

# How to Pray for Zero

Did you know that more than 1 billion people still don't have the full Bible in their own language, and millions still don't have a single verse? Together, we pray 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:** [1 Billion People Without The Bible](#)

## 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:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
People with No Scripture	Partners in Ministry	Translation Projects	Teachers and Trainers	Impact Story

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

<b>Get More Resources:</b>	<b>Join Global Prayer Room:</b>
<a href="#">Pray for Zero</a>	<a href="#">Unceasing Prayer</a>

# This Just In

## PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Ask God to bring healing from a severe outbreak of cholera in Zambia. Hospitals are full in the capital city; people are bringing sick patients to the stadium to be isolated and treated. Schools are closed, and public meetings are prohibited. Pray that the translation teams stay safe and healthy as they carry on their work.

— from the **Seed Company Southern Africa team**

We praise God because we have successfully completed 5 translations of the Book of Ruth in oral form, and only one of the languages remains to be translated. People who have received God's Word are excited and are sending photos of the Word being heard in their region. The area where one translator's relatives live is restricted, but after reading Acts and praying, she was invited to enter and share Scripture in their language! Please pray for my mother, who has Alzheimer's, and for health for my husband and me. It has been an extremely blessed but exhausting year. We need renewed strength.

— from **Cleonice Larsson, working with the [Ruth Cluster project in Brazil](#)**

Pray for two Misima translators who are trying to renew their passports and apply for Australian visas so they can travel to work on Isaiah with their advisor. Pray for those who receive Misima Scripture calendars to take up the challenge of following the daily Bible reading program they contain! Pray for us as we complete Scripture audio recordings, rebuild the Scripture app, and load [MegaVoice](#) players with updated recordings.

— from the **Misima team in Papua New Guinea**

Pray for our transportation challenges and unstable internet. May God bless our service to bring blessings and bring people to Jesus.

— from the **Matumbi team in Tanzania**

# Southern Africa

The Southern Africa region spans about 20 countries, including Angola, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and several island nations.

PARTNERS	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
We work with ~12 experienced ministry partners who collaborate well together.	Thanks to strong partnerships across the body of Christ, Southern Africa is approaching Zero!	Poor roads and political instability hinder translation. More workers are needed to train translators.

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

People	Languages
739,480	17

*\*ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. February 2024. Numbers may shift as new needs are discovered or languages fall out of use.*

# Regional Praise

## Nyaneka-Mwila People in Angola Celebrate New Testament

In answer to our prayers [last June](#), the Nyaneka-Mwila community gathered in November to celebrate their completed New Testament! Civil war had disrupted translation plans before the team was able to get started about a decade ago. After COVID-19 delayed progress, they finally finished in 2023.

“This Bible means God speaking to me. It is the mouth of the Lord.” - Marta, a journalist on Nyaneka-Mwila radio

Translator Tchatua, who dedicated years of his life to this translation, shared his hope for the New Testament to enhance evangelization and discipleship. Ninth grader Kelmira and her fifth-grade brother Mauricio are excited to use the New Testament at church, home, and school.

### **PRAISE**

Before, many Nyaneka-Mwila speakers relied on traditional religious practices. In recent years, more than 10,000 people have committed to follow Christ alone!

### **PRAY**

For the team and Bible Society as they translate the Old Testament.

# 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

### Mbalantu of Namibia

Mbalantu women are famous for their extremely long hair and are sometimes called “the Rapunzels of Namibia.” Their hair tells a story. At key milestones such as turning 12, turning 16, getting married, and having a baby, they give their hair different treatments.

Roughly 50% of Mbalantu people identify as Christian; however, they have no Scripture in their heart language of Oshimbalanhu. During a visit with our partner The Word For The World, local Mbalantu churches formed a committee to begin Bible translation!

### PRAISE

For the language survey team that was able to get into the community and gain support from Chief Tatekulu Oswin Mukulu.

