



ANGLOPHONE EAST AFRICA

Pray for Zero

May 1-5, 2023

PRAYING FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION:
A DAY-BY-DAY JOURNAL



Anglophone East Africa

“Anglophone” refers to countries where English is accepted as a main language or language of commerce. In Anglophone East Africa, English is frequently used to train Bible translation teams and coordinate projects. Seed Company works with more than 20 partners in this region, including Bible translation organizations, local church networks, church planters, and mission agencies. Many of these partners have decades of experience and are taking ownership and leadership of Bible translation.

Praise God that this region is approaching Zero people without God’s Word in their heart language! To finish the task, our East African brothers and sisters need prayer for the challenges they face. This week, pray especially for the countries in this area that have been facing prolonged drought, creating great hardship for many of our brothers and sisters working to translate Scripture.

Watch a recap video of the recent Pray for Zero Summit in Kenya with [BTL East Africa](#), [DOOR International](#), [Bible Society of Kenya](#), and [Seed Company](#):



Regional Praise

Gamo People of Ethiopia Celebrate Full Bible

If you were to visit the Gamo people, you might feel like you were in Bible times. They furrow the ground with an oxen-drawn plow, harvest wheat using hand sickles, beat it with a stick to thresh it, and toss it in the air to winnow. Like many Ethiopians, they eat *kolo* (roasted grain), similar to the grain Boaz gave Ruth.

Last summer, the Gamo celebrated completing the full Bible in their language! Seed Company and The Word For The World provided technical assistance. Local churches are using translated Scripture and the “JESUS” film to reach the Gamo community.

PRAY

That the full counsel of Scripture will help Gamo people grow in their faith.

Get a glimpse of the celebration:



Watch the moving story of the Gamo New Testament:



Monday

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

— Mark 16:15 (NLT)

PRAY FOR BIBLELESS PEOPLE GROUPS

Dorze and Qimant of Ethiopia

Speakers of both the Dorze (with 9,000 speakers in the south) and Qimant (with 1,625 speakers in the north) languages are predominantly Orthodox Christians. While Dorze is a dialect of Gamo, which now has a full Bible that some can read and understand, it is different enough to require its own translation.

Political tension in both areas will make translation work challenging. While both languages are recognized by the government, local administrators are not cooperating with the work, believing translation work promotes division.

PRAY

- For smooth communication and unity between the Bible Society of Ethiopia and local church leaders.
- For relief from political tension and favor with governing authorities.

PRAISE

- Despite the challenges, both of these projects are scheduled to begin this fall.



Praise God

In February, we praised God for the impact the New Testament is having on the Suba people of Kenya and prayed for their Old Testament translation work. In March, they celebrated completing the book of Exodus!



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

SIL Ethiopia

In March, [SIL Ethiopia](#) celebrated 50 years of ministry. When the first SIL staff came to Ethiopia in 1973, the country was going through major governmental changes. SIL stayed through the turmoil to teach linguistics and partner with churches and translation organizations.

Today, they're part of a group of six church networks and translation organizations working to engage every language in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa with God's Word. Thanks to their unity and cooperation, Ethiopia is very close to beginning Bible translation in every single one of its languages by the year 2025!

PRAY

- For protection and acceleration of their work in more than 35 languages.
- For several Seed Company interns currently working with SIL Ethiopia in Scripture engagement, and media.



L to R: Zelalem Wassie, Seed Company Field Project Manager; Dr. Johnstone Ndunde, SIL Anglo-Lusophone Area Director; Dr. Michel Kenmongne, SIL International Executive Director & Seed Company Board Member; Dr. Yonathan Zeamanuel, SIL Ethiopia Director

RUN FOR THE BIBLELESS

In March, SIL Ethiopia hosted its first “Run for the Bibleless.” Seed Company and many other partners joyfully participated!

