

# 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 Bible translation each day of the week, beginning with the Sabbath:

SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
Around the World	Regional Update	The Bibleless	Ministry Partners	Translation Projects	Teachers & Trainers	Impact Stories

[Pray With Others](#)

[Get More Resources](#)

# Saturday

## PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

We are still trying to fill one more translator position. Pray that we find the right person soon as we work to complete the New Testament in the next year.

— from the Gaijo team in Asia, part of the Robeno Cluster

As new people enter Bible translation with new approaches, in their zeal to reach all the remaining groups without Scripture, translators are sometimes given very little training. One Seed Company translation consultant recently found 6,357 places in a completed New Testament that needed changes when working with a local team. Some were minor, but others would have caused wrong theology. Pray for wisdom as the Global Church seeks acceleration in Bible translation without sacrificing accuracy. Also, we praise God: we prayed for this same translation consultant a few weeks ago after he was hurt in a cycling accident in South Asia. His hip has improved to the point that he can travel internationally!

Praise God that intern Philip in Vanuatu, who we prayed for [last June](#), recently welcomed a newborn baby! Ask God to provide an affordable house for his family.

A few weeks ago, we prayed for [a brother in Eurasia who went missing](#), and we prayed for him again [last week](#) after finding out he'd gone to jail. His role for the past 5 or 6 years has been to follow up online with people interested in the Bible. Praise God we've received a message that he is now out of jail and wants to get back to work! We hear that he is in high spirits and has "a really interesting story to tell." Thank you for your prayers!

Praise God that we're getting lots of rain, but some areas are being flooded, so please pray for those communities.

— from the Kenyan Sign Language team

# Sahel

“Sahel” means “coast” in Arabic. But in this case, it refers to an African region that borders the southern “coast” of the Sahara Desert, rather than a body of water. Many of this region’s 12 countries present security risks.

PARTNERS	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
We work with ~17 partners, ranging from small and local to large and well resourced.	French provides a common language for resources and training. Partners are committed, passionate, and gifted.	Political instability, violence, travel hazards, famine, drought, and poverty pose challenges in many areas.

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

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

People	Languages
5,107,259	110

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

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

[Go deeper in specific, strategic prayer for the Sahel with this 3-part article from the Lausanne Movement.](#)

# Sunday

## REGIONAL UPDATE

### **Gabri Maja Community in Chad Celebrates Completed New Testament**

Eleven years of hard work has finally paid off for the Gabri Maja translation team in Chad. Along the way, they endured struggles like local banking issues that prevented receiving funds—yet they continued without missing a beat.

As the New Testament was brought into the building where the celebration was being held, people danced in the street. Joy shone on people's faces. During and since the celebration, the New Testament has been widely distributed on SD cards, and some deeply treasured hard copies have also been sold.

## PRAY

- That God will use this translation to reach the hearts of the roughly 50–70% of 43,000 Gabri Maja speakers who do not know him.
- For God's blessing as the team hopes to begin Old Testament translation soon.

# 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

### Three People Groups in Chad

Early conversations are taking place to develop language projects among three people groups in the eastern part of Chad, two of which do not have any Scripture in their language (out of 19 remaining Bibleless groups in the country). We are excited to be working with a new partner in this effort and looking forward to the new possibilities and ideas they will bring.

These people groups live in a sensitive area and adhere almost exclusively to another belief system, so their names are not shareable. Translated Scripture would be incredibly valuable to the mission agencies beginning work among these unreached people.

### PRAY

For the people breaking the ground and preparing the soil for the seed of Scripture to be sown.

## Pray Now

For Gen Z leaders around the world, including in the Sahel and all across Africa, who are rising up to join Bible translation and fulfill the Great Commission. You are invited to Pray for ZERO with fellow Gen Z brothers and sisters around the world every Monday at 8am Eastern Time!

[Get Access to Prayer Room](#)

# 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

### ANTBA: National Association for Bible Translation & Literacy in Burkina Faso

In addition to facilitating Bible translation, [ANTBA](#) trains teams in trauma healing, hosts ethnomusicology workshops, and sends out volunteer teams to pray and evangelize in unreached areas.

When one of their Bible translation teams was asked to participate in a theatrical production about peace and unity, they integrated topical Bible stories into their presentation! And they were able to do this, by invitation, in a heavily Muslim context.

## PRAISE

- That ANTBA's Scripture engagement efforts are opening doors to present God's Word to communities that don't know Him, even through the invitation of secular and government-sponsored organizations.

