



MAINLAND ASIA

Pray for Zero

April 24-28, 2023

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



Mainland Asia

God has provided excellent partners in each country of Mainland Asia*. Seed Company is blessed by their commitment to develop and maintain translation projects despite hostility from local governments. Work must be done in secret, security is high, and interrogation is a constant threat for many teams.

Yet translators remain motivated and willing to sacrifice their lives to translate Scripture. Several have become Bible translation consultants, mentoring and training other teams to help ensure that Scripture is clear and accurate.

With so many remaining needs in their region, yet faced with such opposition, Bible translation leaders in Mainland Asia need prayer for heavenly wisdom in order to reach the day when zero people in their region are without God's Word in their own language.



**Because this region presents numerous security risks, asterisks have been used throughout this prayer journal to indicate when a pseudonym is being used.*

Regional Praise

Lockdowns Lifted in Mainland Asia

For three years, COVID-19 lockdowns in one area of Mainland Asia restricted local translators' ability to travel. They couldn't meet for mutual encouragement or check Scripture in communities for clarity. "We feel like birds in a cage," one project facilitator remarked. Thankfully, the lockdowns were recently lifted in that area! People in villages are equally delighted to start receiving the teams again.

Once the travel restrictions were lifted, 50 participants from various Bible translation organizations in the region were finally able to meet to discuss how to best collaborate going forward in a post-pandemic world.

PRAY

- That the unity built by believers from these different organizations will hasten the day when Zero people in Mainland Asia are without Scripture.
- That God will protect translation teams as they resume travel.



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

Five Groups in Mainland Asia Receive First Scripture

Last October, Seed Company field staff and local church leaders celebrated the completion, recording, and distribution of dozens of oral Bible stories for five previously Bibleless people groups in a closed country. They also discussed how to reach this country's remaining Bibleless people and planned to begin with six more languages.

In January, they met with 25 people from these six groups for a planning session. But by the time they held the first workshop in March, 40 people came, representing *eight* language groups! Many had traveled 120+ miles over difficult terrain to get there. Praise God!

PRAY

- That God will give wisdom to Seed Company and five new ministry partners as they supervise this new project.
- That God will help the participants stay strong in their faith even when persecuted.



Pray for the Mele* Cluster of Mainland Asia

The Ade* and Mele* people groups of the Mele cluster project often see themselves as alone and unknown. They believe they're under a curse that requires them to commit evil acts. Only a few hundred follow Jesus. But amid their spiritual darkness is a spark of hope, as they're beginning to receive the first Scriptures in their language after waiting a long time for translation.

Pray Now

Pray for the Mele Cluster team as they readjust their plans due to a recent COVID-19 wave. Pray that their borders reopen soon so they can get training and encouragement.

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

Building Local Capacity in Mainland Asia

To build capacity for Bible translation work in a country hostile to Christianity, six two-week workshops were planned to train local translators and exegetical advisors (experts in interpreting Scripture). Nine translators, each from a different Bible translation project, attended the first workshop in March. Topics included steps of translation, history of the Bible, and linguistic terminology.

Praise God for the trainers willing to come to this country to equip these local translators and endure long hours traveling to and from the venue every day, eating local food, and experiencing hardships alongside them.

PRAY

That the next training workshop in summer 2023 will be equally successful.



Pray for the Nap* People of Asia

A local militia exerts control over the Nap area and often forces one or two men from each household to join them. Drug trafficking is also a source of tension and conflict. Only about 10% of Nap people identify as Christians, but they enthusiastically receive and use every book of the Bible as it's translated. The Nap translation team has completed the New Testament and is working toward a complete Old Testament.

Pray Now

That God will completely heal Nap translation advisor Jong* from his heart attack and that the team can catch up on translation work after falling behind due to Jong's condition, travel restrictions, and the political situation.

