

# 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

Pray for the Deaf community to come to know an incarnate Christ who wants a deep and personal relationship with Deaf people. Pray as Deaf people see the newly published book of Revelation in context of the current political upheavals around the world. Pray for our families to have good health and flourish in their daily lives as we all juggle family, work, and ministry.

— from the Spanish Sign Language team

Pray for good health for our translators, one of whom has had some issues with her sight. Pray for God's healing touch and complete recovery. Pray for continued progress on 1–2 Chronicles, Isaiah, and Jeremiah.

— from the Iñupiaq team in Alaska

Please pray for the family and community of a translator who passed away suddenly after falling ill. He was one of only two translators on the team.

— from the Mimji team in Africa

Praise God that 50 copies of Psalms have made it safely to Nukumanu, after being mailed to Solomon Islands, shipped to Pelau, then transported by open canoe to Nukumanu. Praise God that local translator Edmond and family have made it safely to Buka, where they hope to stay until he has completed the New Testament revision. Pray that we can find a better translation for the phrase “the Kingdom of God.”

— from the Nukumanu team in Papua New Guinea

Thank God for safety amid severe shelling and bombarding by military junta. The team thank God for granting the opportunity for Old Testament translation at this difficult time. Pray for the restoration of peace to our country and for the safety and health of translation team members and their families as they live and work here.

— from the Akin team in Asia

# Pacific

The Pacific includes 27 countries spread across hundreds of islands. While churches are present almost everywhere, and there is no animosity toward Christians or the Bible, many people mix Christianity with other beliefs. This region also presents unique logistical challenges. Some areas have no roads or can only be reached by boat.

PARTNERS	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
We work with around 10 partner organizations and many church networks in the Pacific.	Local believers greatly value and desire Scripture. Hundreds of translations are in progress.	Many waiting language groups are very remote. Trained consultants are maxed out with existing work.

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

People	Languages
621,906	331

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

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

# Regional Praise

## Pacific Translators Get Local Access to Training

The Eastern Highlands and Alotau are two places in the same country, but Google Maps “can’t find a way there.” Except perhaps a 16-hour flight. This is the story for much of Papua New Guinea, a country with more than 600 islands and great disparities in quality of roads and transportation systems.

Sustaining and completing Bible translation projects in Papua New Guinea is difficult due to the remoteness of many language groups. Travel is costly and time-consuming.

For a long time, translators near the far-southeastern city of Alotau had trouble attending training at an international linguistics center in the Eastern Highlands area, located toward the middle of the country. So we praise God that, this summer, our linguistics partner [SIL](#) is bringing the training to them by holding workshops in Alotau!

### **PRAISE**

For the 5 Seed Company language teams attending these workshops, to be held between June and early October.

### **PRAY**

That these workshops will increase overall team strength, health, and potential for new internships to build local Bible translation capacity in Papua New Guinea.

# 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

### Motlap in Vanuatu

Vanuatu is a Pacific nation with the fifth-highest number of Bibleless languages in the world—currently estimated at 44. Many more language groups in this country, such as the Motlap, have received only portions of Scripture but want much more.

Praise God that Matthew, Mark, and John are now available in the Motlap language! The 13 members of the Motlap translation team have been actively working to translate and distribute these gospels, and now they're ready to finish translating the rest of the New Testament. SIL Vanuatu and Seed Company prayerfully plan to begin a project in the Motlap language within the next few months.

### PRAISE

That this project will bring God's Word to Mota Lava Island, one of the more remote places in the world.

## Pray Now

For Aline, a potential intern in Scripture engagement from Vanuatu. These types of interns help communities benefit from using translated Scripture so lives are truly transformed. Pray for the Lord's blessing, clarity on her calling and interests and how they intersect with Bible translation, and that she will courageously follow God wherever he leads.

# 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

### Australian Society for Indigenous Languages

Roughly 20 languages are spoken in the Pacific nation of Timor-Leste (TIH' – MOR – LEST), yet only one of them has a published New Testament. The [Australian Society for Indigenous Languages](#) is working to change this. Seed Company is developing an internship program with this partner to help them bring understandable Scripture to everyone in Timor-Leste.

Their first technology intern, James, has worked with them for six years and is a leader in his church and local Christian community. He says, “Through this ministry, everyone in Timor-Leste can hear and understand the gospel and believe in Jesus. Even though I am not directly involved in the translation, I can contribute with the skills that I have in IT.”

## PRAISE

That this partner is currently working in seven languages in Timor-Leste!

## PRAY

For more internship opportunities this partner plans to cultivate in the next 3 years. Ask for more workers in the harvest to bring Scripture to every remaining language in Timor-Leste!

