

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	Bibleless or First Scripture	Ministry Partners	Active Projects	Equipping the Saints	Impact Stories

[Pray With Others](#)

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Saturday

PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

We ask for prayers as we face challenges while engaging in translating. It is not easy in our context where culture, family, and technology pose challenging hiccups on our journey.

— **the Are'are team in the Solomon Islands**

Pray for the team spreading the first translated pieces of the Bible (the book of Jonah with illustrations) among the Lovari in Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Germany.

— **the Lovari Roma team**

We thank God because He has been faithful to our fellow team member Bishop Sylvanus and his family, comforting them when he lost his firstborn son. We thank God for protecting us from the heavy rain and floods in our areas. Pray for the peace of our nation and leaders. Pray for our family members who have not given their lives to Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

— **the Ndwewe team, part of the Bonde Cluster in Tanzania**

Praise God for the new translation consultant who is relocating to the region with his family. His visit has reinforced the confidence of the Midi people to continue with the translation project. Pray for the protection of translators and their families living in a zone of insecurity with the threat of kidnapping and attacks from terrorists.

— **the Midi team, part of the Tammaago Cluster in Africa**

Pray for the Bamboko team as their translation project coordinator, Edward Likowo, passed away after being taken to the hospital. Ask God to comfort the team and family members and guide them to the right new project coordinator.

— **the Sawa Cluster team in Cameroon**

Congo Basin

The Congo Basin includes the nations of Central African Republic, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Republic of Congo. Praise God that committed, trained local believers see the need to reach the Bibleless. Obstacles to their progress include hazardous roads, internet outages, rebel activity, and corruption.

Pray for the Bibleless in This Region

People	Languages
1,237,690	84

Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. September 2024.

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

Pseudonyms may be used for names and locations in areas hostile to Christians.

Sunday

REGIONAL UPDATE

Passing the Baton in the Congo Basin

From Barb Schrag, Seed Company's outgoing Congo Basin Regional Director:

70 of the nearly 100 languages we work with in the Congo Basin are in Democratic Republic of Congo. It makes sense that most of our travel, effort, and energy is focused there, but the other countries have needs too. So in August, I took Stephanie DeWitt, the incoming Regional Director, to meet partners in these countries. It took nine flights to visit four partners in Gabon, Central African Republic, and Republic of Congo. Praise God that all went smoothly.

It was a bittersweet trip for me. I first arrived in the region in 1992 with my husband and two small children. My role has changed over the years, but God has continually called me back to Bible translation in the Congo Basin. This was probably my last trip. My health is not good, and my body cannot support the grueling 24-hour trip from the US any longer. I am leaving the directorship in good hands though.

Stephanie has worked on our team for 10 years. She knows the Bible translation movement in Democratic Republic of Congo very well. Now she has had the chance to view the movement in these three distinct countries.

Pray that she will have a vision for all Bibleless people in the region. Thank God for her experience and expertise!

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)

Kabwari and Masanze in Democratic Republic of Congo

Together, Kabwari and Masanze people number nearly 100,000. While Islam is still prevalent in these communities, around 40-45% have come to Christ. Nevertheless, it is difficult for believers to grow deeply in their faith because they only have Scripture available in Swahili and French.

PRAISE

- For the interest of these communities in beginning Bible translation. The project is scheduled to begin in January 2025!

PRAY

- For continued provision so that nothing will delay this project's start date.
- For community leaders to embrace and support translation work.
- For protection for everyone who will travel in to participate in this project, especially consultants, as these groups are located in the troubled [South Kivu province](#).

Pray Now

For the security situation in Kinshasa, the capital of Democratic Republic of Congo. Pray specifically for our partner ACTB. One of their translators for the [Bobangi](#) language was attacked on her way back home from the office last month by at least 20 bandits with machetes. They threatened to kill her and stole her bag with all her belongings, including her work equipment and materials. She was traumatized, but we thank God that her life has been spared.

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)

Bible Translation and Literacy Association in Democratic Republic of Congo

Cross-cultural partnerships in Bible translation work produce incredible fruit but also have many challenges. The Seed Company partnership with Bible Translation and Literacy Association (ATBA) started on a rocky note, as ATBA took over responsibilities that were not managed well by a previous partner.

But our brothers and sisters at ATBA have been faithful in learning how to steward projects and finances well. The Executive Secretary recently wrote to express his appreciation for the trust placed in him, his dedication to working with excellence and delegating appropriately, and his gratitude for the support he receives.

