



SAHEL

# Pray for Zero

June 26-30, 2023

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



# Sahel

In the Sahel region of Africa, God has provided strong partnerships among translation teams, churches, and mission organizations to help everyone have access to God's Word. These brothers and sisters persevere amid political instability, threats of violence from religious extremists, and severe droughts, which cause loss of crops and result in serious poverty.

To reach the day when zero people are without God's Word in this region, prayer is needed for the political, religious, and environmental climate. Pray 2 Corinthians 4:6 over the Sahel: "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." May the light of Christ shine to everyone in the Sahel through his Word.

*Throughout this prayer journal, asterisks indicate when a pseudonym is being used due to security risks.*

## Why Pray for Zero?



[Go deeper in specific, strategic prayer for the Sahel with part 2 of this 3-part article from the Lausanne Movement.](#)

# Regional Praise

## Laka People of Chad Celebrate the Arrival of God's Word



On March 31, two leaders who'd been involved in the Laka New Testament translation shouted, "Today is the Day!" Their dreams were realized as they joined thousands to celebrate the arrival of the New Testament.

Shirts were distributed that read "Dieu Parle En Laka" in French and "Mbede le louba kone ga sigi" in Laka (English: "God Speaks Laka"). Choirs sang praises to God. Leaders testified to God's faithfulness and the translation team's perseverance since 2014. Now Laka people can read God's Word in their heart language!

### **PRAY**

For transformed lives through God's Word in Laka. While most Laka people identify as Christian, animistic practices are still common. May the complete New Testament help them grow deep roots in the true gospel!

# 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 Bagyele of Cameroon

The Bagyele (BAH-JEH-LEH) make a living as traditional healers, selling magic potions and charms. Many Bagyele people are hostile to Christianity because they don't feel welcome in churches, and their livelihood depends on their animistic practices. Praise God that a local Bagyele church has approached partners to begin Bible translation and bring transformation to their community!

### PRAISE

CABTAL ([a partner organization we prayed for in January](#)) plans to partner with this local Bagyele church to begin an [Oral Bible Storytelling](#) project and a written translation of Luke. Cru will partner with them to produce the "JESUS" film in Gyele.

### PRAY

That God will give the Bagyele renewed hope through following Jesus and help Christians from neighboring communities to love and respect them.





## Pray for Protection from Boko Haram

The threat of violence and kidnapping by Boko Haram, mainly operating in an area of Nigeria bordered by Chad, Cameroon, and Niger, makes people afraid to sleep in their homes, work in their fields, or attend worship. Rainy season is the time for planting, and food supplies are running very low.

### Pray Now

For God's protection and provision for Bible translators and partnering churches.



# 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)

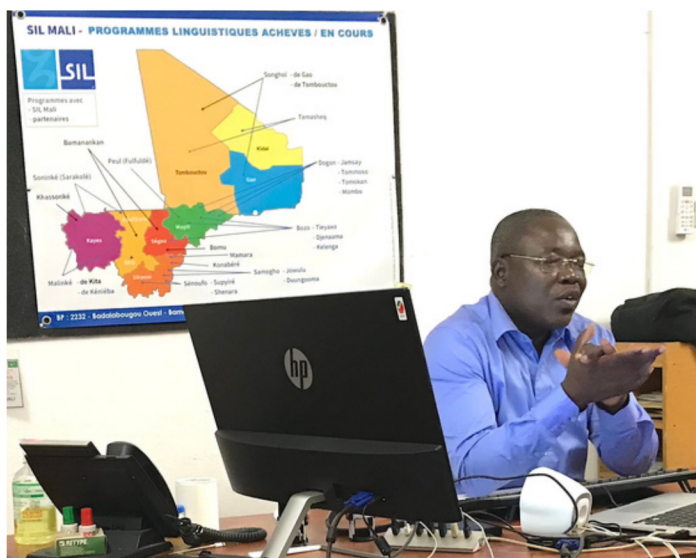
## PRAY FOR PARTNERS SIL Mali

For over 40 years, SIL in Mali has worked with more than 20 languages. They advocate for local communities and use linguistics to help make meaningful interaction with Scripture possible for all. Their vision is to see everyone flourish as they use languages that matter most to them.

Our brothers and sisters at SIL Mali request prayer for a new responsibility they must add to their workload. Mali's government is now requiring every NGO to create monthly reports, which must be passed around and receive multiple signatures before finally being sent to the government.

