

Southern Africa

The Southern Africa region spans about 20 countries, including several island nations. Partners in the region, such as Wycliffe South Africa, The Word For The World, Seed Company, and many more, have developed strong relationships and collaborate well together in Bible translation.

Political instability in some countries poses a challenge to reaching the day when all people groups in Southern Africa have God's Word. Some people still awaiting Scripture are in remote areas with poor roads. Prayer is also needed for the Lord to raise up more workers who will commit to translating for their own people groups and providing training for them.

Let's join in praying 1 Chronicles 4:10 over our brothers and sisters in Southern Africa who are working to bring God's Word to their people: "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain."

[Check out this map from Wycliffe Bible Translators that shows remaining translation needs around the world.](#) Many countries in Southern Africa have just 1-5 languages left without a single verse of Scripture!

Regional Praise

17 Organizations Unite to Reach Southern Africa

From June 18–22, [Lutheran Bible Translators](#) and [Bible Society of Botswana](#) will host a summit for 17 organizations working in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This is the first time a meeting like this has ever been hosted in the region!

Recently, they'd experienced some overlap in trying to start projects and miscommunication about what each organization was doing. This summit will help them communicate more clearly with local communities about how they can work with them to support their Bible translation goals. "If we are aware of what other organizations are doing, it might open up possibilities for mutual aid," they say.

PRAY

That the summit will encourage the participants and result in more organizations working together effectively to reach the Bibleless.

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 Zambian Sign Language

Many of the world's remaining Bibleless people are Deaf. With this great need in mind, the [Zambian Bible Society](#) is eager to begin the translation process for the Deaf in their country.

Estimates vary widely as to the number of Deaf people in Zambia; some say 14,400, some 50,000, and others as many as 154,000. Regardless of the actual number, every one of them is a person God longs to reach with his love.

Deafness is generally viewed negatively. In many cultures, Deaf people are considered disabled, and others may view them as possessed or think deafness is a punishment from God. The hearing community tends to make decisions for them without their input. Through this sign language project, which will be locally owned and run, the Deaf will come to know God instead of knowing about him.

PRAY

Ask God to help the translators quickly grasp the translation principles when they go to Kenya for training.

Pray for Zimbabwe Elections

Regarding important elections coming up in August, Stephen Gwasira, General Secretary at [Bible Society of Zimbabwe](#), asks for:

- God's wisdom and guidance before, during, and after the election.
- Free and fair elections, with zero tolerance to violence.
- Acceptance of supervision of independent monitors and observers and the outcome of the election.

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 Partners in Bible Translation

[Partners in Bible Translation](#) (PIBT) is a partner organization that has been involved in Bible translation with the [Kunda](#), [Toka](#), and [Leya](#) languages in Zambia. The Kunda New Testament was completed in December 2021, but the final readthrough and typesetting took nine more months to finish. Praise God that the New Testament will finally be dedicated and distributed in a dedication celebration that [Kunda Bible Translation and Literacy](#) is planning this August!

PRAY

- Several distractions in the past two years have slowed progress for the Toka-Leya team. Pray for God to renew their focus, passion, and vision.
- That God will call the right person to replace the exegete for the Toka-Leya translation project who died last year.
- That PIBT's plans to print the Gospel of Mark in July for the Toka and Leya communities will go smoothly.
- That the completed New Testament will have a powerful impact on the lives of Kunda people.

Pray Now

South Africa now has 10 to 16 hours per day without electricity, which greatly hinders Bible translation work. Pray for both literal and spiritual light to pierce the darkness in this country.

Wednesday

Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.

— Revelation 3:21

Ou wecivila nkemwavela evililo lyokukapumpama naame kocipumpamo cange, ngeeci ame necivila pabe njipumpi na Tate kocipumpamo cae.

— Ehitululo 3:21 (Nyaneka-Mwila, a language in Angola)

A Note from the Nyaneka-Mwila Field Project Manager

The above verse is a favorite of the Nyaneka-Mwila translation team. They say, “To be victorious in our mission, we must value each step of the translation process. We pray for a healthy balance between speed and accuracy, and we pray to make wise choices at the end of the translation process when spiritual attack is often heightened.” Local believers are praying that Scripture will help heal social issues like cattle raids, substance abuse, domestic violence, and limited access to health care.

