



SPECIAL EASTER EDITION

# Pray for Zero

APRIL 3-9, 2023

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



# A Journey Through Holy Week

Throughout his life on earth, Jesus communed with his Father in prayer—and how much more so during the last days before offering himself on the cross for our sins.

This week's Pray for Zero Journal is a special 7-day edition that follows the events of Holy Week, connecting Christ's final days with what he is doing on the earth through Bible translation in these days.

We pray you are blessed by reading and praying through these pages as you journey with Jesus through the crucifixion and resurrection this week.





PSALMS 117:1—118:28

A Psalm of Praise.  
117 Oh praise Jê-hô'vâh, all ye nations,  
1 And him, all ye peoples,  
2 For his lovingkindness is great toward us,  
And the truth of Jê-hô'vâh endureth for ever,  
Praise ye Jê-hô'vâh.

Thanksgiving for Jehovah's Saving Goodness.

118 Oh give thanks unto Jê-hô'vâh; for he is good;  
For his lovingkindness endureth for ever,  
2 Let us râ-ah now say,  
That his lovingkindness endureth for ever.  
3 Let the house of Aâr'ônnôw say,  
That his lovingkindness endureth for ever.  
4 Let them now that fear Jê-hô'vâh say,  
That his lovingkindness endureth for ever.  
5 Out of my distress I called upon Jê-hô'vâh;  
Jê-hô'vâh answered me and set me in a large place.  
6 Jê-hô'vâh is on my side; I will not fear:  
What can man do unto me?  
7 Jê-hô'vâh is on my side among them that help me:  
Therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.  
8 It is better to take refuge in Jê-hô'vâh  
Than to put confidence in man.  
9 It is better to take refuge in Jê-hô'vâh  
Than to put confidence in princes.  
10 All nations compassed me about:  
In the name of Jê-hô'vâh I will cut them off.  
11 They compassed me about; yea, they compassed me about:  
In the name of Jê-hô'vâh I will cut them off.  
12 They compassed me about like bees; they are quenched as the fire of thorns:  
In the name of Jê-hô'vâh I will cut them off.

<sup>1</sup> Heb. Hallelujah <sup>2</sup> Heb. Jah

13 Thou didst threaten that I might fall, but Jê-hô'vâh hath helped me:  
14 Jê-hô'vâh is my strength and my horn of salvation;  
15 And he is become my refuge and my stronghold:  
16 The right hand of Jê-hô'vâh exalted me:  
17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of Jê-hô'vâh.  
18 Jê-hô'vâh hath made for me a surety:  
19 But he hath not given me up unto death;  
20 Open to me the gates of righteousness:  
21 I will enter into the gates of Jê-hô'vâh's sanctuary:  
22 This is the gate of Jê-hô'vâh's righteousness:  
23 I will give thanks unto thee, O Jê-hô'vâh, for thou hast answered me:  
24 And art become my salvation:  
25 The stone which the builders have rejected which the Lord hath chosen, and the head of the corner.  
26 This is Jê-hô'vâh's doing, it is marvellous in our eyes.  
27 This is the day which Jê-hô'vâh hath made:  
28 We will rejoice and be glad in Jê-hô'vâh:  
29 O Jê-hô'vâh, we beseech thee, send now prosperity:  
30 We beseech thee, in the name of Jê-hô'vâh our Lord, give us light:  
31 Bind us with the sacrifice of righteousness, and let even unto the horns of the altar.  
32 Thou art my God, and I will give thanks unto thee:  
33 Thou art my God, and I will praise thee.

<sup>1</sup> Heb. from Jehovah

29 Oh give thanks unto Jê-hô'vâh; for he is good;  
For his lovingkindness endureth for ever.

Meditations and Prayers relating to the Law of God.

¶ ALEPH.

