

Counting Down to Zero

CELEBRATE WHAT GOD HAS DONE

This is our 100th issue of the Pray for Zero Journal. In less than 2 years, 633 Bibleless people groups have gotten engaged in Bible translation!

REGION	BIBLELESS LANGUAGES IN FALL 2022	BIBLELESS LANGUAGES TODAY
Anglophone East Africa	32	12
South Asia	38	5
Americas	116	95
Islands Asia	309	179
Congo Basin	139	89
Pacific	344	306
Southern Africa	41	13
Anglophone West Africa	191	21
Sahel	110	82
Mainland Asia	248	196
Eurasia	132	69

Sources: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. August, September, and October 2022; June 2024. Numbers may shift as projects begin, new needs are discovered, or languages fall out of use. Those not on this list may be engaged in any translation step including early discussions, language surveys, training, translation, checking, publication, recording, or distribution.

[Pray With Others](#)

[Get More Resources](#)

Saturday

PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pray for everyone listening to the Bible on the radio, and pray for the team as the consultant checks 1–2 Peter, Hebrews, and the rest of Revelation.

— the Ixil team in Guatemala

We give thanks that during and after the elections there was no increase in criminal activity against people in the community. (an answer to prayer!) Please pray for good application of my Hebrew and Greek studies in the projects I am supporting, and that God will help me manage my time effectively with work and family responsibilities.

— Benito, an intern in Mexico

Pray that God will take away any form of discouragement in the project volunteers and that amidst the challenges they will still find joy in the work. Continue to pray for the sociopolitical crisis in this part of Cameroon, that it will come to an end and that God's people will be relieved from its effects.

— from the Adere team, part of the Abakwa Cluster in Cameroon

Let us ask God to open the door and let His Word reach Batemi people through the “JESUS” film and Luke's Gospel, which we continue to distribute.

— from the [Gitemi](#) team in Tanzania

Pray for peace in our community, which has continued to experience conflict.

— from the Samburu team in Kenya

We are thankful for the printing of the first book of the Bible! Please pray for the distribution and impact of these 3,000 copies of Genesis.

— from the Nyamwezi team in Tanzania

Southern Africa

The Southern Africa region spans about 16 countries, including Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, several island nations, and all Portuguese-speaking countries on the African continent.

PARTNERS	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
We work with 16 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 Bible Translation to Start

People	Languages
695,660	13

Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. June 2024.

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

Sunday

Celebrating Four Completed New Testaments in Southern Africa

Over the next several months, the Southern Africa region will celebrate four completed New Testaments—providing more than 1.7 million people collectively with the New Testament in their heart language:

1. [Kwamashi](#): August 10th in Western Zambia
2. [Kunda](#): August 24th in Northeastern Zambia
3. Oshiwambo Cluster (Kwanyama & Ndonga languages): Celebration to be held in October or November

PRAISE

For God's goodness in providing [publication](#) funding to print the Kwamashi and Oshiwambo Cluster New Testaments!

PRAY

For all of the details to come together for these celebrations, since coordinating everyone's travel schedules is a big undertaking. The August dedication events are with partners who have not planned these types of celebrations before.

Monday

PRAY FOR A [FIRST SCRIPTURE](#) PROJECT

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

— Mark 16:15 (NLT)

The Forro Language in São Tomé e Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe, a small island nation off the coast of Central Africa, is home to the Forro-speaking people. Forro, also known as São Tomense, is a Portuguese-based creole.

Despite their deep spiritual hunger, the Forro people still lack a Bible translation in their heart language. This year, they will host their third annual Bible Science seminar, demonstrating their strong desire for God's Word.

PRAISE

For the growing interest and commitment of the Forro-speaking community to learn and grow in their faith. Thank God for the dedication of local leaders and believers who are working tirelessly to deepen their understanding of Scripture!

PRAY

That God will accelerate the efforts to translate the Bible into Forro, so they can fully access His Word in their heart language.

Pray Now

A prayer from the Seed Company Southern Africa Regional Director

Heavenly Father, we pray for South Africa following its election on May 29, 2024. With no party winning an outright majority, we ask for Your guidance over the Government of National Unity formed by three major and eight smaller parties. In the face of challenges such as healthcare, immigration, corruption, land reform, the energy crisis, crime, and housing, grant them wisdom and unity to govern justly and effectively. May Your grace lead them through the next five years, fostering peace and prosperity for all. Amen.

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)

Spoken Worldwide

[Spoken Worldwide](#), based in Dallas, Texas, focuses on equipping local pastors with orally translated biblical and discipleship resources. It has nearly 100 field missionaries in 70 countries working in 139 languages. Over the next 3 years, they hope to begin work in 60 new languages!