Wednesday

One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

— Mark 1:9–11 (NLT)

Tu ti ny y^, Jesu ly Galile ka payng Nazeret mary bang hawi y lay khy, Johan tieng y^ Jodan tavo y^ Batisma a' sa. Tui thoung bang hawi y lyhn ny thyhn y^, kani khusang a' kawi khy Phai lo kacai ly bahu bai ti y ni i tlan tlaun y^ y satla pi ta y hnou by. Tu ti ny y^ “nang ly kai i paloun ka vaw hai ta hawi kai my ky paloun hai ta capo ni” ti khy kani khusang bang i y tyhn awn.

— Maraka 1:9-11 (Ekisa*)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee region, Nazareth city to John at the Jordan River and received baptism. At the time when he came up from the water, he saw the sky torn and the Holy Spirit came down towards his body. At that time there was a voice from the sky that said, “You are my pleasing one and the son that I love.”

— Mark 1:9–11 (translated back into English from Ekisa)



PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

The Ekisa* of Asia

The Ekisa project is providing the first Scripture for a people group in remote, war-torn parts of a country in Mainland Asia. We prayed for them back in October when they were just about to get started. So far, they're off to a great start in translating the New Testament thanks to a fine national partner, a translation advisor from an international organization, and local translators with a good grasp of English.

PRAISE

Ekisa team members made this observation about [Mark 1:16–20](#): “This is a decision we must make once for all, but also every day of our lives. Jesus is telling us that knowing him, loving him, resembling him, and serving him must become the supreme passion of our lives. Everything else comes second.” Praise God for their love for Jesus and passion for others to know him.

PRAY

For good internet connections and the success of an important training session that started Monday and continues today and tomorrow.