### PRAY

- That this new requirement will not slow down or hinder Bible translation progress.
- That God will give everyone involved the strength and ability to develop an efficient working system so they can incorporate this responsibility with patience and grace.





## Pray Now

In Cameroon, Gimnime and Kompana storytellers have continued faithfully translating Luke amid almost daily kidnappings. Last year, the project coordinator was kidnapped and only released when his family paid a ransom. Pray with the translators: “We rebuke kidnapping in Jesus’ name!”

# Wednesday

*Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”*

— John 14.6

*Jeju pa ar-ε na: 'Ma ja m-to gə dɔw, gə Tar gə tɔgərɔ gə tabə. Dəw kara kara a kəsə kaw rɔ Bɔy gə lal ce gə dɔw gə be lə-m 'ma ang.*

— Ja 14.6 (Laka, a language in Chad that we prayed for at the beginning of the week)

## Pray Now

Catalyst funds have allowed a partner organization to do mobilization work among the Abiku\* people of the Sahel. The few Abiku Christians are working with local churches with an openness that wasn't possible just a few years ago. Pray this will result in translation work beginning next year.



## PRAY FOR ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT Amerek\* of the Sahel

Amerek speakers, considered experts in the area's majority religion, are often asked by other people groups for advice and "charms" to provide protection. In the northern part of the country, more than 30% of the leaders of prayer and teachers of their holy book are Amerek speakers. Therefore, people are hesitant to accept Scripture for fear of criticism, shame, or even vengeance against those who listen to Scripture. Phone apps like WhatsApp provide anonymity for those listening to recorded Scripture.

### PRAISE

A second Amerek project is underway, and more people are hearing the Bible in their heart language!

### PRAY

- That the Holy Spirit will transform lives in this people group.
- That God will keep translators and project staff safe and help them persevere in translating God's Word.

