

# 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 Journey to Zero

Use this guide to pray strategically and effectively for the work of Bible translation around the world.

# Mainland Asia

Mainland Asia is home to millions who have never read a single verse of Scripture in their heart language. In this vast region, the need for Bible translation is immense—and the challenges are real. Governments can be unstable or hostile, and translators often work quietly, facing constant risk. Yet God is moving. New projects are beginning, and courageous believers are stepping forward to serve. Pray boldly for 20 new translation projects to launch in the coming years. Ask God to strengthen and protect those who labor in secret so that every person in Mainland Asia can one day experience His Word in a language they understand.

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

People	Languages
24.4 M	147

## Pray for Those without the full Bible – 197.3 M

*Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. December 2025.*

*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.*

# PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pray for the family of Heliana, who along with her husband Oseas has facilitated the Awaete project since Seed Company's involvement began in 2012. While attending the mission's (ALEM) conference in December, they received the heartbreaking news that Heliana was diagnosed with gastric cancer. The Lord took her home in early January. The couple has a son, Lukas, who is married and has a baby girl, and a daughter, Deborah, who works as a missionary in Asia. The Awaete people fondly refer to her as their missionary.

— **The Awaete team in South America**

Praise God that our communities have received printed copies of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. Pray for us as we community test Mark, and for all teams during a time of transition in the government.

— **A Bible translation team in the Americas**

Pray for translator Lois, who was accused of illegally influencing school-aged children. She was detained and then released by police for telling Christmas stories, which one child had repeated to other children. Police said they intended to bring charges. Pray for God's protection and peace for her and our team.

— **A Bible translation team in Mainland Asia**

Pray for the well-being of our team members, some of whom face severe challenges. When translator Felipe's daughter underwent surgery for a brain tumor, doctors discovered another tumor that will need to be removed after she recovers from the first surgery. It has left Felipe ill, exhausted, and heavily in debt. Another translator, Esteban, suffered a stroke affecting his mouth and eye, while also causing pain in his ear and head.

— **The Ixil and Poqomchi teams in Guatemala**

# Scripted Prayer

You go before me and follow me.  
You place your hand of blessing on my head.  
– Psalm 139:5 NLT

*Dear Father,*

*I pray for the churches and translators supporting Bible translation in Mainland Asia. May they experience Your constant presence, trusting You have gone before them and are following behind. Place your hand of blessing on their heads, guiding every step and decision. Surround them with Your care, and strengthen them to serve faithfully. Amen.*

# Regional Update

## Partnering in Prayer for Mainland Asia

In one sensitive region of Mainland Asia, millions still lack access to God's Word in their heart language.

The team is committed to "lead with prayer," knowing that the work ahead cannot be accomplished without God's intervention. They believe prayer is the starting line and the finish line for Bible translation—and they are inviting you to join them.

Over the next few years, the vision is bold: 20 new translation projects launched to bring Scripture to communities still waiting. To see this happen, the team needs God to raise up workers and open doors for partnerships. They are praying for a national believer to join the team, and for the safety of those in critical support roles that are already serving in the region.

As the work grows, there is also a need for personnel who can help train, administrate, and manage projects. These roles are essential for sustaining momentum and ensuring quality translation.

The team has seen God confirm they are on the right track, but they know this progress depends on specific prayer. Will you partner with them, praying for these specific requests? Pray for open doors, strong partnerships, and God's provision for every need—so that His Word reaches every language in this region.

## PRAY

- Pray for 20 new translation projects in Mainland Asia the next few years.
- Pray that God will bring a national from this region to join the Mainland Asia team.
- Pray for the training and development of 4 new Global Translation Leaders in 2026.
- Pray for national field personnel to help train, administrate, and manage projects as the work grows.

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# Impact Story

## Gaining New Insights from the Book of Ruth

With the completion of their New Testament in 2025, Khily translators have started drafting the Old Testament. Later this month, a consultant will join them remotely to review their drafts of the books of Ruth and Jonah to ensure that the translation is accurate and sounds natural.

Most Khily speakers earn their living through agriculture, but many have been displaced from their villages due to clashes between soldiers and resistance groups. Roughly 95% identify as Christians. Several believers have served as community “reviewers,” looking over translators’ initial drafts and helping teams perfect the translation.

One man who participated in the community’s review of Ruth was encouraged by the words of Ruth’s mother-in-law, Naomi, who said, “Just be patient, my daughter, until we hear what happens...” Ruth 3:18a (NLT). Ruth wisely listened “and patiently waited” as instructed, the man observed, adding, “From this passage, I learned that sometimes we need to be patient and trust that God will bring about His plan in His perfect timing.”