PRAISE

For God providing this partnership with ATBA to get these Bible translation projects back on the right track, and for their willingness to learn and grow.

PRAY

For wisdom and unity as this partnership moves forward; may the way we work together be a living testimony that we belong to Jesus.

Wednesday

TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE: BUDJA [BOO'-JAH], DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

— John 3:16 (NLT)

A ngbanga ate Akongo abala moki abou nda emotoma inde Mana o nde mongbongi, ate moto bii ono okomondima atsiunge kasi ate aibe omɔu osiakete.

— Moɛndi Moamu mo Djaa Sapitɛɛɛ e sato Bɛɛɛɛ djomi a motoɔa (Budja)

While many Budja people identify as Christians, traditional animistic beliefs often aren't far below the surface. "There is a great need to strengthen the spiritual life of the churches," one church leader said. "Since most of the gospel teaching is in [the regional language], the gospel has not taken root in the hearts of people, so many still practice traditional African religion."

Thanks to the hard work of local translators, Budja people now have verses like John 3:16 in their heart language! Let's join with this church leader in praying for the gospel to take root in their lives as they begin to receive the rest of the Gospels, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ruth, and Jonah.

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Congo Banda Cluster in Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic

The Congo Banda Cluster project is actively translating the Bible into the Gobu, Ngbundu, Yakpa, and Togbo languages for the first time. These groups fled Sudan hundreds of years ago to escape Arab invaders. While most identify as Christians, many also practice African Traditional Religion when they face difficulties.

PRAY

For wisdom as the translation teams encounter linguistic challenges. Originally, it was thought that these translations could be accelerated by using another language called Mono as a model. But recently, significant differences have been discovered between Mono and these three languages—including unique consonants and vowels. Therefore, each language group needs to develop a distinct alphabet.

PRAISE

That these important language differences were discovered relatively early on, and that our partner organization responded quickly by scheduling training to help the teams with these unforeseen challenges.

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

Pierrot Bahati, Future Translation Consultant in Democratic Republic of Congo

Pierrot Bahati had been longing to get Scripture translated into his heart language, [Havu](#), since 2005. He shared his vision on a local radio station, helped form a committee to mobilize the community, and completed a master's degree in translation. As the years went by, and translation work still did not begin, Pierrot continued to faithfully pray and spread the word.

Finally, in 2018, translation work began in Havu! Pierrot served as lead translator for about five years before beginning to train as a consultant.

PRAISE

That after Pierrot completes his internship in December 2024 with flying colors, he plans to become a certified translation consultant, ready to support not only the Havu people but also the significant needs in the rest of the eastern part of his country.

Pray Now

For Joseph, an [intern](#) training to be a linguistic advisor in Democratic Republic of Congo. He writes: “I take this opportunity to inform you that I am tested. My boy Gaël Dipe was murdered by shooting. He was returning from work in the evening when his attackers trapped him in the neighborhood. This event followed the attack on my personal residence seven days before. Armed bandits burst in at 1 AM, taking everything they could.”

Friday

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

— Luke 3:3 (NLT)

"Enε te, mi gdumsi enε ha li hazu osi nde, enε kiforo sila enε. Mεgi Sɔ bebisi sembo pe enε.

— Luke 3:3 (Kete)

IMPACT STORY

From Darkness to Light: A Sorcerer's Redemption in Central African Republic

Out of about 220,000 people who speak the Gbaya [BAH' – YAH] language, roughly 60% identify as Christians. However, many still practice traditional animistic rituals as well. But praise God that the completed New Testament in their language is breaking chains!

In one Gbaya-speaking community, a man locally known as “the Almighty” was feared because of his powerful sorcery. Earlier this year, Campus Crusade for Christ visited his village and showed [the “JESUS” film](#) in Gbaya.

This man attended the screening, originally intending to cause trouble. But he was deeply moved by the film, particularly the part about John the Baptist spoken of in Luke 3:3—“And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

PRAISE

That after watching the film, this man was moved to confess his own sins and was baptized two months later as a follower of the true Almighty! Since then, he has become a devoted follower of Christ, actively involved in the church.

Praise God

For the [Tsaangi](#) Bible translation project in Republic of Congo, which continues to gain influence and support within the community! In July 2029, they will celebrate the 100th-year anniversary of the gospel reaching the Tsaangi. The team reports that, today, the prayer of every member of the community is to see the publication of the New Testament. Will you join us in praying that the full New Testament will be completed and ready to dedicate by that time?