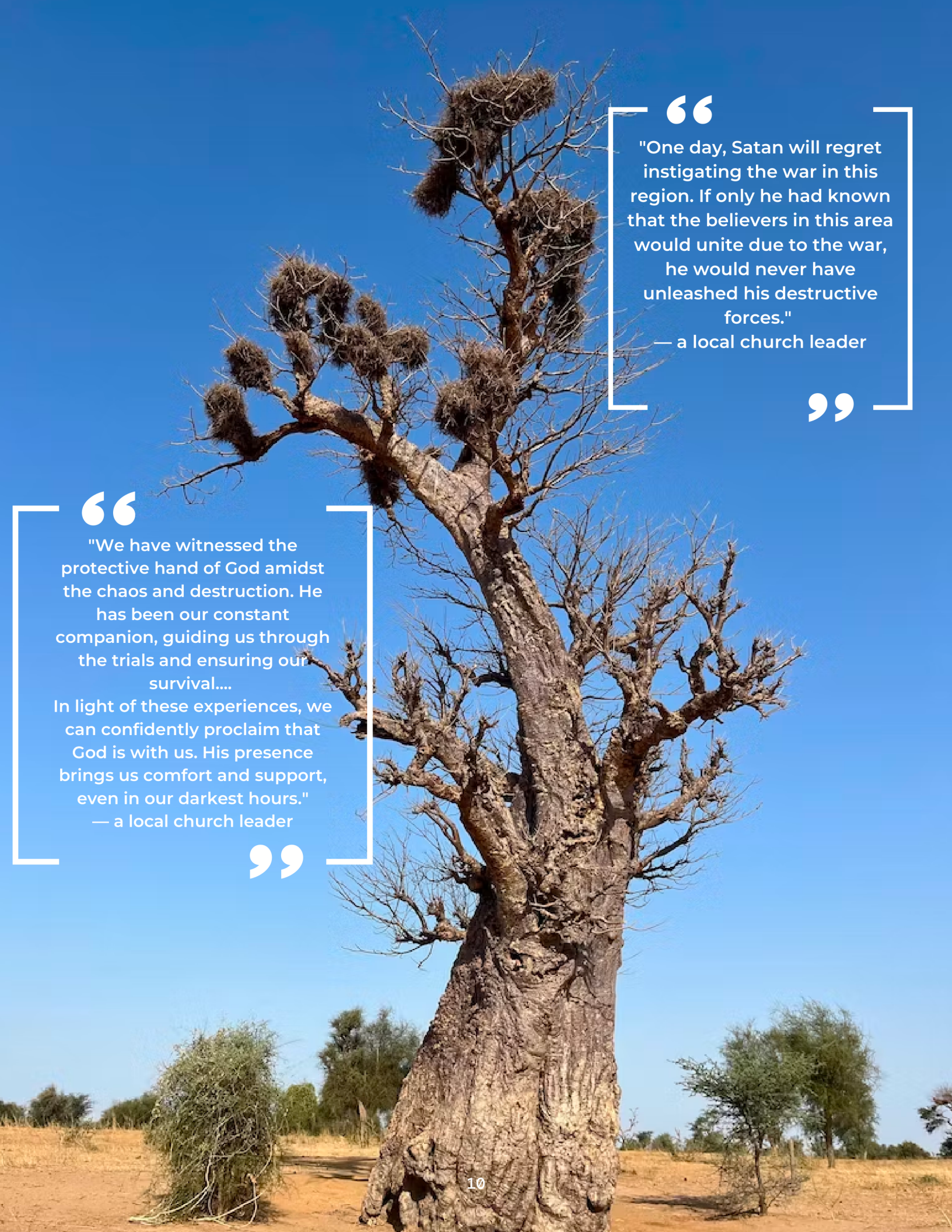




## Pray Now

Pray for a Sahel country torn by violent conflict between military factions, causing one Bible translation project to be delayed indefinitely. A partner organization's director and his family had to move to another city after their translation department was destroyed and everything stolen. They're safe, but still unable to contact most of the staff and teams. Pray for peace, justice, and restoration in this heart-wrenching situation.





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"One day, Satan will regret instigating the war in this region. If only he had known that the believers in this area would unite due to the war, he would never have unleashed his destructive forces."

— a local church leader

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"We have witnessed the protective hand of God amidst the chaos and destruction. He has been our constant companion, guiding us through the trials and ensuring our survival..."

In light of these experiences, we can confidently proclaim that God is with us. His presence brings us comfort and support, even in our darkest hours."

— a local church leader

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# 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

### Cyriaque Moumben, CABTAL Intern

Cyriaque speaks nine languages—French, English, Shu Pamem, German, Basaá, Ewondo, Búlu, Kwasíó, and Swahili. He started volunteering with Cameroon Association for Bible Translation And Linguistics (CABTAL) as a literacy teacher and went on to support several translation projects.

Now, Cyriaque is finishing his master's degree in linguistics in preparation to be a linguistic consultant. He will continue to train translators and literacy teachers, conduct language surveys, and support efforts to produce literacy materials.



### PRAISE

- Cyriaque thanks God and Seed Company partners for this opportunity to continue his education and gain greater expertise.

### PRAY

- That Cyriaque will be able to make all the necessary corrections to his master's thesis in order to graduate.
- That God will continue to protect Cyriaque and his family and use him to provide the support that allows CABTAL's work to be done more quickly and accurately.



## Pray for Jacques Malo in Burkina Faso

We received an update from Jacques, an ANTBA translation consultant in training who we prayed for in January. Since his surgery, he has also been through six rounds of chemo.

This faithful brother in Christ is still suffering, but he has received news that further surgery will not help at this point. He says he believes in the Lord of life, who can do the impossible, but he needs God's strength every day to hold onto that hope.

### Pray Now

For God to fight for Jacques, answer his request for renewed hope, and bring complete healing in Jesus' name.



**Watch Jacques pray powerfully for a people group he works with.  
Let's pray for him just as fervently and expectantly!**



# Friday

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

— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

## IMPACT STORY

### Sparking Interest in the Gospel Through WhatsApp

The Amba\*, who predominantly follow another major world religion, are learning about Jesus through WhatsApp. In WhatsApp groups, Christian team members check the meanings of key terms with their non-believing neighbors. They also post Bible verses and record audio Scripture portions. Members of the Amba WhatsApp groups are active and look forward to getting more Scripture from the translators!

### PRAISE

An Amba missionary in another African country, pleased that his people were discussing Scripture in their own language on WhatsApp, sent money to the translators, which is how the Amba diaspora began to support the project!

### PRAY

That interactions on WhatsApp will draw Amba non-believers to Jesus and encourage Amba Christians to share their faith with their neighbors.