### PRAY

For team unity and effectiveness in this new translation project, and for local churches to continue to support and encourage the translators.

# 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

### Bible Society of Angola

While Portuguese is the official language of Angola, which is located in southwestern Africa, diverse national languages are also spoken. Christianity holds profound significance in Angolan society, with about 90% identifying as Christians. Traditional indigenous beliefs still persist, and challenges such as poverty, corruption, and political instability can cause great hardship.

Bible Society of Angola aims to reach all communities with God's Word, especially those with little use of Portuguese. They work with Seed Company in two projects: [Songo](#) and Nyaneka (featured in our Regional Praise this week).

## PRAY

- For the recording of the New Testament in Songo with [Faith Comes By Hearing](#) and [Gospel Film](#).
- For their plans to construct a new headquarters building.

# Wednesday

*So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*

—Romans 10:17 (NLT)

*Mweyo, thsitawo thsaa keya ko ku yuva, ako ku yuva Muthzimbu Ouwa keyi ya Krisitu.*

—Romans 10:17 (Kwamashi, a language in Zambia)

## PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

### Kwamashi Team Finishes New Testament, Begins Old Testament

For years, the easiest Bible to access in this rural part of Western Zambia was in SiLozi, the area's predominant language. However, many Mashi people are not fluent in SiLozi, especially women and children. And in an area where nearly every village has a shaman, sorcerer, or diviner, true understanding of the gospel is crucial. While many Mashi people attend church, the number of active Christ followers is estimated at less than 10%.

#### PRAISE

- With the guidance of [The Zambia Project](#), the full Kwamashi New Testament is complete and ready to print.
- The new computers for the Old Testament project arrived in time for February team training.
- Many who have encountered Kwamashi Scripture report that they've stopped trusting witch doctors and started worshiping God.
- For ministries that are helping distribute food in this area, where hunger is common.

#### PRAY

- For no delays in printing and shipping the New Testament in time for the dedication, which is scheduled for August.
- For good rains and a good harvest, and for relief from famine.



# 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

### 12 Bible Translation Interns Begin Master's Degrees

Last month, 12 students started their [internships](#) to become either translation consultants or exegetical facilitators ([an answered prayer from last September](#))! They are studying toward master's degrees in linguistics and Bible translation. To kick off their programs, they recently attended a successful 2-week training at the beautiful 100-year-old building of the [Bible Institute of South Africa](#).

## PRAISE

- For the 8 faculty members who freely give of their time and knowledge to mentor these students.

## PRAY

- For these students' families as these interns make the huge sacrifice of being away from home for 14–20 weeks total over the next three years, traveling from Malawi, Zambia, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Namibia to South Africa for training.
- For wisdom, insight, and understanding as these interns begin research for their first assignment.
- For these interns to prioritize wisely as they juggle family responsibilities, Bible translation work, and studies.

# Friday

*If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.*

—Matthew 16:25-27 (NLT)

## IMPACT STORY

### How Just 3 Bible Verses Changed Edwin's Life

When Edwin was a “wild, bad young man,” God met him. While on his way to tend to the goats, he noticed a white page flutter by in the wind. To his amazement, it was a page from the Bible in his heart language of Herero: Matthew 16.

Edwin was so touched by Matthew 16:25-27 that he gave his life to the Lord right there in the forest. He started praying, reading from, and preaching the Bible. He even completed his bachelor's degree at Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary!

It wasn't enough to know God's Word for himself, though; Edwin wanted to share it with others. He'd been raised mostly by his Herero-speaking grandparents, but his mother spoke the [Himba](#) language. He wanted to make sure all Himba speakers could access God's Word as well. Today, he's been working with Wycliffe South Africa and Namibia Bible Society for the past 10 years to translate Scripture into Himba!

## PRAISE

Edwin is one of the 12 interns we prayed for yesterday who just started his master's degree in linguistics and Bible translation.