PRAISE

For Spoken Worldwide's new partnership with Seed Company, which will advance Scripture translation at an increased pace over the next few years in Southern Africa and around the world.

PRAY

That the two organizations will communicate clearly as they work together in this new partnership.

Pray Now

A prayer from Seed Company Southern Africa Field Project Manager Bia

Dear Heavenly Father,

We are grateful for the partnership with the [Bible Society of Mauritius](#). As they work on completing the [Morisien](#) Old Testament, we pray for their leadership. May they be granted wisdom, discernment, and strength in this sacred task.

We also ask for Your inspiration for the translation team as they diligently work to bring Your Word to life in the heart language of the Mauritian people. May their efforts be blessed abundantly, and may the Morisien Old Testament bring hope and transformation for generations to come.

Wednesday

TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE: THIMBUKUSHU OF NAMIBIA

On the first day of the second month in the second year after the people of Israel left Egypt, the Lord spoke to Moses there in the Tent of his presence in the Sinai Desert. He said, "You and Aaron are to take a census of the people of Israel by clans and families. List the names of all the men twenty years old or older who are fit for military service.

— Numbers 1:1-3 (NLT)

Diyuwa dyo kutanga dyo kaghonda ko ghuwadi munyima dho mwaka gho ghuwadi ghopa ha shwayire Haisiragheli ha mu Egiputena, Fumu Nyambi gha ghambire na Mosesi mu tende gho makuwaneno mu mamboreya gha Sinayi. Gha ghambire eshi: "Nowe na Aroni mu tjangithe hanu ho mu Isiragheli kutunderera ku mako no madhiko ghawo. Tare mena gho ha tutughuru waheya myaka makumi mawadi endi kupitapo ho hawawa endi ndjewa-ndjewa muyirughana yo yita.

— Numbers 1:1-3 (the first Old Testament passage translated into Thimbukushu!)

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Thimbukushu Old Testament Project Begins “After All These Years”

Can you imagine only having the New Testament in your language—no Psalms, no Proverbs, no Genesis or Isaiah—for 80 years? For many people, that’s an entire lifetime. Yet that’s been the exact case for the Thimbukushu people of Namibia. While they are grateful to have the New Testament, they’ve been eagerly awaiting the Old Testament as well.

PRAISE

That the Thimbukushu Old Testament translation project finally began on July 1, 2024!

PRAY

For the Bible Society and translation team, as they’ve set an ambitious goal of completing the Old Testament *and* a New Testament revision by 2031. Ask for strength, wisdom, and unity for these partners.

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

Nzuzo Potsane, One of the Youngest Consultants in Training in Southern Africa

Nzuzo Potsane is from Lesotho (Leh – SOO – too), an enclave of South Africa. His heart language is SiPhuthi (Si – PFOO – thee). He is one of the interns we prayed for [this past February](#).

[Watch the Lord's Prayer in SiPhuthi](#)

After seeing his heart language be marginalized for years, Nzuzo joined the SiPhuthi translation team in 2019, remarking, “So God can really hear SiPhuthi?” The project’s impact has been so great that [Wycliffe South Africa](#) writes, “The way has been opened for SiPhuthi to be recognized as an official language of Lesotho.”

PRAY

His prayer is for the Lord to bless him and his family so that he can be a blessing to others.

Pray Now

For an intern who is training to be a translation consultant. She is pregnant with conjoined twins, but she has been told they have zero chance of survival. She writes, “Contrary to medical advice, we decided not to have an abortion, because we believe life and death should be in the Lord’s hands. It is a very hard road for us to walk and it is becoming increasingly harder as it continues. Please pray with us for the Lord’s hand in this situation.”

Friday

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

— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

IMPACT STORY

Koti of Mozambique

The Koti language is part of a project that's producing around 60 Psalms for five African language groups (the other four are Meetto, [Kaaps](#), [Cokwe](#), and [Wantu](#)).

PRAISE

- That nine Koti youth have started preaching on the radio and completed studio recordings of four songs based on Psalms.
- A young Muslim man came to faith through their program, reporting that the songs made the message real to him.
- Several Koti people have shared how the Bible is coming alive to them for the first time, even after studying it for years. Some have shared that a song based on Psalm 13 is helping them understand that we can bring even negative emotions to God.

PRAY

- For the five teams to continue to work well together, unified in the Holy Spirit.

Pray Now

For the Lambya team in Malawi as they finalize the script of the full Bible in preparation for printing. Please pray that this Bible will have a great impact on the Lambya people as they finally receive access to the full Word of God.