

# 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
	U	1	~		Equipping the Saints	Scripture Dedications

Pray With Others

Get More Resources



## Saturday

#### PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Church leaders are gathering February 17–19 for a session of the Foundations Bible School, which they run and teach independently. Teachers are using the new translation of Matthew as their primary text. Pray that students will understand the Word and begin using the translation to teach Matthew in their own churches. — The Cambodian Jarai team in Mainland Asia

Pray that God will guide the minds and hearts of our country's political leaders as they work on deeply rewriting the laws on religious freedom. Many of the items discussed curtail Islamic practice here, but its passage also requires the government to show that it restricts Christian practice here.

— A Bible translation team in Eurasia

Praise God for a local church that wants to hear about our team's translation activities. They have invited us to share what God is doing, present a final reading, and show the "JESUS" film. — A Bible translation team in Asia

Pray for the safety of a translation intern's family members. Some have been in prison since their arrest by the military a year ago, and cannot be contacted or receive clothes, medicine, or other care items. Others have fled into fields and mountains due to fighting in the intern's home town. — A Bible translation intern in Asia



# South Asia

Home to more than 2 billion people, a staggering 26% of the world's population, South Asia covers four countries. Once ruled by the British, these nations are now thriving democracies. While some parts of South Asia have had Christian presence from the earliest centuries, in recent years, persecution has increased sharply. Political parties oppose Christian outreach, and church leaders have been arrested.

#### Pray for Those Still Waiting for Bible Translation to Start

We praise God that most of the known Bibleless languages in South Asia have been engaged in translation, according to <u>Progress.Bible</u>. While this is a huge milestone, partners strongly believe there are many more needs that haven't been discovered yet. In addition, many translation teams in early stages have a long, difficult road ahead before their people receive significant portions of Scripture. Please continue praying for initiatives like the <u>Finish Line Project</u> that are trying to find and reach the remaining South Asian people groups in need of God's Word.

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



# Sunday

### **REGIONAL UPDATE**

## Racing to Complete 43 Full Bibles, 44 New Testaments

Can you imagine the impact 43 more full Bibles will create in a country? And 44 New Testaments among its fairly large language communities? And portions of Scripture in 30 more languages, many of which do not have any literature in them? All finished by 2033?

In a major collaborative <u>initiative</u>, 20 Bible translation organizations of a major country in South Asia have joined hands to take the lead in completing those targets, called the All Access Goals. They met January 23–25 and agreed on a plan to achieve the goals in time.

#### PRAISE

- That work has already started on the 44 New Testaments (for languages with 5,000–500,000 population).
- Of the 43 remaining full Bible projects (planned for populations over 500,000), 36 already have New Testaments.

#### PRAY

That increased collaboration and use of artificial intelligence will help accelerate Old Testament translation and reaching the All Access Goals.



## Monday

#### IMPACT STORY

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

### **God Works Through Another Paul**

Since 2013, the Huntang people have received most of the Bible in their language. The translation committee recently gathered and thanked God for events He ordained during that time.

One story recalled how a church planting organization brought Paul and other young boys from a neighboring country to be educated. Paul eventually attended a Bible college. There, he saw that others had Bibles in their own language and realized that "someone" must have translated them. He prayed to be that "someone" for his people.

#### PRAISE

Paul's prayers were answered when he was recruited to help a linguistic research team, who later introduced him to a Bible translation organization. As a result, Paul worked on the New Testament which was dedicated in 2019 and he continues to work on the Old Testament today.



## Pray Now

Hostilities are increasing against Christian workers in some parts of South Asia. There are grave concerns about the arrests of a pastor and his wife, related to their country's laws about converting people from one religion to another. The court has sentenced them to imprisonment for 5 years. Pray for protection from those who seek to hinder the spread of the good news.



## 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)

## DOOR: 40 years of Ministry to the Deaf

DOOR International is a global leader in sign language Bible translation with an inspiring vision: "Every Deaf person transformed by knowing, following, and serving God!"

On February 1, DOOR hosted one of several global gatherings, this one in a major South Asian country, to joyously celebrate 40 years as a ministry—and 25 years of ministry in that country!