## Pray Now

For a workshop the [SHEFA Oral Bible Storytelling team](#) will have from May 20–31. Participants will learn how to craft Bible stories and host their own Oral Bible Storytelling workshops to train others in the future. Pray for safe travels and that the trainers are well equipped to teach effective story crafting of God's Word.

# Wednesday

*Those who live in the shelter of the Most High  
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

— Psalm 91:1 (NLT)

*Henala ebo ni miminaa Tomihahaina Hot wana libu elana,  
he iya ni mibubun Togasisi Hot ligumwina elana.*

— Psalm 91:1 (Misima, a language spoken in Papua New Guinea)

*Whoever lives habitually in the shelter of the Very High One,  
well, he will stay well in the shade/shelter of the Very Strong One.*

— Psalm 91:1 (translated back to English from Misima)

## PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT Misima Cluster in Papua New Guinea

*The Misima team just checked Psalm 51–105 in the community a few weeks ago! Psalm 91:1 is one of the beautiful fruits of their labor.*

This Bible translation project includes two languages, Misima and Sasai. Today, almost everyone who speaks these languages identifies as Christian, but many have an underlying belief in sorcery and magic spells that causes them to live in fear. Bible translation is helping them live “in the shelter of the Very High One” and stay “in the shade/shelter of the Very Strong One,” as Psalm 91:1 in Misima says.



## PRAISE

- One man shared, “For a number of years, I was a pastor. But then my faith became cold, and I fell away from God. When I read the Misima New Testament, I received help from God, and he restored me to a walk of faith.”
- When people encountered Sasai Scripture for the first time, they said, “The translation is clear, and it makes our thinking straight. We were confused about some things, but now we have much more understanding.”

## PRAY

- For the Misima committee as they continue to work on Psalms; may they make good adjustments to the translation, and may they grow spiritually as they immerse themselves in Scripture.
- For two Misima translators, Graham and Tamoli, who are working on Isaiah with advisors in Australia through the end of May. Pray for wisdom, accuracy, clarity, and a smooth cultural adjustment for them.
- For Sasai translators working on Acts and Romans.
- For peace and unity among the Sasai translators, and a strong working relationship with their community.
- For the Misima team to find time to rebuild their Scripture app and load Scripture recordings onto audio players amid their ongoing, regular work of translation.

# 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 4 Interns in the Pacific

#### **Simatha Tramaff**

##### **Papua New Guinea**

Simatha is training to assist Bible translation projects with language development, linguistic analysis, and general translation procedures—which are currently rare and much needed skills in this area. With more than 200 remaining translation needs in Papua New Guinea, she should have no shortage of opportunities!

#### **Lorie Temi**

##### **Papua New Guinea**

Lorie is training to be a translation consultant. He will help greatly with the current consultant shortage, which is especially acute in the Pacific. [Learn more about Lorie.](#)

#### **Miriam Zeke**

##### **Solomon Islands**

Miriam is preparing to assist the [To'abaita](#) team and other language groups in the Solomon Islands (which currently has about 12 languages waiting to begin Bible translation). She will serve as an advisor, passing on what she's learned and building local translation capacity.

## Noel Diru

### Papua New Guinea

Noel is training to be a translation consultant, and he just completed a supervised check of Esther! As an advanced trainee, Noel will still need to do several more consultant checks on his own before becoming a full consultant.

## PRAY

- For Simatha, Lorie, and Miriam as they prepare to leave in a few days for Thailand to study linguistics at Payap University ([an answered prayer for Simatha](#)). Pray especially for safe travels and successful cultural adjustments.
- That Noel will be able to complete his requirements to become a consultant within the next year.

# Friday

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

## IMPACT STORY

### Enga of Papua New Guinea

The gospel came to the Enga people in the 1940s, and while Enga churches have been established since then, their homeland continues to be plagued by tribal fighting, false accusations of sorcery, spousal abuse, alcoholism, and drug abuse. For too long, even the most educated Enga people have struggled to understand what the Scriptures say in English and the national language of Tok Pisin. But Bible translation is bringing change!

When Enga Scripture was made available on a Bible app, one Facebook commenter said it well: “Engans, can we please put our differences aside and stand together as one for the invasion of God’s kingdom and purpose?”

## PRAISE

- That the Enga New Testament has been launched, and an Old Testament project is underway!
- That the new EngaBible.org website has received over 15,000 visits.
- That the Enga Bible app has been installed more than 650 times.
- That the Enga Bible translation Facebook page, which posts a “verse of the day” in Enga, now has more than 7,000 followers.

## Pray Now

For God to protect the Enga translators as they work on Genesis and Exodus. A large fight broke out in the area a few months ago, and dozens of people were killed. Praise God that things have settled down, and we heard from a pastor friend that the two warring parties signed an agreement, but please pray for lasting peace.