

# 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](#)

[Get More Resources](#)

# Saturday

## PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pray that our team can travel to meet with the advisor. It is very difficult due to flooding and also travel restrictions and forced conscription fears. Pray for the Yene church and villagers, as many have fled fighting and cannot work their fields.  
— the Yene team in Asia

Praise God that nearly 3,000 copies of Genesis have been distributed. Reception has been very positive by Nyamiwezi speakers, including Muslims who have been excited to receive it.  
— the Nyamwezi team in Tanzania

Pray for Paul as he develops radio gospel broadcasts with the newly translated New Testament. Please also pray for the translation advisor's son, who has been facing severe mental health issues and was recently evicted from his apartment.  
— the Shatikha team in Asia

Pray that the Lord will care for translation intern Diana, who is suffering from insomnia and also needs work done on her teeth. Especially, join her in praying that Christ will lead her parents to trust in Him for salvation.  
— a Bible translation team in the Americas

Pray there will be more freedom for people where our team is working. Countrywide crackdowns on church meetings have affected our ability to use church buildings as they have in the past.  
— a Bible translation team in Asia

# 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. Thanks to strong partnerships across the body of Christ, Southern Africa is approaching Zero! Hindrances to finishing the task include poor roads, political instability, and lack of workers to train local translators.

## Pray for the Bibleless in This Region

People	Languages
172,480	7

*Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. January 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

### Celebrating More Than 200 Years of God's Faithfulness

The [Bible Society of Mauritius](#) [MAW – RIH' – SHUHS] celebrated its 212th anniversary in November—a testimony to the organization's more than two centuries of service to the people of Mauritius. An island nation in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius is home to roughly 1.2 million people, about one-third of whom profess Christianity.

The Bible Society in 2024 embraced significant changes to enhance its mission, including relocating to a new office. A key highlight of its work has been the re-launch of the Mauritian Creole Bible translation project after a six-year pause. The focus is now on finishing the Old Testament and completing the first Mauritian Creole Bible.

#### **PRAISE**

For the renewal and growth taking place at the Bible Society and the re-launch of the Mauritian Creole Bible translation project.

#### **PRAY**

That God will use the completed Mauritian Creole Bible to touch hearts and transform lives throughout Mauritius.

# 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)

## Angolan Sign Language

There are an estimated 378,000 Deaf people in Angola, according to [Joshua Project](#). They encounter serious challenges in most aspects of life, especially when it comes to accessing the Word of God. With no Bible available, many Deaf have little or no ability to understand the gospel. Thankfully, the movement to translate the Bible into Angolan Sign Language is gaining considerable momentum.

In addition to spiritual barriers, the Deaf face significant difficulties communicating with their families, in most public forums, and in other areas of daily life. Many who interact with them, including healthcare providers and educators, do not understand sign language, leaving them isolated and unable to express their needs fully.

Translating the Bible into Angolan Sign Language would give them access to God's Word and the hope of a new life with Jesus.

## PRAY

For wisdom and open doors for those considering plans to begin an Angolan Sign Language project.

## Pray Now

Seed Company and Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) will meet in Albuquerque January 13–14, 2025. FCBH desires to start 60 new Oral Bible Translations each year. Pray that God provides critical resources for this effort.

# 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)

## Psalms Pilot Project a Success

*A praise report from our partner Wycliffe South Africa.*

The three-year pilot project to test the Psalms That Sing approach ended successfully in December. The project tested an innovative plan to translate Psalms in an oral and poetic way with larger groups of translator-artists, who would then transcribe them, review them for quality assurance, and perform them in song—all in one day!

The groups who participated included Kom in Cameroon, [Cokwe](#) in Angola, [Kaaps](#) in South Africa, [Wantu](#) in Malawi, and [Meetto](#) and [Koti](#) in Mozambique.

Between 50 and 60 Psalms were completed in each of the 6 languages and immediately made available to their communities. The response was overwhelming. The team didn't expect to see such instant success, including the quality of the compositions, the available talent, and the extent of community excitement.

Requests to do the same in more languages in different parts of the world are coming in fast!

[Watch this song in Kaaps that reached #1 on the local Christian radio station](#)

## PRAISE

- For the “new songs” that believers in 6 languages in 5 nations are now singing, not only in church services and in homes but also spontaneously at events in their communities.
- For church leaders who had the vision to recognize the value of singing psalms and who encouraged participation in the project.

## PRAY

- For the team to complete the 10-step guides for each psalm.
- For wisdom in planning additional testing of this methodology in normal translation project settings.



# Wednesday

## TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE: TOKA-LEYA LANGUAGE OF ZAMBIA

*The thief's purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

— John 10:10 (NLT)

*Mubbi uzida feela ku bba, kujaya okusinyona. Ndakazida kuteegwa mube obuumi, bukukalilila.*

— John 10:10 (Toka-Leya)

## PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

### Drafting the Toka-Leya New Testament

The Toka-Leya team in Zambia has faced their share of challenges. The team member who helped them translate accurately passed away, another team member left the project, and the new translation method they were using was found to be slower than the original method. Their latest obstacle is load shedding, where their electricity supply is cut off for hours at a time.

Despite their difficulties, the team has been encouraged by those reviewing their work. Community members say they are often strengthened and refreshed when reading Toka-Leya Scripture. Many eagerly await the next opportunity to review translated passages and to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.

Another unexpected blessing has occurred. Toka-Leya speakers from different cultural chiefdoms and political backgrounds are coming together in unity to participate in reviewing the Scriptures.

#### **PRAY**

For a consistent electrical supply and for success as translators work to draft 12 New Testament books.

# Thursday

## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

*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)

## Meet Intern Ntisi Velry Chiloane

As an IT support intern and transcriber, Ntisi works with the Sepulana Bible translation team in South Africa. Part of her responsibilities are ensuring that the team's audio recordings are completed each week and sending them to those who review the recordings for accuracy. She has also been instrumental in putting a newly translated psalm into song.

Ntisi lives and works in a densely populated area with high unemployment where thousands of people live in poverty. She is especially passionate about serving young people and is a youth leader in her church.

## PRAY

- For the Sepulana translation team to complete their work on the New Testament.
- For Ntisi's sisters Courage and Bohlale, and others in their area who live in poverty, to find jobs.

## Pray Now

Please pray for groups of Bible translation interns in Johannesburg and Cape Town focused on IT and translation quality respectively, to be able to refocus after the festive season.

# Friday

## IMPACT STORY

*Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*

— Matthew 11:28 (NLT)

## The Strength that Comes from the Word

As part of their community evangelism activities, team members from the Nkangala project carried printed copies of the book of Matthew with them. When they came to the home of a man who had been sick for a long time, they asked if they could share God’s Word with him. The man agreed, admitting that he and his family had nearly lost hope of him ever getting well.

“When we started preaching Christ to him and sharing the love of God, everyone became attentive to hear the Word of God,” the team reports. Praise God! The man and his entire family gave their lives to the Lord. The team shared copies of Matthew with the family so they could read it in their heart language.

## PRAY

For many more Nkangala speakers to respond similarly to Jesus’ words when reading Matthew in their own language.

## Pray Now

The Word for the World, a Seed Company partner, is holding strategic planning meetings in January. Please pray that God gives them vision and wisdom for this important effort.