



SOUTH ASIA

Pray for Zero

May 8-12, 2023

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



South Asia

Home to more than 2 billion people, a staggering 26% of the world's population, South Asia* covers four countries. Once ruled by the British, these countries are now thriving democracies.

Some parts of South Asia have had Christian presence from the earliest centuries. The region is also the birthplace of major religions Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. Islam came to the region early in its growth.

Recently, persecution has increased sharply. Bible translation teams are often monitored and scrutinized, and church leaders have been arrested.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Seed Company is grateful to partner with 30 Bible translation agencies in South Asia.



KEY STRENGTH

Many highly motivated and committed nationals are engaged in the Bible translation movement.



MAJOR CHALLENGE

Some prominent political parties oppose Christian outreach and make policy changes to prevent evangelism.

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

Regional Praise

The Branchu* Bible: A Dream Come True

A 30-year dream was fulfilled as the Branchu Church dedicated the complete Bible in their language on March 22. Yet lead translator Pastor Sam* declared that this was only the beginning of the work! Next, they will deliver the Bibles to 456 churches scattered throughout three mountainous districts.

In 1993, shortly after Pastor Sam became a Christian, he joined other Branchu believers who shared the dream of one day having the Bible in their language. Praise God for how he has fulfilled their dream!

PRAISE

Since translation work started, Branchu churches have multiplied from 15 to 456!

PRAY

For God to protect his people on their mountain journeys to deliver the Bibles.



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

85 Potential Bibleless Languages Identified

National Bible translation organizations have identified 85 languages without Scripture in a large South Asian country. Over the next 22 months, surveyors will confirm the need so translation projects can begin.

On March 31, 16 new surveyors from various Bible translation organizations completed their training and joined the existing team of 11 surveyors. In a moving dedication ceremony, the new surveyors were prayed over and entrusted with the task of confirming the remaining need. Seed Company supports this program, called Finish Line Project 2.

PRAISE

These surveyors are so dedicated to identifying the true scope of this country's remaining needs that they intend to remain unmarried until they finish.

PRAY

That God will keep the survey teams safe as they travel to remote areas, some hostile to Christian work.

Pray Now

Ask God for discernment regarding the full scope of remaining needs in each of these 85 languages so translation can begin soon for each person who needs it.



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

CFN and Oral Bible Storytelling in South Asia

CFN, a small local organization, works with language communities in the mountains and plains of South Asia to bring God's Word to life through Oral Bible Storytelling.

When they started in 2008, they used the national language, but many people weren't understanding the stories. In 2014, in partnership with SIL and Seed Company, they began working in minority languages. Since then, they've helped develop over 800 stories in 25 languages.

PRAISE

For God's protection of the story crafters as they've entered communities hostile to the gospel. They're seeing oral Bible stories softening hearts and bearing fruit.

PRAY

That God will give wisdom and strength to Pastor Paul* to continue leading training, mentoring new trainers, and discipling story crafters.



Pray for the Bramar* New Testament

Bramar people are subsistence farmers living in one of the most densely populated countries in the world. They follow a religion prominent across Asia. To provide an understanding of the Good News, translators began with oral Bible stories in 2016 and later drafted John's Gospel. Praise God that now the New Testament has been completed!

Pray Now

The New Testament dedication is scheduled for the end of this month, but the printing company hasn't yet received the paper. Ask God to provide so that printing can be completed within the next two weeks!



Wednesday

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

— John 3:16 (NIV)

Manda kylli ma kylli ki tae ien u neitae deptaeng ong u, "Lada em na pyrdi iong phi u wym jook em leh pap e wa u tae u bru u dat nyingkong u iow moo ha kani ka kynthai." Neitae chong kynrong biang u deptaeng thoh u ha madan. Manda sniaw ki ietaeng ia iut ki uwi hadien uwi sdang nadooh kiwa heb dooh, hadien sah sow Jisu heb wa katae ka kynthai ha pyrdi ka pchem iong ka iung u Blai. U Jisu ien u neitae deptaeng kylli u ia ka, "Kong cheiwon kitu ki bru? Ym toh em wa rai pynrem pha?"

— John 8:7-10 (recently translated into Pyecope, a South Asian language)



PRAY FOR A TRANSLATION PROJECT

Pyecope* People Finally Receive Scripture

A young team of Bible translators have been translating Scripture into the Pyecope language in South Asia for over 10 years. They'd completed many books of the Bible, but couldn't publish and distribute them because of resistance from local leaders. And what's the point of translating Scripture if nobody is using it?

But the team didn't give up. They kept praying and knocking on the doors of Christian leaders asking for support, and finally, a breakthrough came on April 1. Today, Pyecope speakers can access Genesis, Luke, John, and Acts on a Bible app!

PRAISE

The Pyecope team leader is now a translation consultant, helping several other Bible translation teams around the country.

PRAY

That Pyecope people's lives will be transformed as they make full use of the translated Scripture.



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 IN SOUTH ASIA

Typesetting Interns Help Alleviate a Beautiful “Problem”

The incredible growth of Bible translation in South Asia has led to a bottleneck: so many languages are completing New Testaments this year and next that there aren't enough typesetters to keep up!

To meet this need, Seed Company recently sponsored a 2-week typesetting workshop that trained 11 interns representing 5 organizations and 3 countries. Beginning this month, each one will be mentored through typesetting a full New Testament in the next year.

