

# 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 daily guide to pray strategically and effectively for Bible translation each day of the week.

## Find More Resources:

[prayforzero.com](http://prayforzero.com)

# SOUTH ASIA

Home to more than 2 billion people across several nations, the South Asia region represents a rich mosaic of languages, cultures, and religious traditions. Although some people have welcomed the gospel since the earliest centuries, vast multitudes across the region have never heard or understood the good news of Jesus in the language they know best. Many believers today face increasing pressure, opposition, or persecution for their faith. Yet amid growing challenges, local churches and partners continue working faithfully so that all people will have all of God's Word in a language they understand.

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

Languages	Population
5	10,537,250

## Pray for Those without the full Bible

Population
280.3 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.*

“So we fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and he heard our prayer.”

Ezra 8:23 (NLT)

# PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Praise God for the work accomplished by translators and facilitators at a 3-month storytelling initiative. The group's collective focus on translation and artificial intelligence (AI) development proved to be transformative. Indigenous participants were profoundly moved while recording several stories.

— **A Bible translation intern in Brazil**

Pray that the Lord will continue protecting translators and their families from attacks and kidnappings that are common in our area.

— **The Baycawara team in Cameroon**

Reports in early February indicated that all of our translation team members and their families have been affected by the government's response to unrest around our region. Some have been shot, gassed, and/or beaten. They have seen people around them killed, including women and children. Pray that God will guard their hearts and minds as they lean on Christ; that teams persevere during this traumatic time; that those in need of medical, emotional, and spiritual support will receive it; and that evil will be restrained.

— **Bible translation teams in Eurasia**

Pray for the health of our translation committee. Many members have passed away and others are sick. Pray for completion of workshops and preparation of Hebrew for consultant checking.

— **The Kakabai team in Papua New Guinea**

# REGIONAL UPDATE

## *Exciting First Gathering*

Bible translation organizations in a large South Asian nation hosted the first-ever illumiNations gathering in their country from January 15–17, 2026. More than 30 couples gathered at a picturesque lakeside venue. The event generated exciting interest and generous support for Bible translation work in the remaining languages of their country.

A joint program led by partner organization Last Command Initiative (LCI) was considered a highlight of the event. LCI leaders and founding members praised God for His faithfulness throughout the past 18 years of collaborative effort, and they celebrated the accomplishment of Vision 2025—to start Bible translation projects in all 197 remaining (at that time) languages by 2025.

LCI then shared their vision for the future and what it means to partner with others to accomplish the remaining All Access Goals for their country. These goals are: The completion of 43 full Bibles, 44 New Testaments, and 35 Scripture portions before 2033.

## **PRAISE**

For this meaningful gathering that fostered enthusiasm and commitment to bringing God's Word to remaining people groups in South Asia.

## **PRAY**

- That the families who attended the gathering will grow in their passion and desire to see people receive and engage with Scripture in their own language.
- For strengthened collaboration among Bible translation organizations that will enable them to accomplish even more than they are currently planning.

# ACTIVE PROJECT

## *Shetel: Resilient Work on a Strategic Language*

Shetel, which has more than 11 million speakers, is one of the most significant language groups that we engage in South Asia. With substantial diaspora communities, their linguistic reach, mobility, and digital connectivity make them especially strategic.

But the complex cultural and religious landscape in their region presents a challenging environment for Bible translation. Traditions and devotional practices of other world religions are deeply embedded in daily life. They also face persistent issues such as poverty, land insecurity, and increasing pressure from religious fundamentalism.

Careful planning, sensitivity, and strong local partnerships are necessary to ensure sustainable and appropriate translation and engagement efforts.

Team members have demonstrated notable resilience and progress. They have completed important parts of the Old Testament and Scripture-based video content. Their next phase includes more Old Testament books, a revised New Testament, and additional literacy and engagement resources.

The language has a strong oral heritage shaped by poetry, storytelling, and devotional music, which continues to influence how Scripture is received and shared today. The project emphasizes oral, audio, and digital Scripture formats alongside written translation.

Digital engagement has grown steadily, building a strong social media following and reaching tens of thousands through a Scripture app. Shetel Scripture is also widely used in house churches, supporting the

growth of local believers and expanding access to God's Word across a highly influential language group.