## PRAY

- For peace and stability in this area of the Sahel, which has an uncertain economy, political tensions, and constant threat of terrorism.
- For safety and courage for the translation teams and engagement volunteers as they risk these dangers to make God known.
- For God to grant wisdom and creative solutions to ANTBA's leadership as they seek greater organizational sustainability in one of the world's least-developed nations.

## Pray Now

For the Koulango Bouna [KOO-LAHN'-GOH BOH-OO'-NAH] project in Côte d'Ivoire, which was just approved to start this month after a gap of 3 years!

Steps have been taken to fix issues that hindered the previous project's success. According to [Joshua Project](#), the Koulango Bouna are considered an unreached people group, and there are only about 20 known Koulanga believers, so this news of a fresh start is especially exciting.



# Wednesday

## TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE: LAHIDO IN THE SAHEL [LAH-HEE'-DOH]

*And “don't sin by letting anger control you.” Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil. If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.*

— Ephesians 4:26–28 (NLT)

<sup>v 26</sup> Niŋ alu be dimiŋdiŋ, alu haakili  
tu, alako alu kana boyi junubo tɔ. alu  
kana alu la dimiŋe lamara haŋ tilɔ ha  
boyi, <sup>v 27</sup> Alu kana siŋ lodula tu  
Ibulisa yeŋ ha alu mano. <sup>v 28</sup> Miŋ mu  
sunŋo ti, a maŋ kaŋ sunŋaro kela  
butuŋuŋ, a ha kaŋ katala ha wali a  
bulolu la tiliŋe la. Woŋa, a se nɔ feŋdo

— Ephesians 4:26–28 (Lahido, a language in the Sahel)

## PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

### Lahido in the Sahel

In an area dominated by a major non-Christian world religion, one courageous church planting team was determined to reach the Lahido people with God's Word. So far, 15 books of the Bible have been produced to equip the small Lahido Christian community.

As local translator Bartimaeus reviewed the translation of [Romans 10:14–15](#), he remarked, "This is why missionaries leave their home countries and come to Africa!" Then he realized that he, too, is sent and called by God to translate and share Scripture among his people. Praise the Lord!

### PRAISE

- That the team is continuing on to translate the entire New Testament!

### PRAY

- For 3 young Lahido men who were baptized last year to stand firm in their faith and be salt and light.
- For domestic violence to decrease as people are led to repentance by the words "Don't sin by letting anger control you" from Ephesians 4:26 in Lahido.

# 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 THROUGH TECHNOLOGY Etienne Ondo and Frans Barah in Cameroon

Technology plays a key role in Bible translation, whether in training new translators how to use computers or using software to complete the final checks before publishing a Bible.

Over the last decade, Frans Barah was the technology point person at our partner [CABTAL](#) (Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy). When he moved on to train translation teams in technology across the continent with Wycliffe Africa last year, God raised up Etienne to fill the gap! Frans has continued to mentor Etienne, who has adapted quickly to his new leadership post.

### PRAY

For good health for Etienne's family, protection over CABTAL's IT equipment, and for Etienne to lead wisely.

Watch Etienne in action [in this video](#) in which a local translator describes how she benefited from his training.

## Pray Now

For the communities of the [Shifa al-Ruwah Cluster](#), who live in a very remote, sensitive location that lacks easy access to the rest of the world. This region is going through an extreme hunger crisis. The project manager says: “People are depending on the leaves of certain trees [for food]. Most of them do not have even one meal per day.” Pray that the Lord would provide for the basic needs of the people in this region.

# Friday

*Rise up, O Lord, in all your power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.*

— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

## IMPACT STORY

### Pagnon [PAH' – NYOHN] in the Sahel

Around 400,000 people speak the Pagnon language. Roughly 3–4% profess Christianity, while the majority follow another major world religion. When anyone gets sick, many people consult shamans before going to a doctor. Pagnon believers have enjoyed using Scripture in church since the New Testament was dedicated in 2008. Today, the team is working on the Old Testament.

## PRAISE

That God's precious Word is getting embedded in community life through Scripture-based hymns. Recently, musically talented Pagnon leaders came together to compose traditional Pagnon-style songs to worship the Lord. Here are just a few of the hymns that were produced:

- If We Confess Our Sins, God Will Forgive Them
- The Promise of the Holy Spirit
- Teach Your Child While He Is Young
- The Tree Is Known by Its Fruit
- The Fruit of the Spirit

## Pray Now

For the family of a Mimji translator who recently fell ill and passed away unexpectedly. Pray also for the community and team as they grieve this loss and cope with this big blow to the New Testament translation project (there is only one translator left right now). Please pray for the community and project leadership as they choose two new translators and train them to continue these efforts.