

# How to Pray for Zero

Over **1 billion** people are still waiting for the full Bible in their language.

**Millions** are still waiting for just one verse.

But your prayers can bring these numbers to **Zero**.

## 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.*

## Join the Day-By-Day Journey to Zero

Use this daily guide to pray strategically and effectively for each step of Bible translation in a different region of the world every week:

| MONDAY        | TUESDAY              | WEDNESDAY            | THURSDAY            | FRIDAY         |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| The Bibleless | Partners in Ministry | Translation Projects | Teachers & Trainers | Impact Stories |

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

[Pray With Others](#)

[Get More Resources](#)

# This Just In

## PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

One of the goals of [illumiNations](#) partners is that all 535 languages with more than 500,000 speakers will have a full Bible by 2033. For the 45 that are stalled, pray that the Lord will rejuvenate the work. For 11 languages, where no translation work has yet been started, pray that the Lord will initiate projects among them. Pray also for the hidden projects where translation is quietly taking place, that the Lord will protect and sustain them. May the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

— from Mike Herchenroeder, Prayer Coordinator at Pioneer Bible Translators

So many people are expected to come to a Bible dedication celebration scheduled for March 23 that the director of the translation project, Elias, is having difficulty raising funds to cover the event. Ask for wisdom and provision from our gracious God!

— from the Achi team in Guatemala (a follow-up from [last July](#))

Please pray for the Sena team in Mozambique. One of their reviewers, Antonio, passed away recently. Another team member, Eva, was recently hospitalized with severe anemia.

— from the Sena team in Mozambique

Please pray about survival in the country amid inflation. Pray for peace, as there have been killings of people and burnings of buses and cars on the roads. Please pray that we can peacefully distribute the New Testament through local churches and that we will be able to get more translated Scriptures checked by a consultant in the coming months.

Consultants are very few.

— from the Hajaat team in Africa

Ask God to provide a house for the [Wayampi Camopi translator](#) in the Americas, who currently lives in a house lent to him by a church.

# Anglophone East Africa

"Anglophone" refers to countries where English is widely used. In Anglophone East Africa, which includes 14 countries, English is frequently used to train and coordinate Bible translation teams.

| PARTNERS  | STRENGTHS  | CHALLENGES  |
|---|--|---|
| More than 20 experienced partners in this region are working together to finish the task. | Local leaders are taking greater ownership and leadership. This region is getting close to Zero! | Drought, political conflict, and virus outbreaks sometimes hinder translation progress. |

*Pseudonyms are used for names and locations in regions hostile to Christians.*

## Pray for Those Still Waiting for Bible Translation to Start

| People  | Languages |
|---------|-----------|
| 249,760 | 14        |

*Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. March 2024.*

*Numbers may shift as new needs are discovered or languages fall out of use.*

# Regional Praise

## Gofa and Dawro People of Ethiopia Receive Full Bible

The full counsel of God's Word is now available to more than 360,000 people who speak the Gofa language and more than 310,000 people who speak the Dawro language in Ethiopia! [Watch the unboxing, celebration, and prayer over the Dawro Bible.](#)

Most Gofa and Dawro people identify as Christian but may not necessarily have a deep understanding of the gospel. May the full Bible in their languages empower them to know just how wide, how long, how high, and how deep is the love of Christ, and to share that love with others.

### PRAY

That the celebration of having God's Word will not end there, but that these communities will become true disciples who listen to the Scriptures and obey them. May the Scriptures result in transformation that only God's Spirit can bring.

# Monday

## PRAY FOR A BIBLELESS PEOPLE GROUP

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

— Mark 16:15 (NLT)

## Ge'ess of East Africa

Ge'ess people mostly follow Islam; the few who follow Christ face persecution. The Ge'ess New Testament is available, but the local church wasn't involved in the translation process. Many are unaware that it even exists.

Plans are in the works to begin [Oral Bible Storytelling](#) in Ge'ess. In addition to fostering local engagement and ownership, this approach is also ideal in an area where churches risk being shut down if they openly distribute New Testaments.

## PRAY

- For Oral Bible Storytelling to bring holistic healing; it is said that there is a mentally ill person in almost every Ge'ess household.
- For God to provide the right team members and protect them.
- For an indigenous Ge'ess church to rise up; while there are churches in their community, almost all the members are from other tribes.

## Pray Now

For peace between the Arbore people of Ethiopia and a neighboring community. Ongoing conflict is significantly affecting the Arbore Bible translation project (a continued prayer request from [last October](#)).

# Tuesday

## PRAY FOR PARTNERS

*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)

## Wycliffe Ethiopia Celebrates 10th Anniversary

[Wycliffe Ethiopia](#) “exists to answer the need of Bible translation in minority languages in Ethiopia, in the Horn of Africa, and beyond.”

