

Celebrate the Day Jesus Was Translated

At Christmas, we honor the greatest translation of God's Word in history: the Son of God taking on flesh and being born into our world.

In Christ, the *Logos* Word of God was translated on earth for all of humanity. Yet so many still have not heard this good news in a way they can understand and accept. As we celebrate the ultimate translation of God's Word, we continue to pray for all to discover his love for them in their own language and cultural context.

Over this 2-week journey through Christmas and New Year's Eve, you will find:

1. Christmas songs and fun facts from regions around the world (plus some fun kids' resources at the end!)
2. Words of encouragement from other global prayer warriors
3. Timely prayer requests for Bible translation during this season

Thank you for joining us on this journey to Zero!

This Year in Bible Translation

Last Christmas...

124,875,757 people, speaking 1,618 languages, were still waiting for Bible translation to begin in their language.

**According to ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. December 2022.*

This Christmas...

50,541,656 people, speaking 1,343 languages, are still waiting for Bible translation to begin.

That means Bible translation began for the *first time* this year for more than 74 million people speaking more than 200 languages across the globe! [Learn more about the importance of First Scripture.](#)

**According to ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. December 2023.*

Next Year...

In addition to praying through the Pray for Zero Journal each week, take a look at [YWAM Publishing's 2024 Personal Prayer Diary and Daily Planner](#) to fuel your prayers in 2024. The theme is "The Book That Transforms Nations." You'll read many stories and prayer points about what God is doing around the world, including some from translation teams you've prayed for in this weekly journal.

Monday

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.

—2 Corinthians 4:6 (NLT)

PRAY FOR THE SAHEL

Look back on this year's prayer journals for the Sahel region of Africa in [January](#), [April](#), [July](#), [September](#), and [December](#).

Spotlight on Mali

Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa, and it is the eighth largest country on the African continent. More than half the population of around 22 million people are under 25 years old.

Mali is one of the hottest countries in the world and suffers from frequent drought. In fact, since it's so hot, some people there celebrate Christmas with a BBQ! While Mali is primarily a Muslim country, Christmas is still a public holiday. However, Mali has been oppressed by pockets of Muslim extremists scattered around the country for many years, making life difficult for Christians there. These extremists sometimes make life difficult for the general population as well.

PRAY

For protection for Bible translators in Mali, and for the truth of Jesus Christ to reach everyone in this country.

Spotlight on the Deaf

There are more than 350 known sign languages around the world, representing more than 70 million people—yet only 2% of them are estimated to have been introduced to the gospel. Only American Sign Language has the full Bible ([Wycliffe](#)).

PRAISE

For partners like [DOOR International](#), [Deaf Missions](#), and [Deaf Bible Society](#) who are working to make Christ's name and Word known among the Deaf worldwide.

PRAY

[Joshua Project](#) has a list of sign languages and their Bible translation status. Take a moment to pray as you scroll through it, asking that all Deaf people worldwide will soon have the full counsel of God's Word.

Meet the signing Santa who makes Christmas special for deaf children:

[Watch video.](#)

Tuesday

“Glory to God in highest heaven,

and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

—Luke 2:14 (NLT)

A Treasure from Scripture, from the Rudu* Translation Team in Mainland Asia

Reflection provided by a Seed Company Mainland Asia field project manager.

All over the world, Christmas celebrations provide a great opportunity to share the good news of Jesus. Therefore, translating Christmas Bible verses accurately is crucial.

At first, the Rudu team translated Luke 2:14 as God giving peace to “people who are pleased.” In Greek, this verse is literally “people of good+think/seem.” It is not specific about who is being pleased and what they are pleased to do. But the favored (pun intended) meaning is that *God is pleased to bless the people*. God is in focus as an honorable king who offers his unearned, protective blessing. So after discussion, the Rudu team changed it to “people who please God by doing his will.”

PRAY

The Rudu community is currently estimated to be 12-20% Christian. May all Rudu people soon know that God was pleased to bless them by giving his one and only son, Jesus Christ.