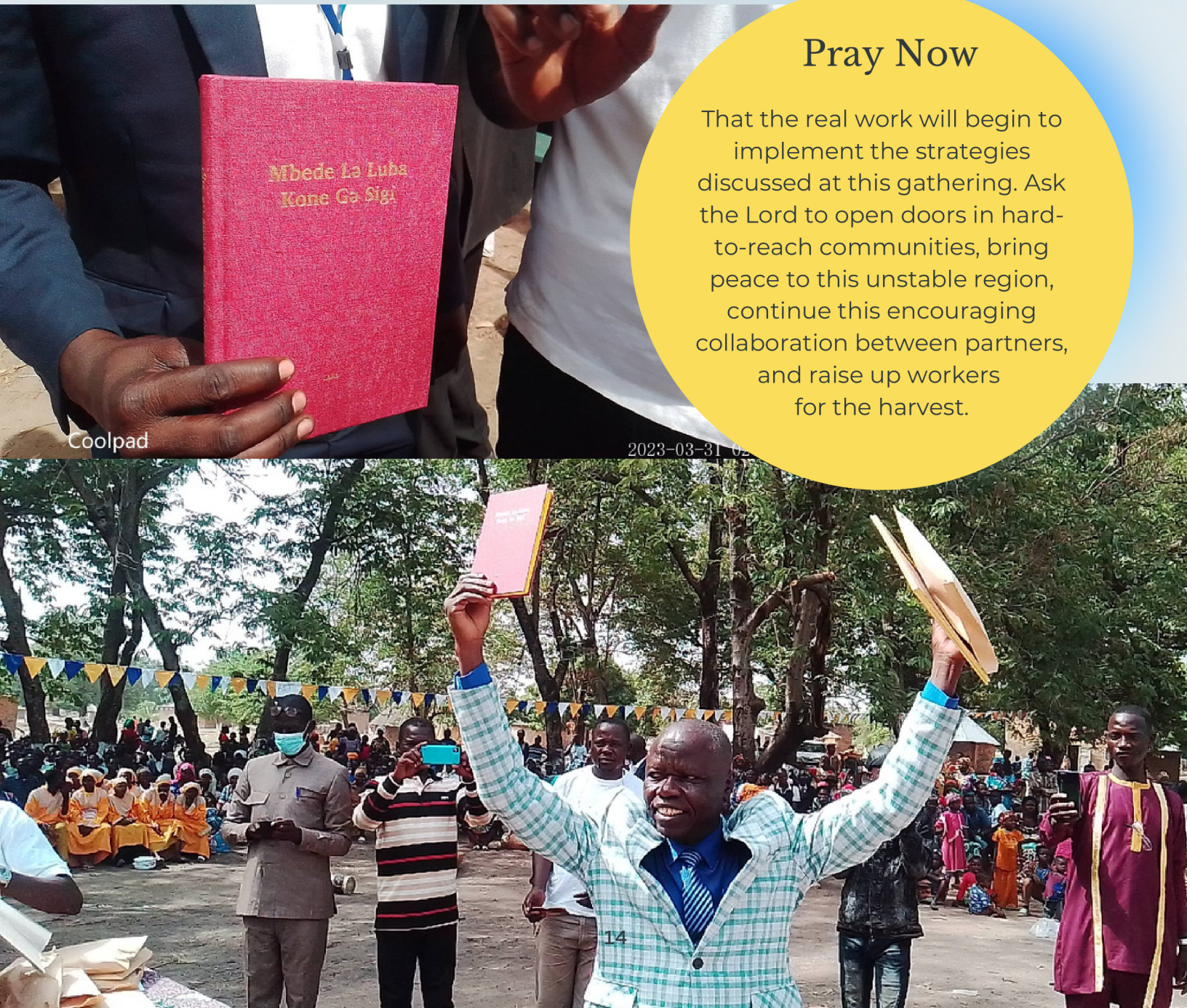


## Christian Leaders Connect to Reach a Remote Sahel Region

At the end of May, in a sensitive country of the Sahel region, 47 church leaders from 7 denominations—a good representation from the area—met with Bible translation organizations. Church leaders expressed their desires and priorities regarding Bible translation and made connections with partners to strategically tackle the remaining Bible translation needs in this country.

### Pray Now

That the real work will begin to implement the strategies discussed at this gathering. Ask the Lord to open doors in hard-to-reach communities, bring peace to this unstable region, continue this encouraging collaboration between partners, and raise up workers for the harvest.



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



[prayforzero.com](https://prayforzero.com)



Unceasing Prayer Schedule