PRAY

- For Denny* and Angel* as they mentor the interns.
- That God will help these interns master the complicated, painstaking task of preparing God's Word for print in the exotic scripts of this region.

PRAISE

Thank you, Lord, for the “problem” of so many languages completing New Testaments in such a short time!



Pray for Karkod* Translators

Karkod people observe strong South Asian cultural traditions, mixing local worship rituals with practices of the majority religion. Since receiving the New Testament in 2017 and some Old Testament books, Karkod believers want the whole Bible in their language. But since a newspaper article published in 2022 said the Karkod Bible was converting people, local political and religious leaders have declared that they will find the people responsible for publication and stop them.

Pray Now

For protection and wisdom as the Karkod team seeks a safe way to share the New Testament on the internet.



Friday

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

— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

IMPACT STORY

Jesus Brings Relief to a Family Through His Word

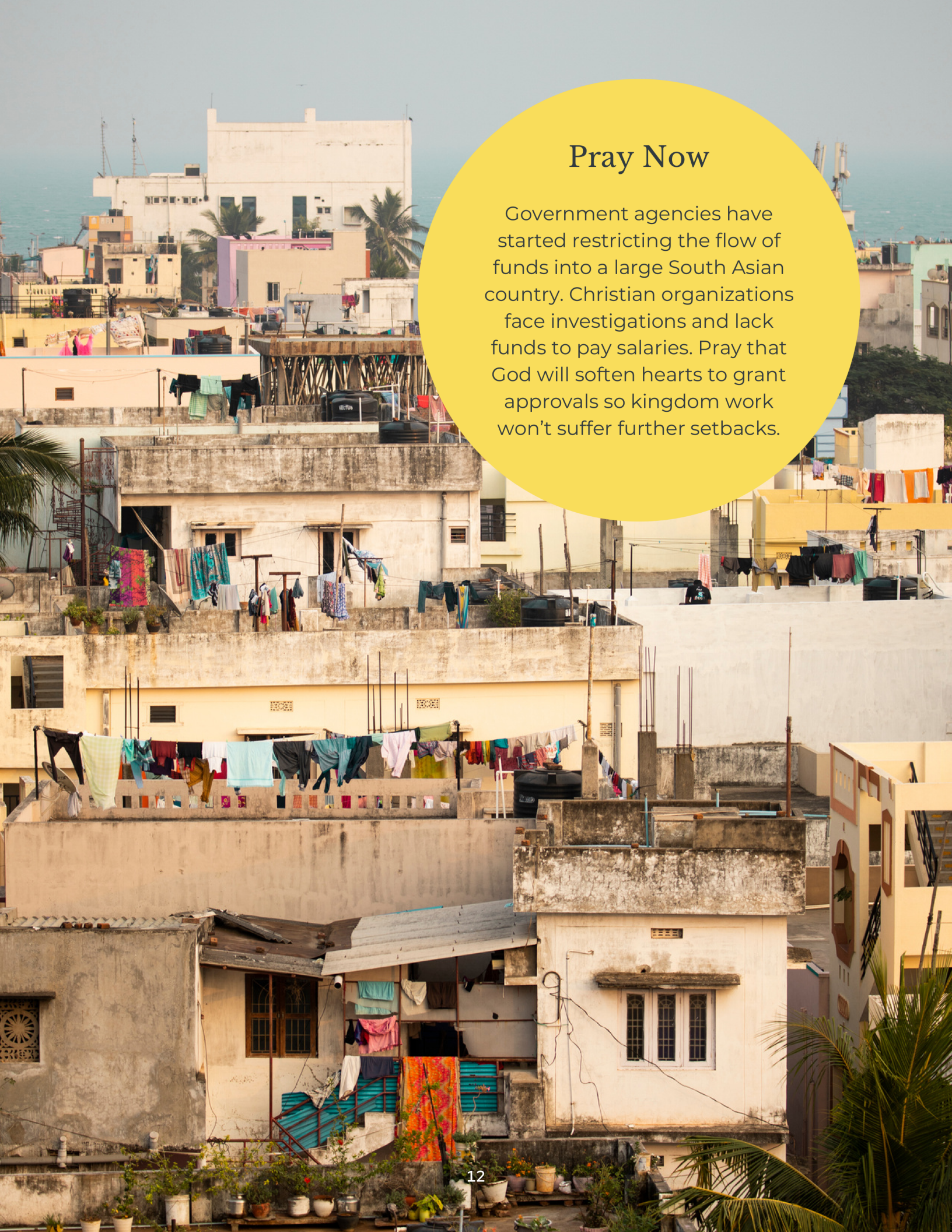
In a remote Thahod* village in South Asia, one family reported that they'd been suffering from an evil spirit for many years. After visiting many temples and performing rituals trying to get relief, a local Christ follower invited this family to attend a prayer session.

One of the family members, Mrs. K*, suffered from pain in her throat and chest. If anyone tried to approach her, she shouted. But when she and her family received prayer and heard God's Word in Thahod, they began to believe in Jesus. Whenever she had another frightening episode, believers would read Scripture over her, which she began to memorize and recite for herself. Praise God that today, the team reports she and her family have found relief in Jesus!

PRAY

For the family to grow in their faith and for freedom from further demonic oppression.





Pray Now

Government agencies have started restricting the flow of funds into a large South Asian country. Christian organizations face investigations and lack funds to pay salaries. Pray that God will soften hearts to grant approvals so kingdom work won't suffer further setbacks.





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

