

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 and Trainers	Impact Story

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This Just In

PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Please pray against spiritual attacks. In the last workshop, our translation consultant Rhoda Leach became ill. This wasn't the first time she's fallen ill at a workshop.

— from the Cokwe (pronounced CHO' – KWEE) team in Angola

Please pray for the families and survivors of a terrible accident in northern Tanzania. 25 people died, 11 of whom were YWAM missionaries. [Learn more.](#)

— from a Seed Company Field Project Manager

The team is being asked to perform all the time now (including the largest theater in Cape Town and Cape Town City Hall)! Pray for the team as they face spiritual attack leading up to and during workshops. In the previous workshop, almost half the translation team was struggling with illness or other issues that interfered.

— from the Kaaps team in South Africa ([see previous update](#))

Thank God that regardless of the many challenges the team has faced, including health challenges, translation work has progressed. Please pray for Stephen Buka's health, who is a former translator and father of the current lead translator, and for Reuben Pae, who has also had health challenges recently.

— from the Luqa team in the Solomon Islands

A pastor reported that the Scripture-based songs composed at workshops are being played on local radio stations and sung all over the community. The local church worship team has also started to incorporate these songs into their Sunday worship lists.

Pray that the people who have been drawn to church through these songs would take the next step and accept Christ.

— from the Akoti team in Mozambique

Mainland Asia

Mainland Asia includes seven countries, most of which present security risks. This region has the highest number of people in the world without even one verse of Scripture in their language.

PARTNERS	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
We work with around 10 partners in Mainland Asia, mostly smaller, local teams.	Despite opposition, translators devote their lives to translating God's Word. Some have become translation consultants.	Governments are unstable or hostile. Work is done in secret. Interrogation is a constant threat.

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

Pray for Those Still Waiting for One Bible Verse

People	Languages
21,628,439	200

Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. February 2024.

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

Regional Update

Forced Military Conscription in Mainland Asia

For more than 60 years, one Asian country's military has created a culture of fear. They have committed genocide against a minority group, and senior officers have enriched themselves at others' expense, pillaging the country's wealth.

Now, a fresh blow has fallen: military conscription for both men and women, the former from ages 18-35, the latter 18-27. There are few exceptions. Those with areas of professional expertise may be asked to serve up to ages 45 (men) and 35 (women).

PRAY

- For protection from exploitation for those who are fleeing the country.
- For wisdom for church leaders as they shepherd their people through this crisis.
- For God's kingdom work to continue without stopping.

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

People Group X

Years ago, a sensitive country in Asia was relatively open. During that time, God blessed us with a wonderful team of national translators and consultants as well as a strong partnership with a missions organization. Together, we began translation in many languages.

Then, a few years ago, the doors seemed to slam shut. Nearly all foreign workers had to leave. Since then, it has become extremely difficult to start new work, though the needs remain great. Connections we relied on in the past no longer exist.

PRAISE

For faithful national workers who stand ready to provide support and training for new translation teams, should they be able to connect.

PRAY

For at least one new translation to begin in 2024—for the yet unknown "People Group X." Ask God to make connections and open doors no one can shut.

Pray Now

For the Unda and Weida translation teams, who need prayer for the numerous consultant checks facing them in 2024. This work will complete their goal of 2 New Testaments within 5 years, giving access to Scripture for 600,000 people who almost all follow Buddhism and equipping the ~2% who follow Jesus.

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

Update on Translator Peter in Mainland Asia

In December, we prayed for [Translator Peter](#) after he fell down a cliff. Incredibly, he survived, and we continue to pray for his complete healing.

PRAISE

- That Peter has nearly recovered his full mental abilities and is back at work leading his translation team!

PRAY

- For 100% recovery, as Peter still gets very tired after a full day of translation work, and for God to raise up more workers so Peter can rest more.
- For Peter's follow-up surgery that he will schedule within the next month or so to replace a chunk of his skull. Ask specifically that he can find a good hospital near his home and a good surgeon to do this delicate surgery, and that national churches will continue to help financially.