Watch this video from Wycliffe South Africa about Run for the Bibleless:



Wednesday

*Ándre āngū 'bé agále;
 āzākoma mádrī'la dó āfū íngólé yā?
 Ázākoma mádrī'la angá Úpí 'bū kí 'bālépi ūnókú be rī drí.
 Icó fēlé ími pá ní ĩtrījó ku,
 'bá ími andre tēlépi rī icó ú' dú kolé ku.
 'Bá Isirayilī tāmbalépi rī
 ko u'de 'bāngá ú' dú sī ku jōku ko ú' dú ku.
 Úpí la ími andre tē nī;
 ĩ' di ími andre gá sī ími tāmbajó.*

— Psalm 121:1–5 (the Aringa language, Uganda)

*I looked into the mountains; where does my help come from?
 My help comes from the Lord, the creator of heaven and earth.
 He will not let your foot slip, the one who watches over you will not sleep.
 The one who watches over Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.
 The Lord will watch over you; he is near you to protect you.*

— Psalm 121:1–5 (translated back into English from Aringa)



PRAY FOR A TRANSLATION PROJECT

The Aringa People of Uganda

Last August, we prayed for the Aringa team in Uganda to finish typesetting 9 Old Testament books. On March 23, these completed books were joyfully presented to the Aringa community!

Books of the Bible

Joshua
1-2 Samuel
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Jonah
Nahum
Malachi



Partners

Here Is Life (a local nonprofit)
SIL Uganda
Seed Company

72 % of the people in this northern province of Uganda follow another major world religion. Although they're taught not to touch Christian Scripture, some read God's Word publicly at this celebration and even asked for their own copies.

Lead translator Charles encouraged attendees, "When you preach, people will come to Christ because you are using the Aringa language. Let us not sit on these books; let us use them!"

PRAY

For the team and partners with Here Is Life and SIL Uganda as they work toward finishing the entire Aringa Bible.



Watch Aringa speakers sing, "God's Word is here! Even when life is difficult, God's word is here!" Translator Charles is wearing a maroon suit and playing a drum.

(We dare you to *not* get up and dance while watching!)





Pray Now

Pray for our partners at SIL Uganda as they seek to engage more minority languages in Bible translation and literacy efforts. Pray specifically for new leading translators, as two of their senior translation consultants are retiring soon.



Thursday

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

— Matthew 14:31

Pray for the Dekamo* People of East Africa

Since the completion of their New Testament, Dekamo people have had many questions about what they’re reading—and almost all of them don’t yet follow Jesus.

One young man often discusses what he’s reading with translator Chris*. Most recently, it was the story of Peter walking on water. Chris explained that while Jesus calls us to walk in full assurance of faith, we fail when we get distracted by what’s happening around us. But if we learn to trust in him, we have nothing to fear.

Like many Dekamo, if this young man chooses to break with tradition and follow Christ, he will face great difficulties. But no matter what, Jesus will walk with him and rescue him when he falls.

PRAISE

- For the many Dekamo people who are curious about Jesus.

PRAY

- For greater unity among Dekamo believers and passion to take the gospel to the lost.
- That fear of curses and sorcery among the Dekamo will be broken.

*Pseudonym used and location generalized to protect Bible translators and those they serve

Pray Now

Ask God to provide the resources for Ndali, Nyakyusa-Ngonde, and Nyiha translators in Tanzania to translate the Old Testament after completing the New Testament.



Nyakyusa-Ngone people celebrating their Scripture.

Friday

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

— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

IMPACT STORY

Dinka Rek of South Sudan

While about 70% of Dinka Rek people still practice traditional religion, more and more of them are coming to Christ. The Dinka Rek translation team recently met with members of various local churches to review their draft of Genesis together. Translators began to read the book out loud, while each member of the review team followed along.

As the reading continued, one of the reviewers—a bishop—started to cry. The translators paused the reading. Finally, this church leader was able to say that he was overcome by hearing God speaking his own language.

PRAISE

For God's grace in enabling Genesis to speak so powerfully in the Dinka Rek language.

PRAY

For God to guide the leaders of South Sudan to make wise policies in education, health, agriculture, and infrastructure, and for God to provide for the translators' families.

Pray for the Banyala Team in Western Kenya

Most Banyala people profess Christianity, but many lack a personal relationship with God. Traditional practices that don't align with Scripture are still common. Luke's Gospel and the "JESUS" film were completed in 2020, and these materials are changing the lives of many Banyala people. Church leaders are looking forward to completing the New Testament.

Pray Now

For the full recovery of one of the Banyala Scripture reviewers who recently had a stroke.



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

