

# 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

Praise God for bringing an experienced man to a team in Mexico at a time when the team is struggling to add workers. Genaro, who worked with the language about 10 years ago, recently returned to help.

— the Mecayapan-Tatahuicapan Nahuatl team in Mexico

Pray for rain so that God's people can get food and so that livestock can get pasture and water. Pray that God will give our review team wisdom as they advise translators.

— a group of Bible translation interns in Tanzania

Praise God that Kompana speakers have found joy and confidence in themselves since the team began working with them two years ago. Pray that the Lord will continue to do wonders in their lives through oral translation of His Word. Pray for Atouba Timothy and his family, who the team saw come to Jesus but now suffer persecution.

— the Kompana team in Cameroon

Praise God that Starlink has provided an internet connection for the To'ambaita team. Pray that the ability of the system's battery to hold a charge will improve.

— the To'ambaita team in the Solomon Islands

The father of the team's language advisor Iljae Jung is in the hospital in South Korea with a brain hemorrhage. Please pray for the advisor, his father, and the team as they continue their work in drafting several New Testament books.

— the Wampar team in Papua New Guinea

# Pacific

The Pacific includes 27 countries spread across hundreds of islands. Local believers greatly value and desire Scripture, and hundreds of translations are in progress.

While churches are present almost everywhere, many people mix Christianity with other beliefs. This region also presents unique logistical challenges. Many language groups are very remote, and some can only be reached by boat.

Despite the great number of remaining needs, help for new translation projects is limited because trained consultants are often maxed out with existing work.

## Pray for the Bibleless in This Region

People	Languages
323,681	286

*Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. December 2024.  
Numbers may shift as new needs are discovered or languages fall out of use.*

# Sunday

## REGIONAL UPDATE

Praise reports continue to come in from the [SHEFA Oral Bible Storytelling project](#) in Vanuatu!

### **PRAISE: A CHRISTMAS GIFT LIKE NO OTHER**

Many Lelepa speakers recently heard the Christmas story in their language for the first time! Storytellers recounted Bible stories describing the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, angels and the shepherds, wise men visiting Jesus, and more. The stories were repeated in Lelepa Sunday School classes and other venues, prompting lively discussions among people of all ages.

### **PRAISE: PEOPLE REQUEST SERVICES IN THEIR HEART LANGUAGES**

One pastor telling an oral Bible story in Namakura was surprised by his congregation's reaction. "It was like the people woke up during the sermon because it was in their language," he says.

On the island of Efate, people who heard Elder Pita teach stories in the local North Efate language are now suggesting a switch from services in the national language to services in their dialect.

# 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)

## Aiome in Papua New Guinea

The average age among Aiome speakers is only 15 years old. Their remote area has no doctors, and many people die from preventable diseases before they reach their 60s. Few children attend school.

Most of the 1,800 people there identify as Christian, but the closest things they have to Scripture in their language are some Bible teachings. Even those are hard to access due to limited internet access.

A New Testament from a related language group, Rao, could provide a bridge for Aiome translation, but logistical obstacles would need to be overcome. Uninhabited mountain terrain separates the communities.

## PRAY

For the Lord of the harvest to provide strategies and workers to come alongside Aiome people to translate Scripture and help improve their living conditions.

## Pray Now

Pray that Starlink will be approved for use in Papua New Guinea. We praised God [in February](#) when a national agency approved Starlink, but that decision has been challenged in court. Pray that the case will be resolved soon and that Bible translation organizations in remote locations in country will be able to use this technology to bolster their internet-based activities and communications.

# 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)

## Language & Culture Unit of the Evangelical Church of West Timor

Just over a [year ago](#), we prayed for the work of this wonderful partner in Bible translation in southern Indonesia. Last May, they experienced the loss of their beloved director, [June Jacob](#), when she passed away unexpectedly.

Their prayers for the “perfect person” to fill that position were answered recently with the appointment of Rev. Samuel Nitti.