PRAY FOR MAINLAND ASIA

Look back on this year's prayer journals for Mainland Asia in [January](#), [April](#), [July](#), [September](#), and [December](#).

Meet Our Pray for Zero Asia Leaders

[Watch video.](#)

Wednesday

I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

—Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

PRAY FOR ANGLOPHONE EAST AFRICA

Look back on this year's prayer journals for Anglophone East Africa in [February](#), [May](#), [July](#), and [October](#).

Spotlight on Kenya

Did you know that in Kenya, Santa doesn't arrive with his reindeer for Christmas but might well come by Land Rover, camel, or even a bike? Popular Christmas foods include barbecue, which might be goat, sheep, beef or chicken, eaten with rice and chapati flat bread. The big Christmas meal is called "nyama choma."

In Swahili/Kiswahili (a language spoken in Kenya and throughout much of Africa), Happy/Merry Christmas is "Heri ya Krismasi," and the response is "Wewe pia" (you also).

Information provided by [WhyChristmas](#)

Pray for Bible Translation in Kenya

We are thankful for our many key Bible translation partners in Kenya, including [Bible Translation and Literacy](#). Praise God that just about all of the language groups in Kenya have begun Bible translation who need it!* Many more are pressing onward toward a complete Bible.

PRAY

For the Kenya Sign Language team as they seek to bring God's Word to the Deaf. They are currently working on many key Bible passages from both the Old Testament and New Testament, and they are also completing the full Gospel of John!

**According to ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. December 2023.*

Kenya Sign Language vs. American Sign Language:

[Watch video.](#)

Thursday

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. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.

—Revelation 7:9 (NLT)

PRAY FOR SOUTH ASIA

Look back on this year's prayer journals for South Asia in [February](#), [May](#), [July](#), and [October](#).

Spotlight on India

Information from [WhyChristmas](#)

Compared to other religious festivals, Christmas is a small festival in India because only a little more than 2% of people in India are Christians. However, since the population of India is around 1.4 billion, that still means there are more than 28 million Christians there!

Spotlight on Bangladesh

Information from [WhyChristmas](#)

December 25th is a public holiday in Bangladesh, even though only about 0.3% of the population of about 170 million people are Christians. Over 85% of people in Bangladesh are Muslims. Christmas is known as “Borodin” (or “Bara din”) which means “the big day” in Bengali. Happy/Merry Christmas in Bengali is “shubho [or shuvo] bôṛodin” (শুভ বড়দিন).

PRAISE

In Bangladesh, praise God that there aren’t currently any known language groups still waiting to begin Bible translation.

PRAY

For the churches, who are a small minority, to use the translated Scriptures to go deeper in their faith and to share the hope of Christ with others. Pray for more people in Bangladesh to know Jesus as Savior and Lord through God’s Word!

Watch a Christmas Song in Bengali, Spoken in Bangladesh and the Indian State of West Bengal

[Watch video.](#)

Friday

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14 (NLT)

PRAY FOR THE AMERICAS

Look back on this year's prayer journals for the Americas in [February](#), [May](#), [July](#), and [October](#).

Watch Silent Night in American Sign Language

[Watch video.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

American Sign Language is the only sign language in the world, out of more than 300, that has the entire Bible translated on video.

PRAY

For teams in the Americas who are currently translating more Scripture for the Deaf, including in Brazil and Mexico.

Spotlight on Peru

Information provided by [WhyChristmas](#)

In Peru, nativity scenes, called “nacimientos” or “pesebre,” are an important decoration in most houses. Sometimes they include native Peruvian animals like llamas and alpacas, rather than camels. Traditionally, baby Jesus isn't put into the scene until Christmas day. Christmas celebrations are held on Christmas Eve, or “Noche Buena” (“the good night”).

Pray for Bible Translation in Peru

PRAISE

Peru is estimated to have only three languages left waiting to begin Bible translation!*

PRAY

For all people groups in Peru to soon have their first taste of God's Word in their heart languages, and for perseverance as others complete the full Bible.

