



CONGO BASIN

# Pray for Zero

May 22-26, 2023

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A DAY-BY-DAY GUIDE TO  
PRAYING FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION



# Congo Basin

One of the biggest obstacles Bible translators face in the Congo Basin is a lack of infrastructure. Translators must allow ample time for travel because roads can be hazardous. In addition, due to rebel activity in three of the region's four countries, translation teams and even whole language communities have been displaced. Many people in this region have been through severe trauma, but God's Word in their own languages can help bring healing to both their hearts and minds.

We join the Seed Company field team in praying this Scripture for protection over Bible translators in the Congo Basin: "The nations are in chaos, and their kingdoms crumble! God's voice thunders, and the earth melts! The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress."

— Psalm 46:6–7

Even in the midst of these serious challenges, we praise God for the committed partners who continue to invest their resources and expertise into this region as they count down to Zero languages without God's Word in their countries.





# Regional Praise

## Bringing Unity in Democratic Republic of Congo

One of the main goals of Wycliffe Congo\*, a new Bible translation organization in Democratic Republic of Congo, is to unify the other 10–12 organizations in the country working in Bible translation. This is fantastic! With cooperation and communication, we can make sure we're all working side-by-side, sharing resources, and not wasting or duplicating effort.

Wycliffe Congo and Faith Comes by Hearing have planned a meeting June 19–22 in the capital city of Kinshasa about Oral Bible Translation—specifically exploring its exciting potential to reach people with God's Word in a country where the literacy rate is relatively low.

*\*No affiliation with Wycliffe Global Alliance*

### PRAY

- That this meeting will build strong relationships between Congolese leaders in the Bible translation movement.
- That God will grant health and safety for all who gather.





# Urgent Need!

## Pray for the Havu People in Democratic Republic of Congo

Before Bible translation started in their language in 2018, most Havu people struggled to understand pastors' messages in Swahili—even though about 60% of them identified as Christian. Today, they have access to Luke's Gospel and the "JESUS" film in Havu and are working on more New Testament books.

Less than 2 weeks ago, their community was devastated by flooding and mudslides. More than 400 people were killed, and thousands of homes were destroyed. Many more people have sustained serious injuries. Lead translator Olivier visited the villages that were affected and discovered that one translation team member had lost more than 50 members of his extended family.

### Pray Now

Ask God to comfort team members Mushigo and Sifa, who have suffered great loss. Pray for local churches and partner organizations as they help the Havu community recover.









# 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

### Ngiri Cluster in Democratic Republic of Congo

Sometimes in Bible translation, it can be difficult to know when all the people in a region truly have access to God's Word in a way they can understand. Thankfully, in the case of this project, a language survey was recently conducted to find all the dialects in this particular area along the Ngiri River. The Ngiri Cluster project will begin Bible translation for all 11 of these people groups.

As with most Bible translators in Democratic Republic of Congo, these teams will face logistical challenges. This is a rainforest area, and the distance between these villages and the main provincial town takes at least a day or more by canoe.

#### PRAY

- That this project gets approved in time to begin in July.

#### PRAISE

- All these people groups expressed interest in having oral Bible stories in their languages.
- Seed Company will work with a trusted and experienced partner on this project.





## Pray for Protection from a Rebel Group in Democratic Republic of Congo

Many people groups in the North Kivu province of Democratic Republic of Congo profess Christianity, but ancestor worship is still common. Bible translators are working to help them gain a better understanding of God, but conditions here are challenging. A rebel group called M23 has been actively attacking villages in this province for many months and even years prior.

### Pray Now

Ask God to provide for translation teams, as M23 rebels are cutting off access to large cities. Ask for wisdom as believers minister to refugees who have been forced from their homes.



**Learn more about the crisis in North Kivu Province:**





# 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

### ACATBA (Central African Association for Bible Translation and Literacy)

Around 74% of the six million people in the Central African Republic are Christians, but many still lack Scripture in their own language. Only about half of them can read and write. ACATBA (Central African Association for Bible Translation and Literacy) has been addressing these needs since 1993.

