



ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICA

Pray for Zero

June 5-9, 2023

A DAY-BY-DAY PRAYER JOURNAL
FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION



Anglophone West Africa

"Anglophone" refers to the countries where English is accepted as a main language or language of commerce. This week, we're praying for the anglophone West African nations of Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia.

This region's numerous translation partners work well with each other using a variety of translation methods, including written, audio, sign language, video, Oral Bible Storytelling, and trauma healing workshops. Bible translation organizations seek to partner with churches in Nigeria (the country with the 3rd-highest remaining Bible translation needs in the world) in ways that promote local ownership of translation work.

In order to reach the day when Zero languages in this region are without Scripture, prayer is needed for God's people to withstand persecution, infrastructure to improve, righteousness to replace corruption, the true gospel to replace false teaching, and well-trained, committed people to work in Bible translation. Together, we pray Hebrews 10:23 over the region: "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise."

See Global Manager of Prayer Mobilization Kanita Rutley share the Pray for Zero vision at the African Regional Prayer Conference:



Regional Praise

God Answers Prayers for Nigerian Currency Shortage

In February, the change in Nigeria's currency caused hardships for many local and regional partners in Bible translation. Most businesses wouldn't take old notes, and ATMs weren't giving out new ones. Many Nigerians, dependent on cash, couldn't buy food and other necessities. Electronic payments also weren't working, making it difficult for translation project staff to get paid.

After the general elections, the "powers that be" reversed the policy and allowed use of the old notes. No one is sure how, but somehow, the old notes surfaced again—in abundance. This is an answer to our prayers in March!

PRAY

For continued provision for everyone working in Bible translation in Nigeria and that God will help their projects get back on track.



Monday

And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

— Mark 16:15 (NLT)

PRAY FOR A BIBLELESS PEOPLE GROUP

Ojah Community of Nigeria

The Ojah (pronounced "or-jah") community, along with many other Bibleless people groups, is found in Southern Nigeria's Edo State.

A local partner called Mission for Language Translation was already working with the neighboring Oso community to translate Scripture, which paved the way to build relationships with Ojah people. They've now included the Ojah people in a cluster project with two other language communities, and they aim to produce a written and audio New Testament within three years!

PRAISE

The Ojah people initiated these conversations with Mission for Language Translation, demonstrating their passion and commitment. The project manager writes, "People are so ready for God's Word in their language!"

PRAY

For this exciting opportunity to bring Scripture to the Ojah people by the end of May 2026!



Photo courtesy of edoworld.net

Pray for Flooding Recovery in Southern and Southeastern Nigeria

Annual seasonal flooding earlier this year has had long-lasting effects. Due in part to the currency instability, cleanup and recovery have taken longer than usual. Some Bible translation team members lost loved ones in the disaster. Others experienced loss of property, including homes and translation equipment such as laptops.



Pray Now

Praise God that many teams have resumed working and traveling again to project locations. Pray that the Lord will continue to help his people heal and recover after this difficult time.



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

Mission for Language Translation in Nigeria

Mission for Language Translation, an organization led by Dr. Chinedu Anya, is accelerating Scripture translation in Nigeria using a 3-year written New Testament project design. Their “blitz” strategy brings translation experts and local community reviewers together at workshops for “all hands on deck” Scripture checking.

At last count, they were mentoring and training over 42 interns in the world of Scripture translation. Underneath all their work lies a foundation of prayer for the Lord to raise up the right people to translate God’s Word for all of Nigeria and West Africa.

PRAY

- That the financial difficulties caused by the currency issue will continue to diminish so teams can resume travel and work.
- For God’s wisdom as Mission for Language Translation continues to pour into those called to take part in Scripture translation.



Oral Bible Storytelling Expands in Nigeria

Our brothers and sisters at Language Development and Translators Association, a local Nigerian organization, have completed successful trainings in Oral Bible Storytelling and will now work with the Seed Company orality team to pass along what they've learned and train others in their region.

Pray Now

For partners to collaborate well as they develop and organize training resources to have greater impact in their region.



Wednesday

The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him.

— John 19:2

She bi kudnggin pak gangas ji kutti mud, she a mak lu'ut la rangan ma bangan di.

— John 19:2 (recently translated into the Jarawa language of Nigeria)

Then people who tie belts on their waist wrapped thorns round and put it on his head, and put purple royal clothe on him.

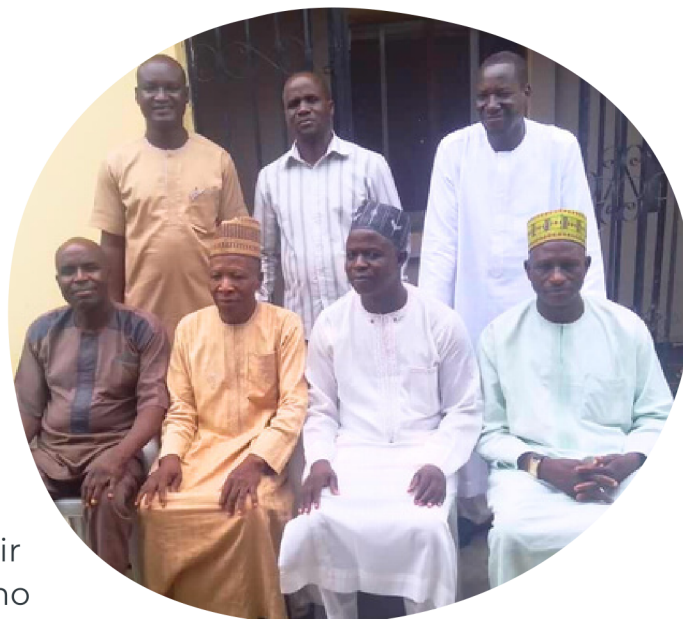
— John 19:2 (translated back into English from Jarawa)