## PRAISE

That they recently celebrated their 10-year anniversary and dedicated their new office building, enabling them to serve language communities even more effectively!

"God has truly given us grace and shined His favor upon us, and we are forever grateful for what He has accomplished in and through us through Christ Jesus. All Glory, Honor, and Praise be unto God!"

— a representative from Wycliffe Ethiopia

## Pray Now

For Gezashign Fisehatsion, a Scripture engagement intern with Wycliffe Ethiopia who speaks 5 languages and facilitates Oral Bible Storytelling and trauma healing. She requests prayer for school: “Please pray for God to give me energy and strength so that I can prepare well for my exams in June.”

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## [Watch Video: Premier of “JESUS” Film in Ndrulo Language](#)

See the incredible results of [the “JESUS” film](#) being shown in the Ndrulo language of Uganda! ([Learn more about the Ndrulo project](#))

# Wednesday

## TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE: MATUMBI LANGUAGE

*Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.*

— Hebrews 12:14 (NLT)

*Mupale kwo binia tama kwa amani na bandu boti, no kasana tama muupeleteu, kwa mwanjaa ntu'pu' mundu ywaawesa kummona Bwana pangali baa nawo.*

— Hebrews 12:14 (Matumbi, a language in Tanzania)



## PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

### Matumbi in Tanzania

[MAH – TOOM’ – BEE]

Matumbi people mostly follow Islam mixed with traditional rituals. Many spend money on witch doctors to find the cause of their misfortunes.

A small minority identify as Christ followers, but their gospel understanding is limited. Bible translation is changing this. As the “JESUS” film is shown in villages, demand is increasing for printed copies of Luke and Acts and more New Testament translation.

### PRAY

- For God to smooth out transportation challenges and bless the team with reliable internet.

### PRAISE

- For God’s grace in helping the team make progress on Philippians, Colossians, and James.
- For God restoring dignity to Matumbi people and culture; before, students were shamed if they spoke Matumbi instead of English at school. Today, as holy Scripture is translated into their language, they are understanding their worth in God’s sight.

# Thursday

## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

*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)

## Rev. Alemu Busawa in Ethiopia

Rev. Alemu Busawa just started his [internship](#) to encourage community engagement with translated Scripture a few months ago. However, he is already facilitating [trauma healing](#) and literacy workshops in local languages!

In these literacy workshops, pastors become more fluent in reading their native tongue; as a result, [heart language](#) Scripture is used more and more in sermons and Bible reading.

## PRAISE

- For the two literacy workshops Rev. Alemu led recently for more than 40 pastors.

## PRAY

- For Rev. Alemu's safety as he plans trips to Kenya and Thailand for further training.
- For his successful admission into the Dallas International University M.A. program for Scripture Engagement.
- For another upcoming literacy workshop among the Hamar people ([read a story from the Hamer project](#)).

## Pray Now

For George Mutuku, a translation consultant [intern](#) at [DOOR International](#), who lost his wife Ruth when she aspirated in her sleep at a hospital after taking medication for back pain. Ruth was a strong believer, wife, mother, friend, mentor, entrepreneur, incredible baker, and much more. In addition to George, she leaves behind three children: Solomon (16), Patience (8), and Waridi (6).

# Friday

## IMPACT STORY

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

### From the Lhukonzo Team in Uganda

#### “Give Me Ruth”

A Lhukonzo translator shares:

“I was riding my motorcycle, carrying books of the Lhukonzo Bible, when I heard a woman yelling: ‘Imba Rusi!’ (‘Give me Ruth!’) I stopped, and she came running toward me, saying:

‘Wahemba (Sir), I have seen on your T-shirt the words “Ask me about the Bible.” I have been trying to meet someone who works with the Bible. Are you one of them?’

“I said, ‘Yes, Madam. I work with the Bible Society of Uganda on translating the Bible into Lhukonzo.’ I pulled out a book of Ruth, and she said, ‘Ooh yes, this is it. Thank you, messenger of God. I have been praying that God would give me access to this book. He has answered my prayer.’”

## “It Became My Counselor”

After her husband of 8 years had passed away, this dear woman had considered committing suicide. Thankfully, she chose to remain alive one more day. The next morning, she visited her brother, saw the book of Ruth in his house, and read it.

She remembered, “It was like the story had been written about me. It became my counselor. I have not thought of harming myself anymore. I am convinced that the God who took care of Ruth will also take care of me.”

### PRAY

- For the Lhukonzo translation team to hit its target of finishing the New Testament in 2024.
- For God to heal translator Irene Masika, who has been sick since October 2023 and is now on leave.

### PRAISE

- That these smaller portions of Scripture, like Ruth, are already bearing much fruit, giving hope and healing to the hurting.