ACATBA is currently finishing several New Testaments and beginning translation in eight new languages! Three finance staff just finished their internships. Two ACATBA translators who are already experts in Scripture interpretation are working toward certification as translation consultants.

### HOW TO PRAY

- Our ACATBA brothers and sisters are praying for God to send someone to serve as a literacy specialist.
- Some key people have retired recently, so ACATBA requests prayer for the new staff as they learn and apply new skills.
- Pray for the translation teams for these eight languages to get off to a good start.





## Pray for a Partner's Transportation Challenges in Democratic Republic of Congo

Local organization CET works alongside Faith Comes By Hearing, American Bible Society, and Seed Company to reach 30 communities with Scripture. In their area, roads are often nonexistent or impassable, and internet and telephone service are unreliable. Flights are often canceled at the last minute.

Thankfully, the many rivers that wind through the region provide a more reliable mode of transportation. However, CET currently only owns motorized dugout canoes, requiring them to travel 4–5 days under the hot sun to reach certain language areas.

### Pray Now

Ask the Lord to provide a better boat so CET can better facilitate and accelerate Bible translation in this difficult area.



# Wednesday

*“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”*

— John 3:16

*“Nongo ate Akongo a**h**ala moki a**h**ou nda emotoma inde Mana o nde mongbongi, ate moto bii ono okomondima atsiunge kasi ate aibe omou osiakete’.”*

— John 3:16 (Budja, a language in Democratic Republic of Congo)

*“Te ngasa ga Bheke apala kptɔ na epale e sosooti aloma Mwana onde o ngombo meki bhe moto na moto iyo omobheneala ata gwa ga, kasi adhiye bhomɔ bho tandani.”*

— John 3:16 (Ngombe North, a language in Democratic Republic of Congo)

*“Zambi Nzambe apala mokili bhula, aloma mwana o nde omoti o somi po 'te moto iyo omodimelea, atagwa te kasi azwe bomɔ bo seko.”*

— John 3:16 (Ngombe South, a language in Democratic Republic of Congo)

*“Talaga Nzapa ndigi zɔagane sagɔ na dǎ Ngɔnɔ Ngombone **h**anya, takɔ baane dɛɛ vɛ gako andigi lɔ se ɔɔ nɪ nɛ se fidi kegea **h**a fɛ.”*

— John 3:16 (Fulu, a language in Democratic Republic of Congo)

These four translated verses represent more than 686,000 people who now have John 3:16 in the language they speak, think, pray, and dream in! We'll discover more about what God is doing among them on Friday.





## PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

### Dolisie Cluster in Republic of Congo: God's Word Is Unstoppable

The five language teams of the Dolisie Cluster, which we celebrated and prayed for in September, learned to craft and share many Bible stories over 2 ½ years. They spread God's Word in churches, homes, fields, and listening groups.

Out of around 325,000 people who speak these languages, approximately 7,000 have now heard at least one Scripture story, and 500 currently participate in 43 weekly Bible storytelling groups.

#### PRAISE

- Before judging a difficult situation amongst his people, one Kaamba village chief often asks the Bible storytellers for an example from Scripture to guide him. He then tells that story to the people before rendering his decision.
- Local people report that increased knowledge of God's Word in the Bisi language is strengthening marriages and reducing divorce in their communities.

#### PRAY

- That the truth of God's Word will help build healthy churches and strong believers in this area.
- That storytelling groups will continue to grow and multiply.

**See what Oral Bible Storytelling looks like in the Dolisie Cluster:**



# 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 a Consultant in Training: Anzetaka Danga

“Rev. Anzetaka is a big ol' teddy bear,” say those who know him. He’s a jovial man who loves telling a good story. But he’s also a masterful teacher who overflows with linguistic and cultural observations from the surrounding people groups.