One community reviewer involved in pastoral ministry remembers pondering the truths in Ruth 1:16b, “Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God” (NLT). The passage not only challenged him but also “encouraged me to be faithful to God till the end,” he says.

## **PRAISE**

- For protecting the team from all kinds of conflicts and challenges.
- For giving them the opportunity to start the Old Testament translation.

## **PRAY**

- For wisdom and strength for the team as we are starting the translation work.
- For restoration of peace in their nation.
- For those who provide financial and prayer support for the Khily team.
- For the consultants and others who advise the team.
- For the successful completion of the publication process of the Khily New Testament.

# Field Partners

## The Work Must Go On

Field partner LSDO is managing 6 translation projects in a country with enormous challenges. Their staff are separated by large distances as some have had to flee to a neighboring country due to security concerns and the threat of military conscription. They are living in basic housing with travel restrictions and limited access to electricity and the internet. Those remaining in the country face daily power cuts, economic hardship, and civil unrest.

Despite these difficulties, Bible translation and literacy activities have continued. LSDO even plans to start 3 more projects. They are working with Seed Company and [SIL](#), an international linguistics and translation organization, to provide training for their teams. They are assessing the teams' ongoing needs and how to offer further training opportunities. They aim to equip both new and experienced teams to carry out their vital tasks and thrive.

### **PRAISE**

- That overwhelming obstacles have not prevented God's Word from being translated into 6 local languages.

### **PRAY**

- That God will provide funding for 3 new projects and creative ways to deliver the funding to the teams.
- That LSDO will continue growing in leadership skills and financial management.

## Pray Now

### *Police Officers Touched by Audio Scriptures*

A woman from the Val community shared how God used her oral Scripture audio player in an unexpected way. One day, a group of police officers stopped her for a routine check and asked about the audio player she was carrying. At first, nervous about how to respond, the woman calmly explained that it contained stories from the Bible in her heart language.

The officers asked if they could listen. She handed the player to them, and as they listened, their attitudes changed. Their rough tone became gentler. One officer said, “These words are good. They bring peace.” She was amazed to see how God’s Word in a brief moment had touched their hearts.

Pray that God would continue to soften hearts among the Val community, and that many, after listening to His Word in their language, will turn to Him.

# Translated Scripture

## CAMBODIAN JARAI [JAH-RAHY'] LANGUAGE

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

— Romans 1:1–4 (NIV)

ឆី នឹងហ៍ នុន តា ទី ឡៃគ ហ្សឹមម៍ ប៉ះ មីង ម្លះម៍ អាមព្យហាំ អើយ បន តា គៈ សាល់  
ដេះ? អាមព្យហាំ ហ្សុវ ម្លះម៍ យុត? ឆី អា យ៉ាប អាមព្យហាំ កប៉ះ ហ្នង់ យ៉ា មីង ម្លះម៍ ញ ងៈ នុន  
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អាងម៍ អុះ។ តាំ ហ្សា ពហ្សាប់ម៍ អើយ បៃ អា ជិះ ច្រោះ ហ្សឹមម៍ ប៉ះ? អា ជិះ ច្រោះ  
ឡៃគៈ «អាមព្យហាំ ឆី អើយ បៃ នុន អើយ បៃ យ៉ាប ញ មនូស កប៉ះ ហ្នង់ យ៉ា ញ ងៈ»។  
មនូស ងៈ ម្លះម៍ លែន អា ប៉ះ ញ នុន អា ថី យ៉ាប លែន អា ម្រីយ ខើច អុះ លែន នុន ខា  
ញ ងៈ ម្លះម៍ យុះ។

Romans 1:1–4 (Cambodian Jarai)

# Language Group

## Cambodian Jarai Project

Most Cambodian Jarai speakers practice animism—including some of the 10% who claim Christ. Before this project began several years ago, Christian leaders could only teach from Scriptures in the national language or in non-local dialects. Today, heart language Scripture is being read and listened to throughout the Jarai community.

In this project phase, team members are translating 6 New Testament books along with 5 Psalms that will serve as the basis for worship songs.

## Pray for Cambodian Jarai Speakers

In the past few months, at least 3 Jarai churches have held baptism services, with more than 50 people making their commitment to Christ public. All 3 churches used the Cambodian Jarai baptism booklet drafted by the translation team. This booklet includes a Scripture lesson on the meaning of baptism, a small set of baptismal vows, and translation of the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. Older baptismal candidates, in particular, found the Jarai materials extremely helpful, because they do not understand Khmer (the national language) very well.