**According to ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. December 2023.*

Saturday

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

—Acts 17:26–27 (NLT)

PRAY FOR THE CONGO BASIN

Look back on this year’s prayer journals for the Congo Basin in [February](#), [May](#), [August](#), and [October](#).

Spotlight on Democratic Republic of Congo

Information provided by [Jim Killam](#)

In Democratic Republic of Congo, people often put on elaborate, long Nativity plays on Christmas Eve. Since much of the country has no electricity, people often use flashlights and lanterns to light up the stages.

Julia Anne, who has worked with Seed Company many years, provides this memory from her time there: “People from different churches would begin to gather on the 24th in preparation for the gathering, held under a palm structure constructed just for the services that would take place the next two days. On Christmas day there was a four-hour service with lots of choirs, offerings, sermons, and interpretation of sermons.”

Pray for Bible Translation in Democratic Republic of Congo

Democratic Republic of Congo is estimated to have ~50 languages waiting to begin Bible translation. Many more are in the process of completing the Bible.

PRAY

For safety for these translators as they travel on difficult roads and carry out their work amid instability and unrest.

Sunday

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

—Romans 10:14 (NLT)

PRAY FOR EURASIA

Look back on this year's prayer journals for Eurasia in [January](#), [April](#), [June](#), [September](#), and November.

Christmas in Ukraine

Information from [WhyChristmas](#)

The main Christmas meal in Ukraine is often eaten on Christmas Eve. People don't start eating until they see the first star in the sky, in honor of the Wise Men's journey to find Jesus.

The meal normally has 12 dishes to represent Jesus' 12 disciples. Dishes may include sweet porridge, mushrooms, sauerkraut, borscht (beet soup), dumplings (known as pierogies), and cabbage rolls.

Ukrainians Find Encouragement in Scripture

Celebrating Christmas looks very different during a war. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, missiles have been destroying infrastructure, causing regular power outages. People can't find jobs. Men live under the threat of being drafted and sent to the front lines.

But the project manager for a Roma translation project in Ukraine reminds us that “at such times, the Word of God in the native language becomes a bright light, giving hope and strengthening hearts.” A local man, Vladimir, has been helping the translators give out copies of Luke’s Gospel and hosting prayer meetings in his home to give people hope during these dark times.

Last Christmas Eve, Vladimir gathered people together and read the timely words from Luke: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Pause to Pray

As Christmas has rolled around once again to find the Ukrainian people still suffering, let’s take a moment to pray for Bible translators in Ukraine, and those who have had to flee due to the war. Pray that God’s perfect peace will drive out their fear, even in the middle of such difficult circumstances, and that he will bless them with great joy even in the midst of great troubles.

Monday

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

—Luke 2:11 (NLT)

PRAY FOR ISLANDS ASIA

Look back on this year's prayer journals for Islands Asia in [March](#), [May](#), [August](#), and [October](#).

Christmas Is Here! Celebrate with a Filipino Christmas Carol

Read the lyrics, translated into English, of a traditional Filipino Christmas song called "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit":

Christmas has arrived
Let us all sing beautiful melodies
Because God is love.
When Christ was born
Three kings came to visit
And each of made an offering
To the greatest Offering.

Start a new life at the new year
Bring joy to our people
Let's work hard to achieve abundance for all.

Let us all sing
While the Earth is quiet
The day has arrived
Of the infant given by heaven

Let us all love one another

Let's follow the golden rule
And from now on, even when it's not Christmas, let's share!

SING WITH A CHOIR:

[Watch video.](#)

LISTEN TO THE BANJO VERSION:

[Watch video.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

The longest Christmas season in the world is celebrated in Islands Asia. In the Philippines, people start playing Christmas music as early as August, the season begins by September, and festivities don't conclude until at least the week after New Year's Day!