19 Blessed are they that are perfect in the law of Jê-hô'vâh.  
2 Who walk in the law of Jê-hô'vâh.  
3 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies,  
4 That seek him with the whole heart.  
5 Yea, they do no unrighteousness;  
6 They walk in his ways.  
7 Thou hast commanded us thy precepts,  
8 That we should observe them diligently.  
9 That my ways were established.  
10 To observe thy statutes!  
11 Ob, shall I not be put to shame,  
12 When I have respect unto all thy commandments.  
13 I will give thanks unto thee with uprightness of heart,  
14 When I learn thy righteous judgments.  
15 I will observe thy statutes:  
16 Oh forsake me not utterly.

¶ BETH.

9 Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way?  
By taking heed thereto according to thy word.  
10 With my whole heart have I sought thee;  
Oh let me not wander from thy commandments.  
11 Thy word have I laid up in my heart,  
12 That I might not sin against thee.  
13 Blessed art thou, O Jê-hô'vâh: Teach me thy statutes.  
14 With my lips have I declared All the ordinances of thy mouth.

<sup>1</sup> Or, upright in way

PSALMS 118:29—119:29

14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies,  
As much as in all riches.  
15 I will meditate on thy precepts,  
16 I will delight myself in thy statutes:  
I will not forget thy word.

¶ GIMEL.

17 Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live;  
So will I observe thy word.  
18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.  
19 I am a sojourner in the earth; Hide not thy commandments from me.  
20 My soul breaketh for the longings,  
21 That it hath unto thine ordinances at all times.  
22 Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed,  
23 That do wander from thy commandments.  
24 Take away from me reproach and contempt;  
25 For I have kept thy testimonies, O Princes also sat and talked against me;  
26 But thy servant did meditate on thy statutes.  
27 Thy testimonies also are my delight,  
28 And my counsellors.

¶ DALETH.

25 My soul cleaveth unto the dust:  
Quicken thou me according to thy word.  
26 I declared my ways, and thou answeredst me:  
27 Teach me thy statutes.  
28 Make me to understand the way of thy precepts;  
29 So shall I meditate on thy wondrous works.  
30 My soul melteth for heaviness:  
Strengthen thou me according unto thy word.  
31 Remove from me the way of falsehood;  
32 And grant me thy law graciously.

<sup>1</sup> Or, Cursed are they that &c. <sup>2</sup> Heb. the men of my counsel <sup>3</sup> Heb. droppeth



# Monday

*And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?’”*

— Mark 11:17a (NIV)

## PRAY FOR MORE PRAYER FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION

On Monday of Holy Week, believers around the world remember Jesus cleansing the temple.

### JOIN US IN PRAYER

Jesus, will you “cleanse the temple” in our day? Purify the hearts of your people as we intercede for the millions who still don’t have your Word.

### An Invitation to Unceasing Prayer

Unceasing Prayer (UP) launched in January 2021 to mobilize God's people worldwide in round-the-clock prayer for God’s Word to reach everyone in their own language.

In 2022, heaven heard more than 280,000 minutes of God’s people praying on UP. In 2023, we’re asking for every single prayer hour to be filled as believers around the world unite in prayer for those without Scripture.



## Pray for Those Who Pray

Let's ask God to bless the people and ministries who have committed to intercede for the Bibleless one hour a week:

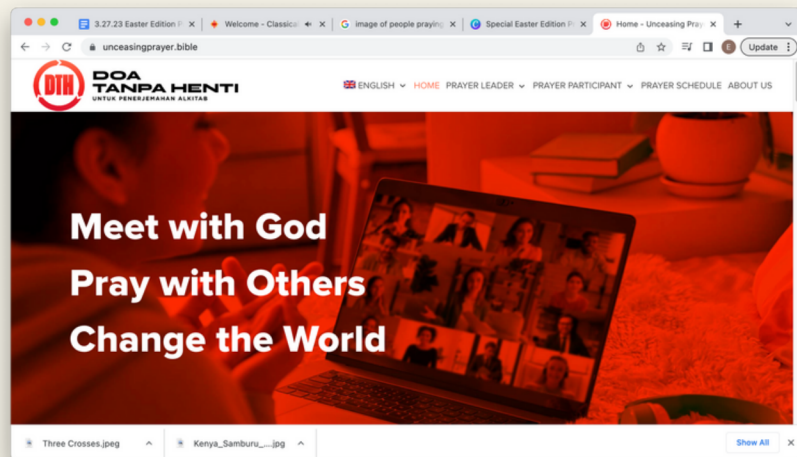
One Last Push Initiative  
Pioneer Bible Translators  
YWAM (in Detroit, Montana, Wisconsin, and Peru)  
Pray for Zero Africa  
Wycliffe Canada  
Deaf Harbor  
Finishing the Task  
Northwoods Church  
LuminAfrica  
SIL  
Grafted Ministries