**Please pray** for Jarai translators who are participating in the Ratanakiri Pastors' Bible School. In this session, they will continue studying a biblical view of finances. Pray that God would use the lessons to lead them to increasing freedom from debt, financial anxiety, and greed.

**Join us in praising God** for a successful 3-day session of the Jarai Foundations Bible School last October. The session covered the book of 1 Timothy, published last year into Cambodian Jarai. Pray that the nearly 70 students who attended would put into practice what they learned and teach the book of 1 Timothy in their own churches and homes.

# Global Translation Leader

## Global Translation Leader Reaches a Community

When Global Translation Leader Pauline and her husband moved to Chiang Mai, Thailand, they were surprised to find many Yakan people there. She saw that the few believers among them were not aware that some Scriptures had been published in Yakan. They attended churches that worshiped in other languages.

Pauline introduced them to Bible apps and began online Yakan literacy classes to help them read and write in their mother tongue so they could access Scripture directly. She also initiated Saturday teaching and outreach with children in a village, where she and other Yakan speakers are now sharing the gospel every month. In December, she launched a Yakan-speaking church in Chiang Mai.

Pauline is grateful that the Lord has provided her with good health, allowing her to finish her third semester of training.

### **PRAISE**

- That Yakan Christians are worshiping together in their heart language.
- That Pauline's father, who has a strong animist background, decided to be baptized.

### **PRAY**

- For the Holy Spirit's guidance as Pauline leads the Yakan church.
- That more people who speak Yakan will become aware of and begin using the Bible in the Yakan Bible.

# FIELD PARTNERS

## The Word for the World

The Word for the World (TWFTW) empowers language communities to translate the Bible into their heart language by investing in local people, providing translation training, and building sustainable infrastructure.

A translation team in Mainland Asia (managed by TWFTW) shares reflections on their experience translating Matthew 13:31–32, which compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. The team states, “The kingdom of God can begin from small things but carries great life and impact. We pray that God will help us remain faithful in Bible translation, even in the smallest sentences. We believe that He will use each ‘seed’ of His Word, accurately translated, to plant faith, hope, and new life in the hearts of many in our community. Human wisdom is limited, but He grants us wisdom, patience, and reverence for Him so that everything we do contributes to expanding His kingdom.”

### **PRAISE**

That this team has translated 90% of the New Testament and 30% of the Old Testament.

### **PRAY**

- That God will give the team strength, wisdom, and perseverance as the translators carry out their work in a nation that opposes the gospel.
- That the Lord will continue equipping TWFTW to manage numerous translation projects, especially those operating in sensitive countries.

# Impact or Scripture Use

## Local Monk Responds to Yadhok Scriptures

During this past summer, Seed Company's project manager for the Yadhok translation team traveled with the field partner's director and the team's Scripture engagement worker to a Yadhok community. They brought two videographers to gather footage for a video highlighting the translation project.

A Buddhist monk came to see what foreigners were doing in his area, bringing eggs with him for their breakfast. The Scripture engagement worker played recorded Yadhok Scriptures on an audio player he'd brought. This monk listened quietly to Jesus' words from Luke's Gospel.

He responded, "This is my language. These words must be true. They are very wise words." He invited the visitors to his home so he could hear more of Jesus' teachings. The group left the audio player with him, which included the books of Luke and Acts, as well as portions of Genesis.

## **PRAISE**

- For safety as the group traveled to and from this remote region, and for opportunities to share God's Word with several people along the way.
- For the Buddhist monk's positive reaction to heart language Scriptures.

## **PRAY**

- That God will open the Buddhist monk's heart and mind to understand and embrace Christ's love and gospel message.
- For the Scripture engagement worker as he continues traveling throughout this area by himself, that God will protect him and provide opportunities to share translated Scriptures.

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## Pray Now

### *Praying for Biblical Marriages*

In many parts of Mainland Asia, marriages are done the traditional way. Husbands and wives have clearly defined roles. And the vision couples have for their marriages, even pastors and ministry couples, is basic. If you are loyal to your spouse, you have a good marriage, it is thought.

But the view of marriage taught in Scripture is much deeper. Marriage is a theological theme running from Genesis to Revelation. It is a spiritual friendship in which one man and one woman join hands with each other and the Lord, and progress together in their discipleship their whole lives long.

If mother tongue translators and translation organizational staff could experience marriage as God thought of it, then their lives, families, and ministries would glorify God much more radiantly.

Please pray that ministry leaders and translators in this region will gain a greater understanding of God's design for marriage so that their marriages will become more and more of a clear reflection of Christ's love for His Bride, the church, just as God intended all along.