PRAY

For the nation of Indonesia, which is estimated to have 223 languages still waiting to begin Bible translation.*

**According to ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. December 2023.*

Tuesday

“May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”

—Matthew 6:10 (NLT)

PRAY FOR THE PACIFIC

Look back on this year’s prayer journals for the Pacific in [March](#), [June](#), [August](#), and [November](#).

Meet the Pray for Zero Pacific Leaders

[Watch video.](#)

Spotlight on Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is a country near Australia that consists of around 600 islands, so it’s easy to imagine how difficult transportation, travel, and logistics can be.

A Seed Company writer named Ruth writes, “I remember one year, while growing up in Papua New Guinea, we received Christmas packages sent by supporting churches in JULY. We still had good fun opening Christmas gifts seven months past Jesus’ birthday!” [Read more about Ruth and her family’s ministry in Papua New Guinea.](#)

Pray for Bible Translation in Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is neck-in-neck with Indonesia for the top number of Bibleless people groups in the world. December Progress.Bible data shows that, for now, Papua New Guinea is back at the top, with 232 languages still remaining.

PRAY

Those who want to reach these remaining communities face obstacles including travel difficulties, logistical challenges, and a lack of workers. Ask God to provide the resources and make a way for even the most remote people groups to receive his Word!

Pray for Oral Bible Storytellers in Vanuatu

Many people who live on the islands of Vanuatu, another nation near Australia that consists of about 83 islands, are Christian. But Bible translation is helping people truly understand the gospel.

PRAY

During the Christmas season, Bible storytellers in Vanuatu are going around sharing the Christmas story in three languages that are translating Scripture for the first time! Pray for them as they travel. Ask that many people will be encouraged to go deeper in their faith.

Worship with Believers in Papua New Guinea

We are grateful to partner in Bible translation with Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association. Join them in worship with this video:

[Watch video.](#)

Wednesday

Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.

—Psalm 96:3 (NLT)

PRAY FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Look back on this year's prayer journals for Southern Africa in [January](#), [March](#), [June](#), [September](#), and [November](#).

Meet one of our Pray for Zero leaders, Hendrik, who works with our partner The Word For The World in South Africa:

[Watch video.](#)

Christmas in South Africa

The Seed Company Southern Africa Regional Director shares, “In our part of the world we don’t have White Christmases. We have very, very bright and hot Christmases! One of our songwriters wrote the most beautiful Christmas song in Afrikaans, which resonates with this part of the world: ‘Somerkersfees’ (‘Summer Christmas’)”:

[Watch video.](#)

TRANSLATED LYRICS:

Welcome O Silent night of Peace
Underneath the Southern Cross
While voices of the distant past
Whisper across the starry fields

CHORUS:

Christmas is coming! Christmas is coming!
Give honor to God
Gift us a bright “Summer-Christmas”
in this land, O Lord
Do you hear the bells softly ringing
in an ancient tongue?
Look – even the quiet of the night
tells the old old story

Do you feel His warm love
as we celebrate the day
he gave us His Son –
Our biggest gift!

Thursday

“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.”

—Hebrews 10:23 (NLT)

PRAY FOR ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICA

Look back on this year’s prayer journals for Anglophone West Africa in [March](#), [June](#), [August](#), and [November](#).

Spotlight on Nigeria

We are grateful for all of our partners in Bible translation in Nigeria, including [Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association](#). Meet James, who works at NEMA and serves as one of the Pray for Zero Africa leaders:

[Watch video.](#)

Did You Know?

Nigeria is in the top five countries with remaining Bible translation needs in the world! It is home to hundreds of different languages.

Here is how to say “Merry Christmas” in a few of Nigeria’s languages:

- Hausa: Barka dà Kirsìmatì
- Yoruba: E ku odun, e ku iye'dun
- Fulani: Jabbama be salla Kirismati
- Igbo: E keresimesi Oma'; in Ibibio 'Idara ukapade isua' and
- Edo: Iselogbe

PRAY

For Bible translation to begin soon in all 79 languages in Nigeria that still need it.*

**According to ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. December 2023.*

Friday

For I am about to do something new.

