! book adaptations.
- For the end of the Covid-19 pandemic in Cree communities. Pray for health and safety, and that the work can progress in spite of travel and gathering restrictions.
- For the continued well-being of mother-tongue translators, and that while they work they would carry a sense of the eternal importance of what they are doing.