He told a story about the first time he met an elderly Hema man in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Elderly Hema people don’t shake hands; they stoop, and the other person touches their right shoulder in greeting. But Rev. Anzetaka didn’t know this. So when this elderly Hema man stooped forward, Rev. Anzetaka stooped forward too because he thought the man was wanting to whisper something in his ear! Thankfully, he always keeps the mission in view and is able to laugh good-naturedly about awkward moments.

### PRAY

- For healing from inflammation in Rev. Anzetaka’s right heel
- For provision for his son’s wedding preparations.
- For his daughter and son-in-law who long for a child.
- For peace in certain areas where civil unrest has hindered Rev. Anzetaka’s travels.





## Pray for Seed Company's Newest Field Project Manager for the Congo Basin



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“My name is Bijou Philippe. I was born in Democratic Republic of Congo and have lived in the United States since 2001. I joined Seed Company on March 6th, 2023. I am delighted to operate as a Field Project Manager for the Congo Basin. This wonderful opportunity allows me to connect with people and to assist those who are spreading the Word of God in different languages and in my native country.”

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### Pray Now

That God will help Bijou as she travels to Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya to build strong relationships with partners and achieve the goals he has given her.



# Friday

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

— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

## IMPACT STORY

### God's Word Brings Unity in the Congo

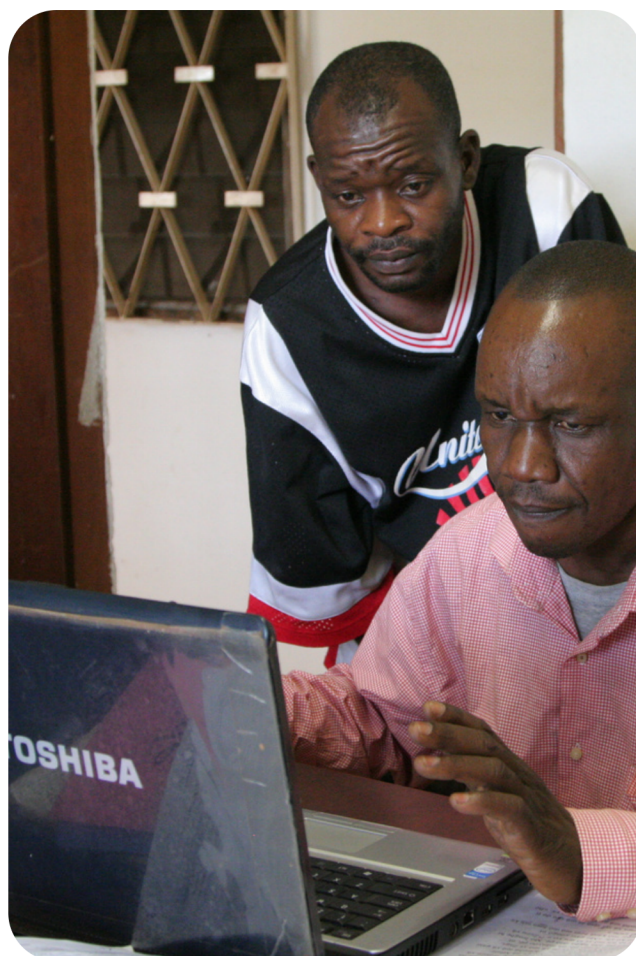
Since people have received Scripture and the “JESUS” film in the Budja, Fulu, and Ngombe languages, this area's churches have experienced greater unity. God's Word is also inspiring people to write, sing, and spread songs of praise in their own mother tongues.

#### PRAISE

- Translator Ndokabala has improved after eight months of sickness. ([an answered prayer from page 10 of the September 12-16, 2022, prayer journal!](#))
- Translator Sylvain finally received a new computer after his old one was stolen.

#### PRAY

- For healing for translator Dorcas' baby, still struggling after having surgery at three months.
- For translator Faustin, who has seen little improvement despite numerous consultations, examinations, and medications.







## Pray Now

Pray for the many transitions on the Seed Company Congo Basin team as new relationships are formed with field partners. Pray that new members will grow in confidence as they train in May and June.



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