See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I will make a pathway through the wilderness.

I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

—Isaiah 43:19 (NLT)

UNCEASING PRAYER (UP)DATE

What do you want your prayer life to look like in the new year? [Unceasing Prayer](#) (or UP for short) is a virtual prayer room for Bible translation that can provide a community to walk alongside you in your journey. Meet people from churches and ministries all over the world who love Jesus and long for everyone to know him through his precious Word.

A Word of Encouragement from Allie, Director of UP

As we continue to reflect on the beauty of Christ coming into the world and consider how we want to walk with him in the New Year, pause to reflect on the hope we have in John 3:16-17. Ask God to show you how he is calling you to share this hope with those who have not heard:

[Watch video.](#)

Meet Bert, an UP Prayer Leader at Wycliffe Canada

[Watch video.](#)

We are so grateful for Bert and others like him who faithfully pray for the nations! These prayers are not in vain; since Unceasing Prayer launched, we have seen an incredible number of people groups begin Bible translation for the very first time. You can join Wycliffe Canada's prayer hour, or use the schedule to [find another Unceasing Prayer Hour that works for you.](#)

Saturday

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power.

—Psalm 145:4 (NLT)

INTRODUCING KIDS PRAY FOR ZERO

Get the kids in your life involved in praying for Bible translation! We believe in the power of the next generation to bring God's Word to all nations in 2024 and beyond.



kids!
PRAY FOR
ZERO

One of the greatest injustices of our time is that **1 BILLION** people remain without a Bible in their own language

 BARRIERS LIKE LOCATION, LANGUAGE, POLITICS & GENDER PREVENTING BIBLE TRANSLATION	 HEALTH & SAFETY OF BIBLE TRANSLATORS	 MORE WORKERS IN BIBLE TRANSLATION, ESPECIALLY TEACHERS & TRAINERS TO RAISE UP THE NEXT GENERATION
---	---	--

LET'S PRAY AND BRING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITHOUT GOD'S WORD TO ZERO IN THIS GENERATION.

 BECOME A KIDS PRAY FOR ZERO WARRIOR	 DOWNLOAD FREE PRAYER RESOURCES	 JOIN OUR 24/7 ONLINE PRAYER ROOM	 INVITE YOUR CHURCH TO PRAY FOR ZERO
		 WWW.PRAYFORZERO.COM	SCAN ME 


 kids!
PRAY FOR
ZERO

PRAY FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION WORD SEARCH

Z P R O T E C T I O N X Z
 B R H B N S U I P L B N V
 O I B T F C O H E A L T H
 A B B V B R C R T G F G H
 T X C L E I P R A Y E R S
 R S C V E P I E R K V F C
 A A E X C T B N O I A C C
 N C I E O U B X B D V T U
 S Z B O P R O V I S I O N
 L E B M L E R T O V A M R
 A W O R L D B T E I O N E
 T S E G A U G N A L P W A
 O Z T N M B P O V A N V C
 R A E Y S E S R E V I N H
 S E I R L Z E C A B D T E
 A D C Z O L Y O P C B X D
 N B R E A K T H R O U G H
 X E O P N B S V O V N E T
 C H A L L E N G E S Y W N

BIBLE
 SCRIPTURE
 VERSES
 TRANSLATORS
 LANGUAGES
 UNREACHED
 PRAYER
 PROTECTION
 HEALTH
 PROVISION
 CHALLENGES
 BREAKTHROUGH
 KIDS
 ZERO
 WORLD

Sunday

For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the LORD.

—Habakkuk 2:14

PRAY FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION TEAMS ALL OVER THE WORLD

During this season, many Bible translation teams have been partnering with local churches to do outreach. Pray for God to bring much fruit from their efforts, and pray that God will produce even greater fruit than we've ever seen before in 2024. Ask God to work mightily to help Bible translation begin in every waiting people group in the coming year!