



AMERICAS

Pray for Zero

May 15-19, 2023

A DAY-BY-DAY PRAYER JOURNAL
FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION



Americas

Since the Americas is an older mission field with a historical Christian background, praise God that many believers in these countries understand the importance of Bible translation. There are many excellent Spanish and Portuguese seminaries in this area and many strong national partners.

Pray for God to raise up more laborers in the Americas and to provide clarity on the task that remains so that all people can have access to his Word in a way they can understand and accept.



STRENGTHS

Many translation teams benefit from community support, strong partnerships, well-trained theologians, and a high level of technology & internet access.



OBSTACLES

Language surveys are still needed to determine Bible translation needs of remaining languages, many of which are oral cultures or sign languages.



PRAYER POINT

While the Americas region has more interns training to be translation consultants than any other area, the current shortage is hindering people receiving God's Word.

Regional Update

Pray for Team Meetings in Mexico

Seed Company, in a desire to create a more profound sense of unity between workers in all parts of Bible translation, holds annual staff meetings in the region. This year's meeting will be held in June.

To partner well, we don't want to develop tunnel vision and only focus on our own areas of expertise. We want to learn from each other. The upcoming meetings will give time for the Americas team to hear one another's stories, passions, and specific contributions to Bible translation work, developing a sense of camaraderie and common understanding.

PRAY

That God will bless this week of intimate sharing and supply wisdom for working on common regional issues.



Monday

And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

— Mark 16:15 (NLT)

PRAY FOR A BIBLELESS PEOPLE GROUP

Sarnami Hindustani of Suriname

Though Dutch is the official language of Suriname, most inhabitants are bilingual. Dutch is taught at school, but at home and amongst themselves, Sarnami Hindi speakers prefer their own language to communicate.

Seven radio stations broadcast in Sarnami Hindi 24 hours a day. And more than 10 television stations focus solely on Sarnami Hindi programs. Many Sarnami Hindustani are strong in their Hindu beliefs, making them resistant to the gospel. This project will revise the New Testament and translate the Old Testament, producing the first-ever complete Bible in Sarnami Hindi.

PRAY

For unity between local churches and the Suriname Bible Society as they work to reach the Sarnami Hindustani with God's Word.

PRAISE

Several different churches already have services in Sarnami Hindi!

Population

205,100

Religion

Hinduism

Goal

Full Bible

10 People Groups in Brazilian Rainforest to Receive Book of Nehemiah

Translators speaking 10 languages in the Amazon rainforest of northern Brazil will work together in a new project to draft Nehemiah. Many of their people have an animistic worldview, believing all things that inhabit the natural world have their own spirits.

While these groups range from 6% to 50% Christian, it is common for them to mix Christian beliefs with animistic practices. Just as the city of Jerusalem was rebuilt in Nehemiah, may this precious Old Testament book help local believers build their faith in Christ alone.

Pray Now

Ask God to grant project approval, safety, good health, and enthusiasm to the 33 translators and 13 facilitators of this 10-language project as they make plans for their first workshop in July.

Watch a traditional dance performance from one of these people groups on Brazil's "Day of the Indigenous":







Tuesday

God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

— 1 Corinthians 1:9 (NLT)

PRAY FOR PARTNERS

Suriname Bible Society

Suriname Bible Society, part of [United Bible Societies](#), exists to make the Bible available to all people in Suriname and Guyana. They work with individual donors, churches, organizations, and governments to bring God's Word to people in the language and format they understand best. In addition, they actively engage specific populations with translated Scripture, including youth, refugees, women, children, the traumatized, and those with visual disabilities.

PRAY

That God will grant our brothers and sisters at Suriname Bible Society wisdom and capacity to support other Bible societies in the Caribbean region.

PRAISE

Suriname Bible Society and its director show dedication and commitment in every detail of their work, demonstrating their great love for those who don't yet have the Bible in their own language.



