



SAHEL

Pray for Zero

October 10-14, 2022

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



Sahel

Seed Company has a long history of well-developed partnerships in the Sahel region of Africa including churches and mission organizations. French, the language of wider communication in the region, is used for training and coordination of the translation projects.

Many of the countries have become politically unstable, and violence from religious extremists creates fear and hinders travel. Droughts cause loss of crops resulting in serious poverty.

470

The Sahel is estimated to have at least 470 languages.

267

Of these, approximately 267 language communities are currently engaged in active translation projects.

110

At least 110 languages have no Scripture and no translation work has yet begun.

The remaining 93 languages have already met their full Scripture needs or lack the vitality to sustain a translation project.

Regional Praise

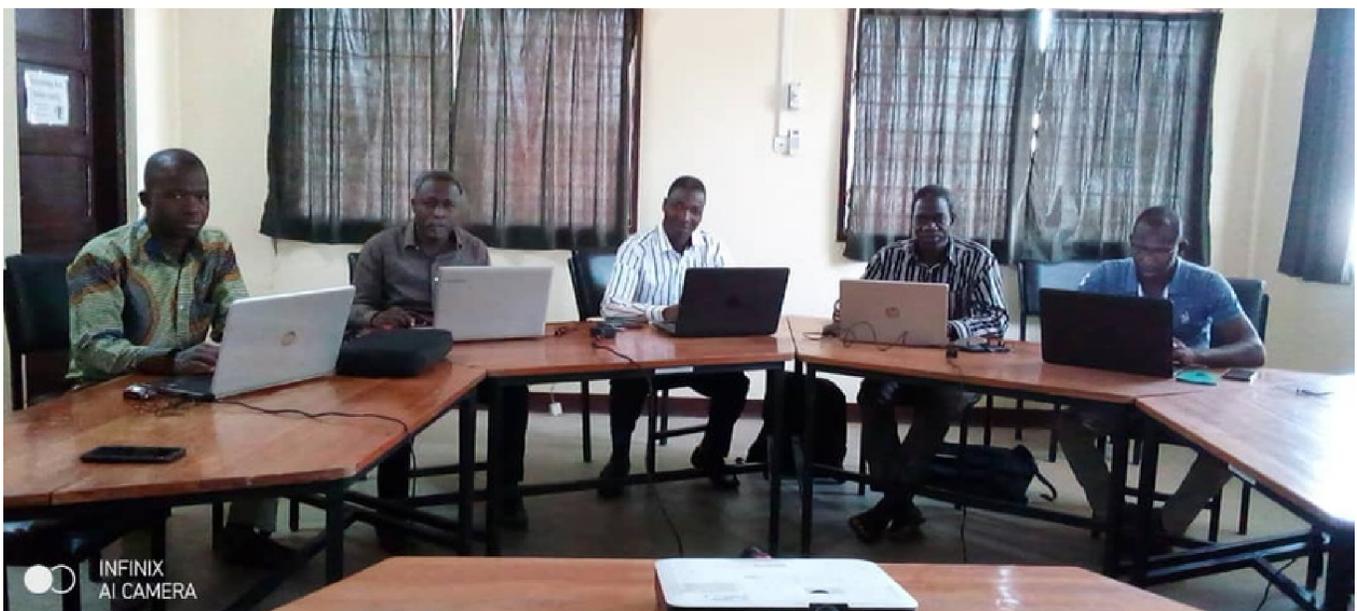
Despite famine, killings, and political instability caused by religious extremists, the Sahel translation teams persevere in their work. Each team continues to follow their project plan and translators are producing many books of Scripture in their respective languages.

PRAISE

- Translators in the Sahel region remain faithful to their task and continue to draft Scripture at a remarkable pace.

PRAY

- That the Lord of Hosts would hear the cries of the people of the Sahel and rid them of the scourge of the extremists.



Monday

For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

—2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)

PRAY FOR ZERO!

At least 110 languages in the Sahel region of Africa still have no Scripture. Pray that God would accelerate the day when each of these groups begins their first translation of his Word. May God's light shine on all those in the Sahel!



BIBLELESS PEOPLE GROUPS

From Bibleless to Transformed Lives

The Kuluso* Cluster project is currently working with six languages. Three of the six—Naso, Kandaso, and Yalaso—have no Scripture, but that is all about to change. Soon they start workshops for Oral Bible Storytelling (OBS) and for the production of the "JESUS" film. When they begin sharing Bible stories such as Jesus calming the storm, we anticipate transformed lives just as there have been in other Kuluso language groups** that have crafted 36 Bible stories.

PRAISE

- That the Naso people are open to these workshops because there are no Jesus followers—they all follow the majority religion of the region.
- That speakers of Kandaso and Yalaso are excited about receiving Bible stories in their languages after observing the impact of Bible stories in Jamtegu, Yusogu, and Tabaso.

PRAY

- For work to begin in other Kuluso language groups.



Jamtegu, Yusogu, and Tabaso OBS workshop attendees.

*Because of security concerns, names are pseudonyms and location is generalized.

**Read more about the Kuluso Cluster's vision to add a new language every year and their ability to complete a "JESUS" film in 10 days in "Local Community Hungry for God's Word."



Kuluso project coordinator Yanai* breaks into dance celebrating the news of 45 people accepting Christ after hearing a Bible story in their heart language.

*Because of security concerns, name is pseudonym.

PRAY NOW

Weno*

- For the Lord to break down barriers and open doors for the proclamation of the gospel to Weno speakers.
- For the Lord to bring the right personnel to help the Weno translation project move forward with a quality translation, and that community pressure would not inhibit people from getting involved in the translation.
- For God to give the translators wisdom in using software to adapt Scripture from a related language into Weno to accelerate Scripture translation.