The celebration drew national and international leaders, translation consultants, translation teams from numerous countries and centers, DOOR's Two-by-Two Outreach Mission leaders, artists, technicians, managers, and facilitators, all of whom praised God for what He has accomplished through them.

#### PRAISE

DOOR has seen over 3,500 Deaf leaders trained as evangelists, teachers, or leaders in the church. Over 1,000 Deaf churches have been planted.

#### PRAY

For even more fruit from this organization's ministry to Deaf communities worldwide.



## Pray Now

Partner organization IEM was not given approval for a renewed FCRA, which means that they cannot receive foreign funding—including funds from Seed Company—for projects they handle. Pray that God will provide a solution for working with this longstanding partner and the multiple active projects they manage.

## Success Story

Chronological Bible Translation (originally called Chronological Bible Storying) has been recognized as the best spiritual formation resource for the Deaf. Its phenomenal success was a special cause for celebration at the recent gathering. What began in partnership with Seed Company in the southern part of this South Asian country has now extended to its northern states—and to other countries in the region. DOOR's sign language Bible translation consultants, most of whom developed through Seed Company's internship programs, play a crucial role in the organization.



## Wednesday

## TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE: TRICAL LANGUAGE OF SOUTH ASIA

Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law, we become conscious of our sin. — Romans 3:20 (NIV)

Kerongnalni mote tongkhlaise Kaitor borognw raidia hinwi yachaknw omoya, matwr kerongnalni bisingtwi borog sakni sumsokni kothoyw chetwn manw. — Romans 3:20 (Trical)

It is not that God will accept people as righteous if they obey the law, but through the law people get consciousness of their sins.

— Romans 3:20 (translated back into English from Trical)



## PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT Trical of South Asia

Trical is one of four language communities that will dedicate New Testaments this Friday in a South Asian country. About one-fifth of the 86,000 Trical speakers identify as Christian. The region was originally animistic in their beliefs, and later influenced by another major world religion.

Project partners will distribute the Scriptures in print and audio formats for evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. Social media and church programs will further extend outreach efforts.

In response to strong demand for Scripture, the team has begun working on the Old Testament, beginning with Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Ruth, Psalms, Proverbs, and Jonah.

When asked what their big dream would be for the Trical people, one translator said, "Every church and every believer will have our translated Bible; they will use our Bible instead of others."

#### PRAY

That the Trical New Testament will strengthen believers' faith, equip the church, break superstitions and evil practices, and foster long-term spiritual growth in the community.



# 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)

## **Commissioning a Consultant**

For nine challenging years, Reuben remained laser focused as he completed sign language linguistics programs at North Dakota University and Africa International University, while also fulfilling numerous training requirements as a Seed Company intern.

On Sunday, February 2, during a moving ceremony hosted by DOOR International, Reuben's efforts culminated in joyful celebration as he was formally certified and accredited as a sign language Bible translation consultant!

To highlight the servant leadership role of a Bible translation consultant, ceremony organizers performed a foot-washing ceremony. Attendees watched in awe as senior consultants humbly washed Reuben's feet.

#### PRAISE

That God is raising up more sign language consultants—filling a desperately needed role in the Bible translation world.

#### PRAY

For Reuben as he serves translation teams in South Asia, and several African countries and as he works closely with Deaf graphic artist teams across several additional countries.



# Friday

### PRAY FOR A SCRIPTURE DEDICATION

It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. — Isaiah 55:11 (NLT)

## Join the Celebration!

The first nationally led Bible translation initiative in a densely populated South Asian country—the New Shoots <u>Cluster project</u>—is celebrating an exciting milestone: the Kajol, Kang, Ruk, and Trical people are dedicating their completed New Testaments today!

Through unwavering commitment and perseverance, the four teams of translators, church leaders, and community members worked tirelessly to bring God's Word to their people. Increasing access to Scripture has drawn countless people to Christ from these communities dominated by Hindu, Buddhist, or animistic beliefs.

#### PRAISE

For God's faithfulness in enabling the teams to overcome obstacles and experience remarkable growth in their project.

#### PRAY

- For wisdom and guidance as the teams transition to Old Testament translation.
- For team members and local believers to remain unified amid political unrest.