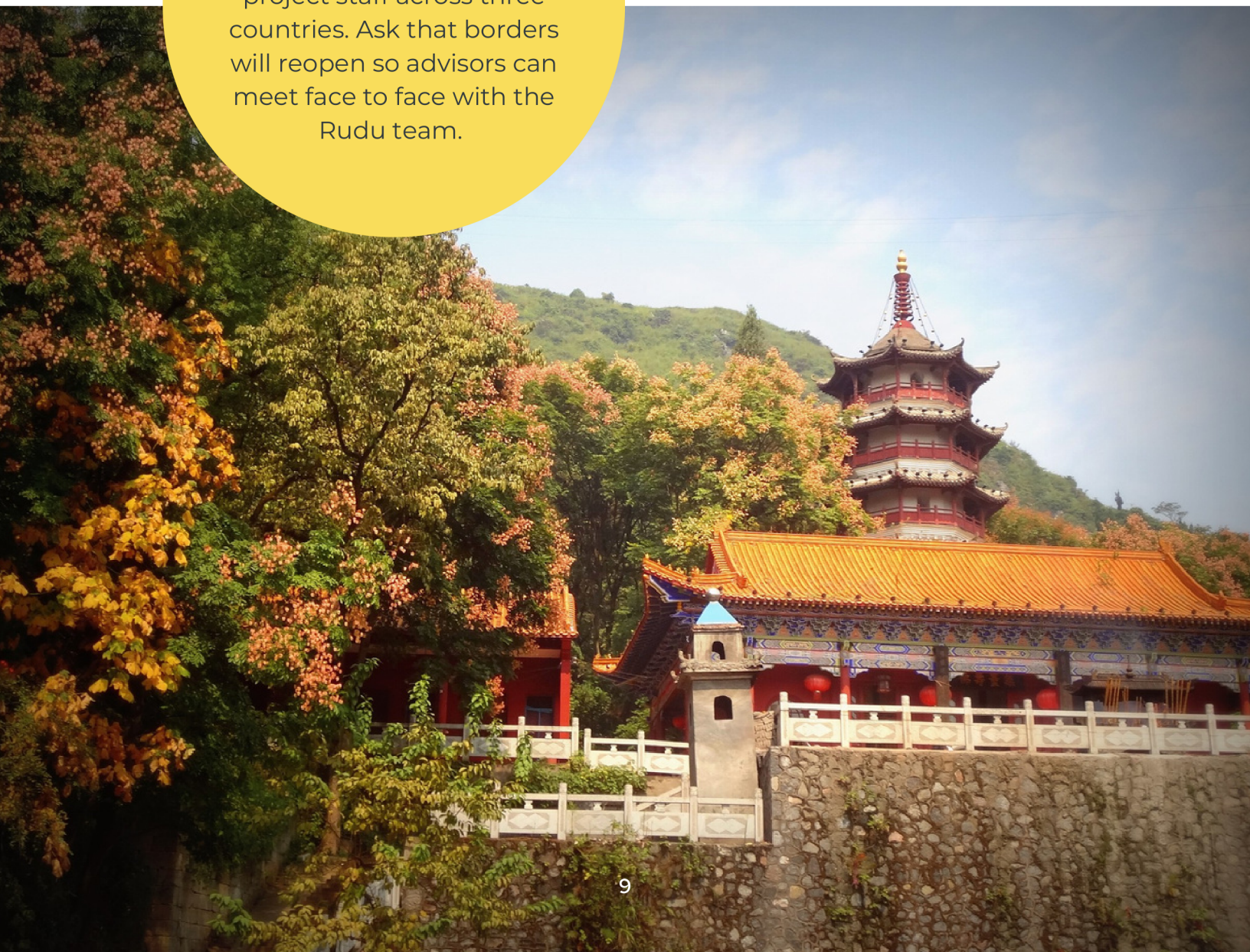


Pray for the Rudu* People of Asia

Rudu people dwell in mountain villages along a mighty river. Fewer than 20% follow Christ, but as more Rudu Scripture becomes available, people are being delivered from drug and alcohol abuse and fear of spirits. The translation team is currently working on Mark, Acts, Luke, and James.

Pray Now

For a cost-effective, stable means of communication for project staff across three countries. Ask that borders will reopen so advisors can meet face to face with the Rudu team.





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

Seed Company Intern Bree* in Mainland Asia

Bree* has adjusted remarkably well to the Asian country where she is working on her master's degree in literacy. She has a winsome personality and has been a real encouragement to four other young women who traveled with her to pursue advanced training.

PRAY

- Please pray for Bree as she is separated from her family, church, and friends for the three years that it will take to complete her degree.
- Please pray for her health because the region where she is studying has some of the worst air quality in the world during the hot season when fields are burned.



Pray for the Daleki* People of Asia

The Daleki Bible translation project is located in a region where persecution and government opposition are daily realities. Only about 0.5% of Daleki people follow Christ. But these few believers remain faithful.

Praise God

A year after a security breach caused the Daleki project to be suspended, and Scripture drafts were confiscated and destroyed, a local translator wants to start again. So, we're getting her a computer!



Friday

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

— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

IMPACT STORY

Stories Like Their Grandparents Tell

In January, [we prayed for the Notibu* team](#), who began an Oral Bible Storytelling project after completing the full Bible so they could more effectively engage their people. But they don't want to stop at their own country; they also plan to engage Notibu people in the diaspora!

Training materials have been successfully delivered to them on a USB drive. Team members have already decided on a list of eight Bible stories to start with. They're excited to learn how to tell Bible stories in a traditional Notibu way—"like our grandparents tell us stories."

PRAY

- For the full Bible to be published soon so it can be released this summer.
- For wisdom to craft stories well and use them to communicate the gospel.
- That God will keep project staff and the church safe during these days of increasing persecution.



Pray for the Way* People of Asia

Way people identify as Christians but are often influenced by animism. Many still offer sacrifices to appease ancestral spirits. In addition, political instability has jeopardized the wellbeing of their entire country. Many Way speakers have had to flee for their lives. In this difficult context, Bible translators continue to work on John's Gospel and other New Testament books.

Praise God

Though he was a church leader, Way translator Paul* still blended his faith with Way traditional beliefs. But after working on Romans, he confirmed his belief that salvation comes through Christ alone!





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

