

Mainland Asia

Mainland Asia has some of the highest remaining Bible translation needs in the world, yet starting new projects here is especially difficult. Teams often endure hostility from local governments as they translate Scripture. Work must be done in secret, security risks are high, and interrogation is a constant threat.

Despite the obstacles, local translators remain devoted to God's work. Several have become Bible translation consultants. These brothers and sisters need prayer for wisdom and favor in order to reach the day when there is zero Bible poverty in their region.

Pray God's Word

We join in praying Luke 10:2 over them: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Watch video: [Sacrifice for Zero](#)

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

Regional Praise

Storytellers Spread God's Word in Mainland Asia

In oral cultures, people often pass on the most important information by word of mouth. Families gather to listen to stories and then pass them on to others.

Storytellers in Mainland Asia had the opportunity to craft two Bible stories in five different languages in March: “Jesus Calms the Storm” and “The Gerasene Demoniac.” Over the last few months, the storytellers have been sharing these stories with their families and neighbors. One woman even sang a story in the style of a traditional ballad!

Listeners were astonished at how well these storytellers were able to remember and retell God's Word—especially the elderly, many of whom don't speak the national language. Praise God that they are getting the chance to hear in a way they can understand.

PRAY

- That these stories will spread throughout these five people groups, leading many to Christ.
- For these storytellers to have similar success at their next storytelling workshop.

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

Nata* of Mainland Asia

About 160,000 Nata people live spread across two countries in a rural, mountainous area. While around 90% of them identify as Christian, most don't understand the only Bibles they have available. Therefore, very few Christians can lean on God's Word for guidance in daily struggles.

There are an astonishing 65 dialects of the Nata* language, so local leaders have chosen to begin with the most prestigious one. Their highest priorities are a New Testament and a hymnal, followed by the "JESUS" film, a children's Bible, and audio translation for oral-preference learners.

PRAY

- For God to smooth out travel logistics. There is only one road in this language area, and some of the more remote villages can only be reached by boat, motorbike, or foot.
- For God's kingdom to transform the economy. Most Nata people struggle to make ends meet, and churches often lack funds to pay their pastors.

Pray Now

For safe delivery of copies of the Notibu* Bible, which will allow the full Word of God to be preached when the small church gathers in a restricted-access country. Ask for the safe delivery of more Bibles into this country so they can be spread across this vast area!

Tuesday

Then someone arrived with startling news: “The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!”

—Acts 5:25 (NLT)

PRAY FOR PARTNERS

Local Partner Born Out of Necessity in Mainland Asia

Gabriel* began as a translator for the Nish* language, then completed training to become a translation consultant. Today, four other local teams are using his work in Nish* as a source text for translating Scripture into their own languages.

At one point, Gabriel had a team of facilitators helping him lead the work, but each one had to leave due to security issues. Thankfully, Gabriel chose to stay, even after being imprisoned and interrogated for a week.

Now, Gabriel is the only field partner left. He continues to facilitate and consult for all five languages.

PRAY

That God will grant Gabriel the strength and favor to continue despite so many obstacles and so little assistance.

PRAISE

- For Gabriel’s courage, even under the eye of government officials.
- For the many gifts Gabriel is putting to use and the encouragement he is to these five teams.

Pray Now

For 10 local believers in Mainland Asia who have been trained to become exegetical advisors (experts in original biblical languages). Please pray that they can apply what they've learned and spread their expertise to more translation teams.

Wednesday

And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

—Luke 23:43 (NLT)

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—Luke 23:43 (Jeeba*, a language in Mainland Asia)

Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in place of rejoicing (Paradise).

—Luke 23:43 (translated back into English from Jeeba)

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Jeeba* of Mainland Asia

Jeeba team member Kyen* wrote, “Due to security issues, we can’t publicly preach the gospel. We still have no church to preach the Word.” So they carefully share with friends and family, one person at a time.

PRAY

- For local translator Julia*’s heart to continue to stabilize with effective medication, and for her family’s marital problems to be resolved.
- For good teamwork between new and existing local translators.

Pray Now

For the safe delivery of New Testaments for three different languages in Mainland Asia. After printing is completed, they have to get across the border and be delivered to the people despite civil unrest.

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 Kate*

What do worship through indigenous art forms (often called [EthnoArts](#)) and workshops to strengthen Christian families have in common? They are both examples of **Scripture engagement**—Bible translation activities that help people integrate God's Word into their daily lives.

Kate* is a proven national Scripture engagement leader in the country of Neverland*. As a [Seed Company intern](#), she received her master's degree in EthnoArts. Since then, she has been a successful, high-performance leader, besides being a devoted wife and mother.

PRAISE

- Seed Company is delighted to support Kate as she pursues a PhD in EthnoArts and Scripture Engagement from [Dallas International University](#).

PRAY

- For Kate to receive the necessary visa to travel to Dallas during her studies. These visas can be difficult to obtain because so many visitors from Neverland* do not return.
- For God's grace as Kate* balances the additional workload with her responsibilities as a wife, mother, and ministry leader.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

Pray for Miss Yellow* in Mainland Asia

After completing her Seed Company internship, Miss Yellow became a sign language translation consultant in 2020—responding to one of the biggest Bible translation needs worldwide. Today, she works under leadership of local Deaf believers in partnership with [SIL](#) and the [Asia-Pacific Sign Language Development Association](#).

PRAY

- For patience and perseverance as one team Miss Yellow works with faces frequent power outages, high inflation, and internet failures.
- For divinely-empowered understanding as Miss Yellow does consulting for diverse languages.
- For the Fruit of the Spirit to continue to ripen in her life as she acts as a big sister/mother to the Jade Star* translation team in Jade Star City*.

Friday

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

IMPACT STORY

More Than 300 Wasi* People in Mainland Asia Accept Christ through Film

Most people like movies, and minority groups in Mainland Asia are no exception! Once Scripture is translated, translation teams often produce movies like [the “JESUS” film](#), which comes directly from the book of Luke.

PRAISE

Recently, the Wasi team produced a video called “Supreme God” in the Wasi language. It so impacted the Wasi people that more than 300 people accepted Jesus into their lives, and we just heard that 200 of those people were baptized in the past 3 months. Praise God!

PRAY

- That these new Wasi believers, who live in a very sensitive country, will be able to get the fellowship and discipleship they need.
- That they will be able to access the few books of the Bible that have been translated and recorded in their language.

Praise God

For a Bible translation intern from Mainland Asia who is excelling in his studies even though it's been more than 10 years since he completed his bachelor's degree. His family has also found a Christian kindergarten and plugged in to a new church near the university where he's studying.