

How to Pray for Zero

Over **1 billion** people don't have the full Bible in their language.

Millions don't have a single verse.

Together, we're praying these numbers down 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	Equipping the Saints	Impact Stories

[Pray With Others](#)

[Get More Resources](#)

Saturday

PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

We ask God for unity, skill, effectiveness, and strength during the August community review of 1–2 Timothy and 1–2 Peter, as these letters are very deep and complex. Also, pray for fluency and clarity in reading for Pedro, who will be the reader during the audio recording of the 10 letters translated into Iku.

— the **IKU team in the Americas**

Praise God for no impact of cyclones in the Mota Lava Island area this past cyclone season! The Vanuatu national airline is in crisis, with all flights canceled these past two months while they restructure financially. Pray for domestic operations to resume in August, and pray for a safe return of the Motlap translation and literacy teams to Mota Lava Island in the coming months on a chartered flight. Pray for John’s Gospel to be well used and that the gospel message would bless the community.

— the [Motlap](#) team in Vanuatu

Pray for the translation team, as Brother Demetrio had to resign due to the effects of diabetes. We are praying for a miracle of healing. In the meantime, Brother Luz continues with the recordings.

— the **Zapoteco Las Delicias team in Mexico**

Praise God that we were able to find two new signers to film Scripture portions and that the two most experienced signers are mentoring them. Praise God that a company that provides daily digital access to Catholic liturgical Scripture readings has agreed to include signed passages on their app starting in November. Pray for several members of the church who are struggling with their marriages. Although we have recently published some passages that can serve as guides for good marriages, the mere presence of Scripture doesn’t guarantee that people will follow what is said.

— the **Spain Catalan Sign Language Cluster**

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
3,716,510	82

Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. July 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

Amid Armed Conflict, Esimbi Community in Cameroon Receives New Testament

The [Esimbi](#) homeland lies along Cameroon's border with Nigeria. Since 2017, [ongoing armed conflict](#) between separatists and the Cameroonian government has forced many people to flee to other parts of the country. Therefore, to ensure that as many Esimbi people as possible have access to Scripture, they decided to hold four separate dedication celebrations.

PRAISE

- That these New Testaments have finally arrived in the community three years after translation work was completed.
- That about 200 people attended the first celebration on June 22, including four Esimbi chiefs who traveled nearly 250 miles, risking attack and kidnapping by armed gangs.

PRAY

- For peace in Cameroon.
- “That as they are receiving the New Testament, they should make use of it ... because it will help to transform the lives of the people.” — Reverend Ihimbru David Kanyimi, translator and project coordinator

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)

The Sage Language in Africa

Most of the estimated 5,000 Sage speakers are farmers or fishermen. There is no church among the Sage community. Most of them are Muslims.

PRAISE

- That Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy ([CABTAL](#)) has been working with people in this community to lay groundwork for an Oral Bible Translation project!

PRAY

- That God will lead a church planting organization to partner with CABTAL in this project.
- For God's favor to help the CABTAL facilitator build a good relationship with the chief and other key contacts in the Sage community.

Watch Scripture Being Printed

A few months ago, we celebrated CABTAL opening their new [Scripture publishing center](#). Watch this video of their printing center in action, producing the [Nulibie](#) New Testament:

[CABTAL Printing the Nulibie New Testament](#)

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)

SIL Burkina Faso

“Could you help us write our language?”

A small people group approached our partner SIL Burkina Faso with this question. They’ve historically been marginalized, but today, they see an opportunity to honor their language and culture through the written word.

And what better way to start than with the Bible?

But this is no small task! SIL linguists must first study the language and grammar, work on a dictionary, and begin developing a writing system. SIL translation consultants will then help this group convey the message of Scripture in their heart language through Oral Bible Translation.

PRAISE

That once this language community has both a writing system and Scripture ready to print, SIL will publish the first written works ever in this language, bringing both earthly honor and heavenly hope to the people who speak it.

Pray Now

For Emmanuel Bonzi, a translation consultant from Burkina Faso who is relocating to Cameroon with his family to support Bible translation projects there. Please pray for them, that God will prepare the way before them and provide for their needs.

Wednesday

TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE: HOUDOU [WOO' – DOO] LANGUAGE IN TOGO

“No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed.”

— Luke 8:16a (NLT)

“Ame de mu si na kãdegbã yi cɔ na enu po na tu-i alo yi cɔ de na abati gɔme o, e cɔ de na ekprɔ ji cagbe ne amewo do ebɔ-a me a, ne krẽ na wo.”

— Luka 8:16a (Houdou)

“Nobody lights the lamp and covers it with something or puts it under the bed.”

— Luke 8:16a (translated back into English from Houdou)

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Houdou [WOO' – DOO] Language of the Hougbe [WOOG' – BAY] Cluster in Togo

The Houdou community in Togo began Oral Bible Translation in 2021, and recordings of Luke and Acts were broadcast on local radio. At the time, Houdou had no writing system. But many of the 12,000 people who speak this language longed for written Scripture.

PRAISE

- That a linguist partnered with the translation team, and together, they have produced a way to write the language! They immediately published some Scripture passages and a few local stories—not only the first Scripture but the first published works of any kind in Houdou.

PRAY

- For guidance as the team plans to use artificial intelligence to help quickly convert the audio Scriptures into written format.
- That the translation team will be able to build an office, like the Dangbe, their sister translation project.

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

Anam Medjamna, Translation Consultant in Training

Translation consultants ensure that translated Scripture clearly communicates what the original authors intended. In recent years, many projects have been delayed due to a global shortage of their much-needed expertise. Local consultants in training, like Anam, are helping to close this gap.

We first prayed for Anam in a Sahel prayer journal [nearly 2 years ago](#), and today, he is almost done with his training through [SIL Togo-Benin](#).

PRAISE

- For his new computer, which has made work much easier.

PRAY

- For Anam as he checks 1 Samuel with a translation team this month.
- That he finishes strong in completing all his requirements to become a translation consultant.
- That he is able to complete the wall around his house.

Pray Now

For one eastern Sahel country that's a perfect example of the region: heavily Islamic, dry and dusty, and struggling with political instability. Bible translation work there is already risky, but those risks have been worsened by flooding, food shortages, and closed borders. Our partners request prayer for safety for those displaced by flooding and terrorism, comfort for those who have lost loved ones in recent natural and political disasters, and endurance for those bringing God's Word to people who have never heard.

Friday

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

IMPACT STORY

Gabri Maja of Chad

In the [last Sahel prayer journal](#), we celebrated the complete New Testament in the Gabri Maja language. Praise God that getting Scripture translated is just the beginning! It is now spreading among the people through music, literacy work, and preaching.

PRAISE

For this testimony we've received from a community member:

“The Gabri Maja choir in my area is called *Herame Kumu*, which means ‘Praise God!’ In performances with traditional instruments, it never ceases to impress people with its hymns sung in Gabri Maja.

“Now, part of the community is beginning to understand the message through songs and literacy work. The gospel is now preached in the mother tongue. There is a growing number of trained Gabri Maja pastors serving in various local churches.

“For me, all this is God's will to help the Gabri people get to know Him and discover His wonders and, above all, His plan of salvation for the community.”