PRAY FOR THE JARAWA PEOPLE IN NIGERIA

Only about 10% of Jarawa people are estimated to be Christians, though some say it's as high as 35%. The variation is likely due to some who identify as Christians but also continue practicing traditional religion.

PRAY

That as more of God's Word becomes available, Jarawa Christians will grow strong in their faith in Christ alone and those who do not believe will turn to Jesus.



PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Wati* Cluster Oral Bible Storytelling in West Africa

The Wati Cluster Oral Bible Storytelling project has been reaching many people who practice another major world religion with the gospel. We prayed for one of them last December. Today, we praise God for another new believer named Susana*.

Susana noticed that her family only followed their religion because it was family tradition, since they observed prayer times and holidays but didn't study their scriptures. But local leaders in that religion told her, "Before anyone should worship God, one has to know him first." It was through the Wati Cluster project that this desire of her heart was answered.

She learned that one's sins could be forgiven through simply believing and asking, and she began joining Christians as they told translated Bible stories in churches. Secretly, she began to attend church services.

PRAISE

- Recently, Susana gave her life to Christ and was baptized!
- God has given Wati Cluster storytellers favor with local authorities, which wasn't the case before.

PRAY

- That Susana will grow in faith and that God will draw the rest of her family to himself.
- That God will bring an end to youth violence in the area as young people receive his Word.



**Because there are security risks associated with this translation project, a pseudonym has been used and location has been generalized.*

Pray for Sierra Leone's Elections

Sierra Leone's approaching election in June is a pivotal time to address key issues. Political intolerance exists between opposing parties, and hate speeches based on regionalism and tribalism are common. The economy is strained by the global economic crisis, and some desire to tamper with religious freedoms. All of these issues deeply affect local Bible translation teams and partnering churches.

Pray Now

Pray for leaders who seek God's wisdom to meet the nation's needs, rather than their own personal gain. Ask for compassionate lawmakers, law enforcement agencies, and officials in the judicial system who will seek justice for all.





Korowii Ne New
Fɔofale To

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 Victor Ayo Uadia and Ahihud Ahmed Madiya, Seed Company Interns in Nigeria

Praise God that Victor has begun learning typesetting—a crucial step in publishing Scripture—with linguistics partner organization SIL. This skill is in high demand and short supply, so this is a big praise!

Meanwhile, Ahihud has already improved the information technology structure of our local partner [Language Developers and Bible Translators Association](#) in Bauchi. He's also consulted with other Bible translation organizations in Nigeria, spreading what he's learned to others.

PRAISE

Both have grown exponentially in their skills, expanding the capacity and impact of each of their respective organizations!

PRAY

For continued growth and impact for these two gentlemen, and for God to give them strength and endurance for the work he has called them to do.



Pray for Interns in Nigeria Studying to Be Project Managers

Effective project management is a crucial part of any Bible translation organization. Praise God that the Project Manager Cohort internship in Nigeria was recently launched successfully, with 12 interns from 11 different Bible translation organizations!

These interns have the opportunity to learn from passionate, experienced mentors like Michael Serchie from [Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation](#).

Pray Now

Pray that these project managers will grow in their leadership and sense of God's calling on their lives.

Pray for wisdom as the cohort leaders finetune the growth plan to meet these interns' needs.



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 Moves Through Oral Bible Storytelling in Nigeria

People who spoke the Ekpeye language were frustrated by not being able to clearly understand Scripture and preaching in church, since pastors usually used English and had to have an interpreter. That began to change with the Ekpeye Cluster Oral Bible Storytelling project.

When one woman who spoke the Ekpeye language came and heard translator Amakiri telling the story of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, she saw a vision of Christ. At about the same time, her husband, who was waiting at home, heard people singing and clapping their hands and a voice telling him to go meet his wife. He walked into the church, and by the end of the service, they'd both decided to follow Christ!

PRAISE

Local Bible storytellers are hearing all kinds of stories like these happening across the region!

PRAY

For the truth of God's Word to continue changing hearts among the Ekpeye and other groups with Oral Bible Storytelling teams in Nigeria, and for the strength of the teams as they work despite economic and security difficulties.



Ekpeye Women's Outreach

Pray for Language Programs Coordination Forum in Nigeria

Language Programs Coordination Forum is composed of translation organizations in Nigeria that work with one another on trainings and other initiatives. They want to form a strategic plan to reach people who speak every remaining language in Nigeria.

Pray Now

For God to replace any spirit of competition with unity, partnership, and mutual encouragement. Ask the Holy Spirit to help identify resources from each organization that will be needed to reach all remaining Bibleless people.



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