PRAISE

- That people are watching the Genesis and “JESUS” films in Weno on their phones.

About the Weno

Most Weno people follow a major world religion mixed with traditional beliefs. They do not want to see a Christian church established in their region. Any new believers or anyone even showing interest are likely to face great persecution. In this current phase, translators will draft Old and New Testament selections by adaptation from a related language.



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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)

PARTNERS

ATALTRAB

Chadian Association of Literacy, Linguistics, and Bible Translation (ATALTRAB) seeks to work in all languages of Chad including minority languages as expressed in their vision statement: The Word of God, in all its dimensions, to each person in their heart language. An interdenominational organization, ATALTRAB works with churches and local evangelistic organizations to holistically transform communities through literacy, Bible translation, and community development. Staff members oversee eight active language projects in the process of written and oral translation.

PRAISE

- For the long awaited arrival of the completed Laka New Testament back from the printers.
- ATALTRAB has trained two consultants and four oral Bible storytelling consultants.

PRAY

- That God will increase the vision for Bible translation into areas that are more difficult geographically and have stronger influence from other major religions.
- For unity and strong relationships between all partners involved.



PRAY NOW

Shifa Al-Ruwah* Cluster

- For God to use the trauma healing groups started by the Shifa Al-Ruwah* translators in their home communities to share Bible stories and to bring healing, comfort, and the peace of Christ to those involved.
- For God to keep storytelling consultant Yonas* safe and healthy—and his family as well—as he remains after the October workshop to provide the teams with support and further training as they run their trauma healing/storytelling groups.

About Shifa Al-Ruwah

The four people groups of the Shifa Al-Ruwah cluster live in a remote mountainous region of the Sahel and follow a major world religion. Translation teams from these languages are working together to produce oral Bible stories, which will help heal the trauma caused by a long history of war in the region. Eventually they will move on to crafting more general Bible stories.



*Because of security concerns, names are pseudonyms and location is generalized.

Wednesday

*I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.
This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”
Our refuge is found through his Word, which lives from age to age.”*

Psalm 34:4-8 (NIV)



ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Idaasha | Eager for Scripture

Most Idaasha people practice African traditional religion. Almost every family has a divinity. Divinities are consulted first for all major life decisions.

Eager to have Scripture, community members translated Luke on their own even though they had no training. Later, they enlisted the support of Wycliffe Benin and SIL. The completed Idaasha New Testament arrived in spring 2020. Though a dedication celebration was not possible due to COVID-19, people bought 4,000 copies in the first month.



Translators Michael and Prosper with the printed New Testaments

"It is true that I have the Bible in French, English and also in Fon, the dominant language; but let me tell you that the emotion I feel every time I read the New Testament in my language is inexpressible. When I read the Word of God in other languages, I understand it, but I understand it much better in my own language. There is something, and I don't know how to describe it to you. All I can tell you is that I have an even deeper knowledge when it is in my own language."

—Idaasha pastor's testimony

PRAY NOW

- For the Word of God to transform the lives of those who do not yet know the Lord, and to deepen the spiritual walk of those who want to follow him more fully.

PRAISE

- A woman who could not read purchased an Idaasha New Testament so her children could read it to her.

About the Idaasha

Idaasha people are using the translated Scriptures. While observing pandemic restrictions, WhatsApp listening groups met to engage with Scripture. These gatherings allowed Idaasha speakers inside and outside the country to connect with God's Word. This strong Christian community has now expressed a fervent desire to have the complete Bible. Translators are working on the Old Testament to provide the Idaasha people with the full counsel of God.



Watch the video to hear how Prosper, originally intent on becoming a voodoo priest, came to faith by reading the Bible and became a Bible translator instead. Also read here—"A King Gives Up His Crown for Christ"—how an Idaasha king's decision to follow Christ influenced 60 others to do so.



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

SIL-Togo/Benin currently has three Quality Assurance interns seeking to become translation consultants: Issacar Sandjougouma, Jacques Nakane, and Anam Medjamna. Though they began on the same date but with varying levels of experience, they seem to gain synergy from training together as a cohort. All three are making excellent progress and are on track for accreditation at the end of their respective internships.



Issacar



Jacques



Anam

PRAISE

- These three interns have the opportunity to serve not only projects in Togo/Benin, but potentially all of Francophone Africa as well, which would help fill the need for more consultants in the region.

PRAY

- All three are involved in translation projects in their own heart languages, but must travel far for internship activities. Ask the Lord to protect them and their families while they are away.

PRAY

- Anam has a chronic physical ailment that makes sitting down for long periods painful. Please pray for health and healing.

PRAY NOW

- The Seed Company Sahel Regional Team is undergoing growth and reorganization. We hope to strategically align ourselves to be able to meet the significant translation needs within this region. Please pray for stability, clarity, and continuity on our team during this transitional season.



Friday

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

—Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

IMPACT



About the Jamtegu

What started as translation work in one language grew into the Kuluso Cluster project of more than 19 languages—including the Jamtegu—over the years (see Monday Bibleless People Groups and the linked article).

PRAY NOW

Sahel

- **Against famine:** In several countries, farmers are no longer able to farm. If they go to their field, they can be killed outright. If they manage to get a crop, the extremists burn it, resulting in famine.
- **Against terror:** In 2007, Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 1 percent of global terrorism deaths. That number has risen to 35 percent in 2022 due to the world's deadliest terror group active in the region. Terror is used to intimidate those who don't want to follow the extremists' religion.
- **For political stability:** In the last few years, Mali has had four coups and Burkina Faso has had one. Several other countries have also had coups or large, frequent protests.



Extremists' vehicle destroyed by military helicopter.

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



A Wycliffe Bible Translators Affiliate

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