

How to Pray for Zero

Did you know millions of people are still waiting for one Bible verse in their language, and over 1 billion are still waiting for the full Bible? We are a community united in prayer for those numbers to reach Zero. *In this generation.*

Start with This Prayer

Jesus, speed up and empower the Bible translation movement. Rescue the nations out of darkness with the light of your Word.

Watch video: [Pray for Zero](#)

Join the Day-By-Day Journey to Zero

Every week, travel to a different region of the world in prayer. Use this daily guide to pray strategically and effectively for each step of Bible translation—from zero Scripture to lives being transformed forever!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pray for Those Without Scripture	Pray for Ministry Partners	Pray for a Translation Project	Pray for Teachers and Trainers	Praise for Impact

Thank you for joining us! Together, our prayers can add up to Zero.

Get More Resources:	Join Global Prayer Room:
Pray for Zero	Unceasing Prayer

South Asia

Home to more than 2 billion people, a staggering 26% of the world’s population, South Asia covers four countries. Once ruled by the British, these nations are now thriving democracies.

Pray for Those Still Waiting for a Single Verse of Scripture*

People	Languages
3,358,650	22

**According to ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. December 2023. Estimates differ between organizations, and numbers shift as new needs are discovered or languages fall out of use.*

PARTNERS	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
We partner with around 30 Bible translation agencies in South Asia. Today, many highly motivated and committed nationals are engaged in Bible translation.	While this region is the birthplace of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism, and Islam came early in its growth, some parts of South Asia have also had Christian presence from the earliest centuries.	Some political parties oppose Christian outreach and make policy changes to discourage evangelism. Recently, persecution has increased sharply. Bible translation teams are often monitored and scrutinized, and church leaders have been arrested.

**Asterisks throughout this prayer journal indicate where pseudonyms have been used and locations have been generalized due to security risks.*

Regional Praise

Beginning 2024 with 4 Scripture Dedications

In the first three months of 2024, four language communities will celebrate Bible dedications in a mountainous region of South Asia! The Yew*, Wanchi*, and Lilac* teams will each dedicate their New Testament; the Warni* team will celebrate completing the full Bible!

PRAISE

Over the last 10 years of New Testament translation, the Yew, Wanchi, and Lilac communities have seen tremendous church growth. These communities of believers eagerly anticipate receiving God's Word. Warni people have had the New Testament since the '80s and can't wait to receive the long-awaited full Bible.

PRAY

For the ongoing typesetting work in Yew, Wanchi and Warni and the upcoming publication, that the work would be done with excellence and completed on time.

Monday

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

—Mark 16:15 (NLT)

PRAY FOR BIBLELESS PEOPLE GROUPS Dota* and Thako* of South Asia

Around 2,000 Dota speakers live high in the mountains, where they herd buffalo. Many honor them as sacred. There are around 100 Dota Christ followers and a few small churches. Some have returned to traditional beliefs due to opposition from the area's majority religion.

The Thako community numbers fewer than 1,000 people. They are renowned for their skills in blacksmithing, pottery, wood carving, and crafting musical instruments. They worship a male deity and a female deity as their principal gods. There are no known Thako followers of Jesus.

PRAISE

A trusted partner is planning to begin Oral Bible Translation soon for these two language groups. They've been introduced to two believing Dota women and a pastor.

PRAY

Christian workers aren't allowed in either community, so please pray for wisdom for our partner. Ask God to provide the right people from each community to translate the first portions of his Word.

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

Last Command Initiative

Last Command Initiative, or LCI, is a group of organizations in a large South Asian country with a key purpose: to begin Bible translation in all the country's remaining languages that still need it.

Over the last decade since LCI was launched, these organizations have grown in cooperation and trust. They've divided the country up into seven geographical zones, each with its own appointed leader committed to tracking and evaluating progress.

PRAISE

For the incredible momentum this country has experienced in Bible translation since these organizations have started working together.

PRAY

For God's protection over sociolinguistic surveyors of Bibleless languages, and for God to guide those who are using translated Scripture to make kingdom impact through both proclamation and demonstration of the gospel.

Wednesday

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

—John 3:16 (NLT)

16 क्यूँकै परमेसर संसार गै लोगां सागै इतो प्रेम करयो कै आपगो एकलोतो बेटो दे दियो कै झिको कोई बी बिं पर बिस्वास करै बो नास ना होवै पण अनन्त जीवन पावै।

—John 3:16 (Rigab*, a language in South Asia)

Watch video: [John 3: 15 -16 in Rigab](#)

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Rigab* of South Asia

Rigab is spoken by 1.4 million people spread across two South Asian countries. Praise God that their New Testament was completed in 2019. This past year, translators began work on the Old Testament.

Rigab speakers generally follow ancestral beliefs, seeking material needs from the spirit world. Christians comprise less than 1% of the population, and many mix their faith with other beliefs. The Old Testament will help transform their worldview to one of trust in the all-powerful creator God.

PRAISE

This translation project is supported by about 30 Rigab-speaking pastors and multiple mission organizations.

PRAY

For ongoing challenges translators face due to being spread across a large area between two countries. In addition, they face resistance to the gospel due to strong anti-Christian sentiment.

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 a Regional Bible Translation Meeting in February

Last year, for the first time in history, people from 15 different national and international Bible translation agencies gathered to share progress and strategize to begin Bible translation in every remaining language of one South Asian country. The first meeting was so successful that they met three more times during the year.

PRAISE

For the growing trust and openness among God's people in this area.

PRAY

For God to deepen these partners' trust and collaboration in their upcoming February gathering, so that all people groups of this country will soon be effectively encountering God's Word in their languages.

Friday

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

IMPACT STORY

Bible Stories Find Their Way to a Little Girl in Pyecope* Language of South Asia

Imagine the plight of a mother unable to share her faith in Jesus with her own 8-year-old daughter! Sania*, a secret believer, wanted to read Bible stories to her daughter Smita* in their heart language of Pyecope but was afraid of her family. Her brother is a powerful community leader and a strong opponent of Christianity. He believes his reputation will tank if anyone in the family abandons traditional religion. But God knew the desire of Sania's heart and answered in a surprising way.

When 8-year-old Smita began to attend private classes, the teacher happened to be not only a Christian but also the sister of a Pyecope Bible translator. This teacher began to play audio Bible portions for her students as they gathered for class. Smita finally had the opportunity to learn who Jesus is and what he has done for us. Smita loves the stories so much, she's asked her teacher to play them again and again.

PRAISE

For the Pyecope team's enthusiasm. This is just one example of how the Pyecope audio Bible is reaching people who would normally have no chance to hear God's Word.

PRAY

That the Pyecope audio Bible will reach all seeking people and families, despite religious opposition in the region.

IMPACT STORY

Oral Bible Storytellers Give Thanks for 3 Fruitful Years

24 oral Bible storytellers of a South Asian Island nation recently ended the first phase of their project on a high note. With their families and project leaders, they gathered in a beautiful location and thanked the Lord for the blessings of the past three years.

The SinTam* team ([who we prayed for last February](#)) consisted of storytellers from two language groups, representing 19.8 million people collectively who mostly follow other world religions. Both groups were able to draft and share more than 60 Bible stories—over twice their original goal! Additionally, the storytellers have become trainers, equipped to teach others how to craft and share Bible stories. God’s favor was evident through the challenges of COVID-19, political turmoil, and an economic meltdown.

PRAISE

- One storyteller brought 40 people to Christ!

PRAY

- For wisdom for a national church leader who is planning to use oral Bible stories as part of a new church planting strategy
- For the team as they extend Oral Bible Storytelling to all districts of this island nation over the next 3 years.