Earlier this year, Rev. Nitti was pressured to run for a political position he would have likely won, but he felt then that God wanted him to focus on Bible translation and encouraging heart language ministry.

## PRAISE

That God has provided the “perfect person.” His experience equips him to understand so many areas: Bible translation, church policies, organizational management, theology, and the inner workings of the government.

## Pray Now

The advisor from SIL, a partner organization working with the Ghayavi team in Papua New Guinea, has had to return to the United States with their family for medical reasons. Pray for the family as they seek God's will for the future, along with the Ghayavi team, who are drafting New Testament books to help counter the people's false religions and address the root of their drug and alcohol abuse.



# Wednesday

## TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE: ENGA LANGUAGE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

— Genesis 1:1 (NLT)

*Tee pyao Goteme yuupa kaitipa dolapo pyoo injia-pyaa.*

— Genesis 1:1 (Enga)

## PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

### Enga Team Shifts Focus to Old Testament Translation

In [July](#), we prayed for the Enga community and celebrated the launch of their New Testament. Since then, numerous people have enthusiastically bought copies and downloaded the Enga Bible app.

[Watch Video: “Getting the Word Out about the Enga New Testament”](#)

Now that the Enga New Testament has been published and dedicated, many people have been asking team members if they plan to translate the Old Testament too. The good news is that the team has already drafted 18 Old Testament books!

#### PRAISE

- That Enga speakers are embracing Scripture in their language and eager to receive more!
- That news about the translated New Testament is spreading throughout Enga communities.

#### PRAY

- For the consultant checking of the remaining chapters in Genesis to go smoothly, resulting in a high-quality translation.
- That team members will become adept at translating literary styles in the Old Testament.

# 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)

## 3 Interns Building Local Capacity in Vanuatu

We've followed the journeys of Philip Joses, Robert Pel, and Georgie Reman over the last couple of years as they [conducted language surveys](#) and as [God protected them during cyclones](#). They're all involved in the key ministry of Scripture engagement, helping communities use and benefit from God's Word as it is translated into their language.

### Philip Joses

Over the last few months, Philip got to travel to Thailand for partner meetings, Australia for training, and South Korea for the [Lausanne Conference](#), which he said helped him “get new insight into how we should partner for Christ's mission.” He has also been involved in [Oral Bible Storytelling workshops](#). One church has even begun arranging for all of their Sunday School teachers to receive Oral Bible Storytelling training.

## Georgie Reman

Georgie has also been helping Philip with training [Oral Bible Storytelling teams](#).

[Watch him tell a Bible story at one of their workshops.](#)

## Robert Pel

In July, [we prayed for the “Taste of Translation” workshop being held for the Akei people](#). During this workshop, Robert helped them map out where their language was spoken so they could strategize about how to conduct their translation project.

[Watch Robert in action.](#)

## PRAY

- For wisdom for Philip and his wife as they parent their two sons. One son is so energetic that he often has difficulty concentrating in class.
- For Georgie and Robert to finish well and for God to guide their next steps as they conclude their internships at the end of February.

# Friday

## IMPACT STORY

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

— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

## Two Indonesian Communities Celebrate Their First Translations

For centuries, Lembur-speaking clans on the island of Alor were “forgotten” and marginalized socially, economically, and linguistically. Only recently were they recognized as a unique ethnic group. The launch of the Gospel of Mark and a small book of hymns in Lembur drew people from far and wide on November 1 to celebrate the first fruits of the newly trained Lembur Bible translation team.

Three days earlier, the Aadang community dedicated their own first translations at a historic church. This area of Alor was one of the first to embrace the Gospel over 100 years ago.

## PRAISE

- Lembur speakers see their Scripture as “evidence that God cares for us.”
- Aadang speakers regard their Scripture as critical for deepening their faith.

## PRAY

- For God’s Word to spread among these people and take root in their hearts.