Suriname Bible Translators (Photo courtesy of American Bible Society)

Pray for the Wanadi Nacomo* Team in the Americas

In a lush, tropical region with increasing safety concerns and little access to consistent power or internet, the Wanadi Nacomo team is working toward finishing the New Testament. Completed Scripture portions are already being used to strengthen families, deliver people from addiction, restore victims of abuse, and free many from fear in these communities.

Pray Now

The Wanadi Nacomo team is ready to make audio recordings of translated Scripture, but they haven't found anyone to make the recordings. Ask God to provide the right person for this team.



Wednesday

In the days the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him.

— Ruth 1:1

Wetsatia Israel bai adu diyaiwutii keshewawudu, naduwash yurawu piti yupa widakuikadi idiwu. Naskake dukuwede āwe āwiya ita, āwe wake werunakwake raweya bai wetsa āwe ade Moabe ari ishiki kayudi. Name bai Judá aria ita, wua Belém aria idi.

— Rute 1:1 (recently translated into the Cinta Larga in Brazil)

At some occasion while the chiefs were powerful in Israel country, the people living there were having a lot of lack of food. Because of this, a certain man together with his wife and his two sons moved to another country called Moab. He was from Judah country, from the town of Bethlehem.

— Ruth 1:1 [translated back into English from Cinta Larga]

Listen to what portions of Ruth sound like as they're being translated into Cinta Larga and other indigenous languages of Brazil.



PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Indigenous Languages in Brazil

Without God’s Word in their languages, the four people groups of the Rute Cluster project in Brazil have tended to mix Christianity and animism. Now they have their first Scripture—the book of Ruth, drafted and recorded. [What Is a Cluster Project?](#)

God Called Her

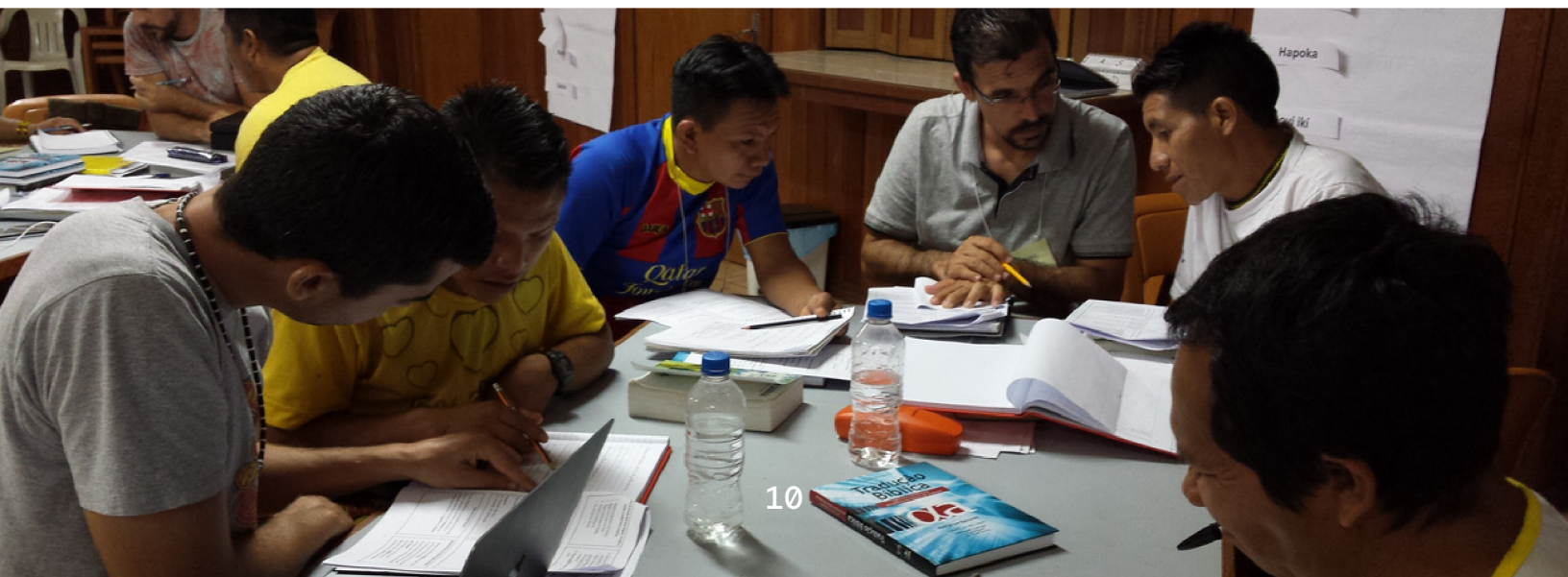
Early on, one translator’s relatives discouraged her from going to a Ruth workshop because she hadn’t been officially chosen by project facilitators. But she reminded herself that God was the one who had called her to be a translator. So she packed her things and joined the workshop with the team. She ended up playing a vital role in the work!