IllumiNations Malaysia  
Pray for Zero Pacific  
City Church Madison  
European Deaf Christian Bible Translation  
End Bible Poverty Now  
NLCI  
IllumiNations Asia  
Seed Company

And more! Will you, your church, or your organization be next?

[Click here to see the full Unceasing Prayer schedule.](#)

Want to join Unceasing Prayer? Go to [unceasingprayer.bible](http://unceasingprayer.bible) or hover your phone's camera over the QR Code.





# Tuesday

*And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.*

— Matthew 24:14 (NLT)

## PRAY FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE SCRIPTURE IN OUR LIFETIME

Today, we remember Jesus' sermon on the Mount of Olives, in which he proclaimed the importance of the gospel being preached throughout the whole world. And one day, after Matthew 24:14 is completed, we'll get to see the beauty of Revelation 7:9 come to pass:

*After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb ...*

— Revelation 7:9 (NLT)

### PRAISE

Out of around 7,395 known languages, 3,436 have Bible translation in progress and 3,621 have at least some Scripture!\*

### PRAY

Around 1,545 languages have no Scripture. Pray for the day to come quickly when the millions of people who speak these languages can hear and receive the gospel!\*

\*according to ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. March 2023







# Wednesday

*Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them.*

— Luke 22:3–6 (NLT)

## WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE ARE BETRAYED

Today, believers around the world remember an extreme high and an extreme low in Christ's earthly life: being anointed at the home of Simon the Leper and being betrayed by Judas. Jesus knows what it's like to be both loved and forsaken by those in his inner circle.

In an area of Africa where most people follow another major world religion, one Bible translation team has encountered multiple people who have pretended to follow Jesus so they could get close enough to sabotage their work. This is especially painful in a region where translators desperately need more true brothers and sisters encouraging them.

Sadly, this situation is not unique. Many people groups waiting to begin translation live in these types of hostile religious environments.

Teams need fervent intercession as they navigate these difficult situations.



30 pieces of silver (Christianity.com)



## PRAY FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION TEAMS

- That they will include those God wants to include in the work and discern when to say no. That God's Spirit will reveal true hearts and motives.
- For resilience and perseverance to keep going in the face of betrayal.
- For teams to have the willingness and patience to wait and discern who the Lord has chosen for their project, all while feeling such urgency for their people to have God's Word.
- For team members to have grace and love for themselves when they fail to see someone's true character. Ask that they will still trust in the plans of our Almighty God when the plans of men fail.





# Thursday

*Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour?”*

— Matthew 26:40 (NLT)

## THE CHURCH IS WAKING UP

Today, many in the global body of Christ still haven’t awakened to the need for Bible translation. Like the disciples in Gethsemane, they are unaware of the important work God is doing in this hour.

But that’s changing! Around the world, Jesus is stirring his bride to intercede and advocate for those still waiting to learn of his love for them.

### IN EUROPE

At the recent [Global 2033 gathering in Rome](#), one leader held up a Bible with blank pages and said with tears, “This is why we are here, to fill these pages with God’s love so all people can know Christ.” Leaders from Catholic and non-Catholic Christian traditions alike officially adopted [Pray for Zero](#) to mobilize the church to pray for the Bibleless. Seed Company’s Global Director of Prayer, Solomon Lujan, called this a defining moment in the global prayer movement, as Catholics and Protestants united around the need for everyone to have and know God’s Word.