Pray Now

Ask God to increase the translators’ skills as they train at the [Higher Institute of Theology of Lubango](#) June 26-30.

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Nyaneka-Mwila of Angola

Though many are familiar with elements of Christianity, most Nyaneka-Mwila people rely on traditional spells or rituals to bring success or deal with problems. But in recent years, the number of committed Christ followers has grown!

When Nyaneka-Mwila speakers recently heard portions of Leviticus and Numbers in their own language for the first time, one listener said:

“Many don’t attend church because they don’t understand the language that is used. That’s why it is important that the Word of God be available in the language that people understand, so that more people are saved.”

Another listener agreed, “Through this Bible, many Nyaneka will be saved because they will hear the Word of God in their own language.”

PRAY

For a smooth typesetting and printing process so the New Testament can be officially launched and distributed.

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 Intern Elton-John Hepundjua in Namibia

Besides being Project Coordinator for Himba translation project, Elton-John Hepundjua cares for his wife and seven children (three biological and four adopted). With only a diploma in theology, Elton-John has taught himself many technical and managerial skills to fulfill a much-needed leadership role in the [Himba society, where he lives in the remote far northwest of Namibia](#).

When the opportunity arose to earn a Diploma in Office Administration through the [Seed Company Internship Program](#), he accepted the challenge! He wants to be instrumental in making God's Word available for the Himba people.

PRAY

For wisdom as Elton-John prioritizes family, work, and studies.

PRAISE

For the opportunity to improve his administrative skills so that he can serve the project better.

Pray for the Kunda People in Zambia

The Kunda people, whom we also highlighted on Tuesday, live near South Luangwa National Park, the largest national park in Zambia. Praise God that the number of Christians has grown to about 80% since the gospel was introduced in 1910! Their New Testament is now complete, and a dedication celebration is scheduled for August 19th.

Pray Now

Pray that New Testaments will be printed and shipped to Zambia in time for the August dedication. The timing is close!

Friday

Rise up, O Lord, in all your power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts
— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

IMPACT STORY

Kaaps Performance: An Answered Prayer in South Africa

Last September, [we prayed for a new Bible translation project](#) in the Kaaps community of South Africa. Kaaps speakers are descendants of the multiple ethnic groups that lived in the Cape region under European colonization, many of whom were enslaved and oppressed.

Praise God that Kaaps people are no longer Bibleless! Since mid-2022, a group of Kaaps musicians and poets have been meeting regularly with the [Psalms that Sing](#) team to orally translate Psalms. At the beginning of April, they held a production to share some of these biblical poems with their community through drama, comedy, music, and dance. People were on their feet, singing, dancing, and worshiping God in their heart language!

PRAY

One attendee said, "I have a renewed sense of pride in who I am and how God made me." Pray that more Kaaps people will understand that they are fearfully and wonderfully made by a good God as they worship in their own language.

PRAISE

The songs produced from the Psalms are already being sung in churches and shared on social media.

[Learn more about Kaaps and listen to their performance of Psalm 113.](#)

Pray for Hendrik van Aswegen Mobilizing Prayer for the Bibleless in South Africa and Beyond

[The Word For The World](#) (TWFTW) and [Seed Company](#), partners in the [Pray for Zero](#) movement, are united by the vision of seeing the number of people without God's Word in their own language reach Zero—in our generation.

Hendrik van Aswegen, prayer coordinator at TWFTW, is married with a two-year-old daughter. His role involves praying and organizing prayer for translation projects. Recently, their core prayer team felt led by the Spirit to pray not just for TWFTW projects, but also for the broader world of Bible translation.

Hendrik recently participated in meetings with others on the [Pray for Zero team](#) in Jerusalem, which strengthened relationships among organizations and groups united in praying for the eradication of Bible poverty by 2033!

PRAY

For increased capacity of the international prayer team to serve not only TWFTW Bible translation members and projects but also the wider scope of Bible translation.

Watch Hendrik speak about ending Bible poverty, alongside Kanita Rutley, in preparation for [Amsterdam 2023](#)!