Praise God

For the first church being planted among the Hotun* people, who mostly worship ancestors. Team members are living in their home villages and reaching out to their people as they're translating God's Word. Now, the translated Scripture is being read and studied among new believers, and the first church is being formed.

Wednesday

If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

— Matthew 18:15–17 (NLT)

Way team members have translated Scripture portions, such as Matthew 18:15-17, into their language. They're sharing these Scriptures as Facebook read-along videos and receiving great engagement!

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Way* in Mainland Asia

While 100% of Way people identify as Christian, many have difficulty leaving traditional beliefs passed down by their ancestors. Older men may be asked to exorcize spirits out of a sick person by killing pigs or chickens and doing divination. As Way speakers receive New Testament portions, pray for them to understand clearly that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Ekisa in Mainland Asia

We began praying for the Ekisa in October 2022 as a [Bibleless people group](#), then prayed for them again as an [active project](#) in April 2023. Today, we join them in celebrating a huge milestone!

PRAISE

- That by God's grace, the team was able to have their first face-to-face consultant check on the Gospel of Mark—which was remarkable given the political and economic turmoil happening in their country.

PRAY

- For those in Ekisa communities who lived in armed conflict zones.
- For healing and financial provision for the family of one of the translators. After mistakes by both their midwife and their hospital, their baby suffered brain damage at birth and now suffers from cerebral palsy.

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

Workshops for the Deaf in Mainland Asia

The Deaf community, concentrated mostly in the largest city of this Asian country, cannot access God's Word when written in the dominant local language. Having grown up in silence, they struggle to grasp the relationship between words and meaning. But local Bible translators are using workshops to interact meaningfully with the Deaf and break down these barriers:

- Scripture engagement workshops, which focus especially on the formats that help Deaf people best interact with God's Word, such as video.
- Deaf arts workshops, which help Deaf people spiritually express themselves.
- Trauma healing workshops, which are greatly needed due to living as a marginalized minority amid the country's general strife and unrest.

PRAISE

- That the team was able to install an inverter and battery in January, helping them continue to work amid daily rolling power outages.
- That the team was able to make connections with many groups of Deaf people through holding Deaf arts workshops in several areas across the country.
- That the team was able to teach Bible stories to Deaf children at a boarding house.

PRAY

- For God to bring peace to the country's political situation. The team had to adjust their plan to do a Deaf arts workshop in one province where battles are currently taking place.
- For the Holy Spirit to guide the team as they translate Acts 23-28 and Psalm 1.
- For two of the staff, Mrs. Eye and Ms. Call, to be healed of kidney disease.

Friday

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

IMPACT STORY

From the Yamka Team in Mainland Asia

Bible translation is bringing God's Word to life for Yamka people, even those who have been in church for years!

A team member shares:

“One Sunday morning, I read Matthew 7:15–20 for our church members. Afterward, an elderly woman shared, ‘Every Sunday, I’ve come to church and listened to the preaching without understanding it well. I felt like God must be hard to understand. But everything you read today is very clear to me.’

PRAY

- For God to continue to be revealed with even greater clarity to Yamka people as more Scripture translated into their language.
- That all the words the Yamka translators speak, all the paths they choose to walk on, and all the work they do this year will bring glory to our God.

IMPACT STORY

God Turns Evil for Good in Mainland Asia

People translating God's Word for 5 related languages have been questioned by police. Several have been briefly imprisoned. While they had already been keeping a low profile, they have since become even more cautious.

Recently, they've been attending a registered national church instead of meeting in small home groups. But as a result, they've been able to share songs in their minority language and explain the meaning of Christ's birth. All with police officers standing nearby to ensure safety!

PRAISE

For this unique opportunity in a closed country. The lead translator is even in conversations with the pastor about holding literacy lessons at the church in their language.