## IN AFRICA

The inaugural Pray for Zero Africa Summit in Lagos, Nigeria, was marked by unified prayer in multiple languages for every nation and people group awaiting God's Word. Christian leaders from 25 nations caught the vision for bringing the number of languages without God's Word to Zero. "We experienced a taste of Revelation 7:9," said Kanita Rutley, Seed Company's Manager of Prayer Mobilization.



## IN THE PACIFIC

At the Pacific Prayer Summit in Cairns, Australia, ministry leaders met to intercede with fervent cries on behalf of those still without God's Word in the Pacific region. Ministries included Wycliffe Bible Translators, SIL Pacific, Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association, Australian and South Pacific Houses of Prayer, Pioneer Bible Translators, YWAM, and Seed Company. "This group is excited and committed to mobilize more intercessors to Pray for ZERO," said Tina Hopkins, Seed Company's Manager of Prayer Partnerships.





# Friday

*At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"*

— Matthew 27:45–46 (NLT)

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED

Today, as we remember Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, we also remember that Bible translators in many parts of the world face persecution, injustice, and even death every day to bring God's Word to their people. They know the meaning of counting the cost and taking up their crosses.

Civil unrest and armed conflict in one Asian country make it dangerous for the Weida\* team to check translations among the people for clarity—an essential step for producing accurate, impactful Scripture. If villagers report them to the military or revolutionary forces, they could be arrested or killed. It's been four months since they were able to check any translated Scripture. At times, the translators have fled their homes for safety.

### PRAY

That God will give translators wisdom to keep their work low key and protect them from spying eyes.

*\*A pseudonym has been used to protect Bible translators and those they serve.*



Christ of Saint John of the Cross, Salvador Dalí, 1951  
(dalipaintings.com)

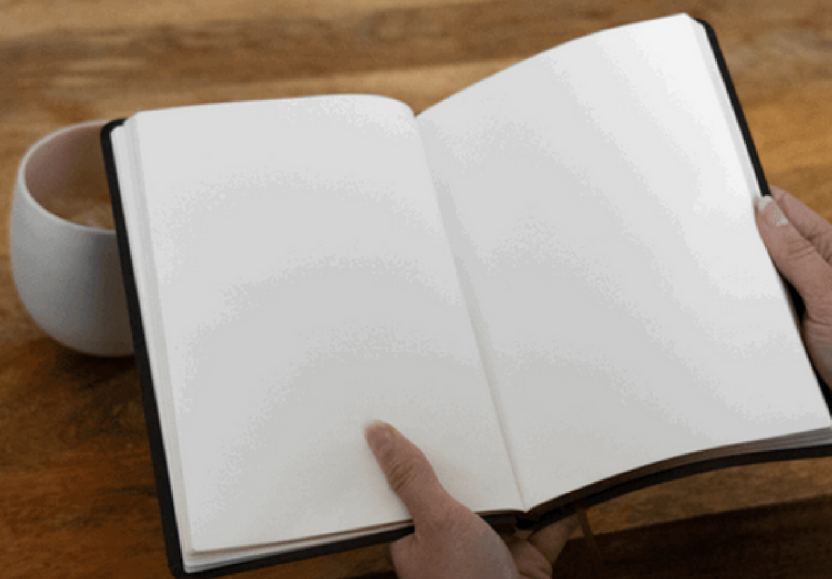
# Saturday

*So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.*

— Matthew 27:66 (NLT)