PRAISE

- Team members report, “We have been impacted by the words of the book of Ruth—by each and every dialogue.”

PRAY

- For a chief who recently chose to follow Christ and is facing spiritual attack
- For wisdom to find the right words to express biblical terms in their culture.



Thursday

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

— Ephesians 4:12 (NLT)

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

Pray for Interns Identifying Bibleless Languages

How do Bible translation organizations determine which languages are still unreached, and how do we make sure we aren't duplicating existing efforts to reach them? Eleven interns serving with seven different partners in the Americas are learning how to answer these questions as they receive training in sociolinguistic research from a Peruvian organization called [CILTA](#). This important group is called the sociolinguistic cohort.



“I have seen how God works in people, and I have felt the great importance of Bible translation in my language and its teaching in Quechua-speaking communities.” — Keila, an intern with partner organization AIDIA”

PRAISE

- The interns have completed their first few weeks of in-person training at CILTA.

PRAY

- For continued progress as they study online and for safety as they plan two more trips to CILTA this year.

Pray for the Wayampi People of Brazil

Wayampi people live in the rainforest of Brazil, where everything they need is right at hand. Currently, there are around 1,900 known Wayampi people, and about 150 of their youth have chosen to travel to study and find greater opportunities in the city.

However, when they arrive there, life often becomes challenging and frustrating. They barely speak Portuguese and are little prepared for this new kind of life. Overwhelmed by the choices and opportunities at hand, they often struggle with depression, alcohol abuse, and suicide. In recent weeks, there have been at least three suicides, including an 11-year-old boy.

Pray Now

Ask God for wisdom to start a Wayampi Bible translation project in June to bring comfort, hope, and a new sense of identity to Wayampi youth.

Friday

Rise up, O Lord, in all your power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.

— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

IMPACT STORY

Ngiva People of Mexico Receive First Five Books of Old Testament

This past February, 400 people gathered to witness the presentation of the Ngiva Pentateuch! The unifying power of God's Word was on display as many people attended who had once fiercely opposed the translation, including church and government leaders.

Translation team members persevered through many difficulties to reach this day. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when Ngiva believers were forbidden from gathering in churches, local believer Emanuel started a Ngiva Scripture radio broadcast from his home. People would stop by his house to praise God that they finally understood verses they'd previously only heard in Spanish.

PRAISE

Many who had originally opposed the translation came because they saw the power of God's translated Word.

PRAY

That God will give wisdom to the translators to finish drafting Isaiah and bless Emmanuel's preaching and radio ministry.



Pray for the Mayeri* People

The Mayeri people live in a tropical area of the Americas and often struggle with diseases like malaria. Few have consistent access to electricity, internet, or public transportation. Christians, who make up about 20% of the population, tend to mix beliefs with animistic practices. There is a need for clear gospel teaching and more accurate, understandable, and acceptable Scriptures.

Praise God

The Mayeri team rejoices that 600+ people attended a recent church conference, and more than 34 were baptized! Ask God to be with them as they prepare to record translated Scripture.

*THE JOURNEY TO ZERO IS ULTIMATELY A
JOURNEY OF PRAYER WHERE THE COUNTLESS
PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS COUNT FOR
EVERYTHING.*