**TODAY, WE REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM THE  
WORD IS STILL SILENT.**

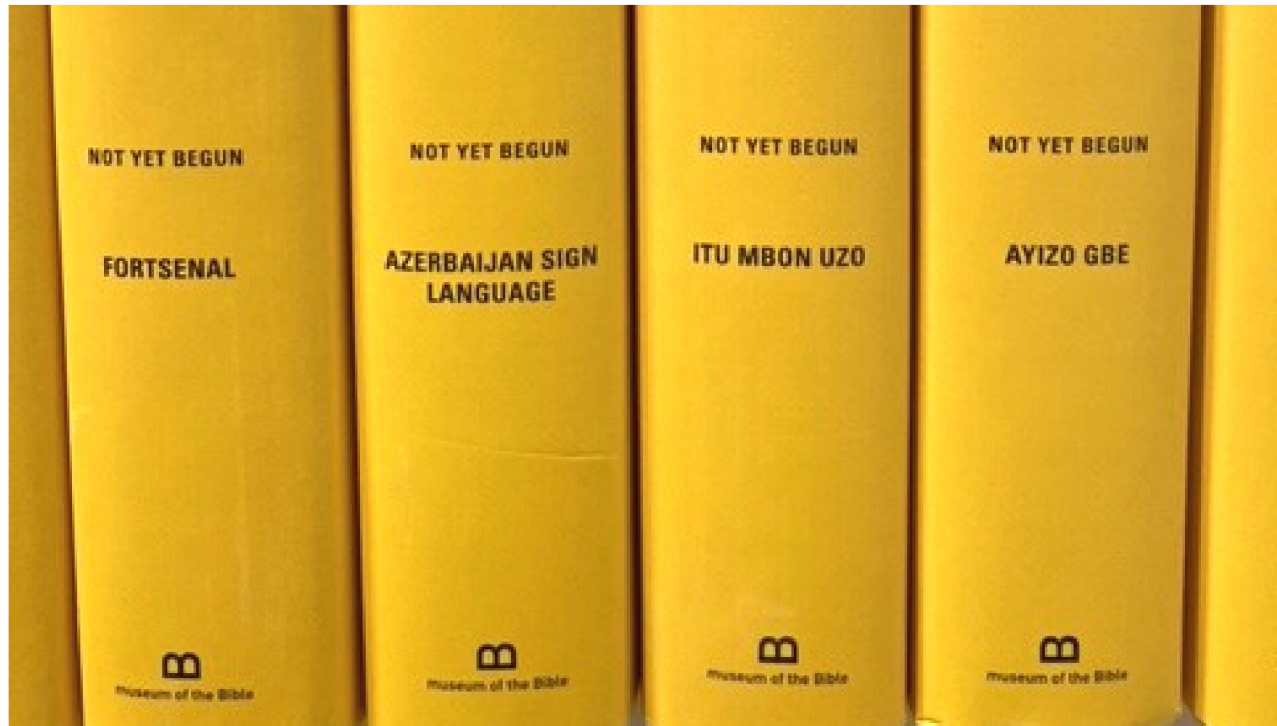
On this day, Logos, the living Word, was silenced.  
Many still live in that silence every day. For them, the Word does not speak.





## “NOT YET BEGUN”

Seed Company has a bookshelf of blank Bibles, representing living languages that don't have any portions of God's Word yet. Each blank Bible has the name of a different language and the words “NOT YET BEGUN.”



Today, we invite you to adopt a Bibleless people group to pray for. Whether it's for a few minutes, one hour, or even the entire day, we invite you to observe silence as you remember those for whom the Word is still silent.

**May they know the living Word of God in our generation.**

Download a Bibleless people group profile:

*\*more profiles coming soon!*



# Sunday

*Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.”*

— Matthew 28:5–6a (NLT)

## THE WORD IS ALIVE!

Today, we rejoice that Jesus, the Word made flesh, is ALIVE. And we praise God for ministry partners like [the Jesus Film Project](#) who bring his truth to life for people for the very first time—people like the Bituma\* of East Africa.

Many Bituma people follow another major world religion, but after seeing the "JESUS" film, they've asked local team members to return and help start Bible studies and church services. Pray that those who saw the film will receive Christ as Savior!

### DID YOU KNOW?

The “JESUS” film has been translated into more than 2,000 languages and has helped lead more than 490 million people to Christ.

*\*A pseudonym has been used to protect Bible translators and those they serve.*

Watch the response of another East African people group, the Gamo, to Jesus speaking their language:









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