## **PRAY**

- For protection and courage for believers and church leaders who serve faithfully amid pressure and opposition.
- That violence, unrest, and extremism will be restrained in this nation, and that justice will prevail following national elections held in mid-February.
- For religious freedom that safeguards all minority communities under future leadership.
- For renewed hope and real opportunities for the nation's youth. Many face unemployment and uncertainty.
- That the gospel will take deep root, exalting Christ and producing spiritual revival and awakening throughout the nation.

# FIELD PARTNERS

## *Celebrating a New Partnership With CBS*

Seed Company has a new partner in South Asia, the 214-year-old Ceylon Bible Society (CBS). CBS was founded during the island's early British colonial period as an auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

CBS has historically made Scripture available in the major languages of the island and kept updating them. This partnership realizes CBS's newly broadened vision for Bible translation in the island's marginalized, minority languages.

The immediate plan is to collaboratively work on an Oral Bible Translation project for one of the indigenous languages. Faith Comes By Hearing will also be involved as a technical partner.

### **PRAISE**

For CBS's devotion to Bible translation for more than 2 centuries.

### **PRAY**

- That CBS will be able to work closely with the community and its scant population of Christians, and God will prepare their hearts to receive His Word.
- That God will raise the right team of translators from the community and train them well.

## SCRIPTED PRAYER

“Those who live in the shelter of the Most High  
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare about the Lord:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;

He is my God, and I trust him.”

-Psalm 91:1-2 NLT

Dear Father, I pray for believers around the world to find true rest and safety in Your presence, trusting You as their refuge. As Your Word spreads through Bible translation, draw people into a supernatural encounter with You—awaken faith and deep trust in the God who shelters, protects, and stays near. May every heart be comforted by the promise that You are their place of safety, their God in whom they can trust. Amen.

# TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE

## *Makhmali [MAHK-MAH'-LEE] Language of South Asia*

*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. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.*

— John 3:16-17 (NLT)

हीजैडेनाड परमेश्वरै संसारुड भर्मीकोलाक याड्च प्रेम जाता, की होसकै लहो काटजा मीजाकी र याहा। होसकोकी विश्वास जाट्च सुर नाश माछान्ने, तर होचे सेन र मासीच जीवन डुप्ले। परमेश्वरै संसारुड भर्मीकोलाक दोषी ठहरीकी डेयार लहो मीजाकी बीर्न्हकाच होइन, तर होखुरीककी जीवाटाक्की डेम बीर्न्हकाच हो।

— John 3:16-17 (Makhmali)

*Because God loved the people of the world so much, so that He gave His one and only Son. No one will perish of those who believe in Him, but will get never-dying life. God did not send His Son to condemn the people of the world, but he sent him to save them.*

— John 3:16-17 (translated back into English from Makhmali)

# THE MAKHMALI PEOPLE

More than 450,000 people speak Makhmali, with about 1% identifying as Christians. Most adhere to a major world religion out of fear or threats of fines.

Makhmali speakers are known for their faithfulness, hospitality, and strong sense of community. Subsistence farming and cattle rearing sustain most families, but young people often journey abroad to find work. With little to no transportation, communication, or electric infrastructure, the Makhmali struggle economically. And they continue to be plagued by social ills such as superstition, gender inequality, and human trafficking.

Previously published Makhmali Scripture has stimulated church growth, and community members have a growing desire to have the full Word of God translated into Makhmali. In this project phase, translators are drafting several Old Testament books.

# NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE DEDICATION

Over 500 Makhmali believers and guests gathered on December 2, 2025, to celebrate an exciting milestone—the dedication of the New Testament in their language. Many came from great distances, far exceeding expectations and filling the celebration with joy and gratitude.

Through special songs, dances, worship, and messages, the dedication reflected the heart of Makhmali speakers. A powerful moment occurred when dancers acted out a “call to go and find our relatives,” symbolizing God’s invitation to bring His Word to the whole community. Pastors and leaders prayed over the new Scriptures and unwrapped them together. Then they invited everyone to open to John 3:16. As the verse was read aloud, voices across the room responded with “Amen!” and “Hallelujah!”

For translators Ganesh and Anita, the day marked the fulfillment of a journey that began more than a decade ago. “After 10 years, we have the New Testament in our language, and we are very happy,” Ganesh shared.

Team members felt deeply moved as they saw the New Testament placed in people’s hands, especially when many shared they would read it at home, bring it to church, and use it in fellowship gatherings. Hundreds of copies have already been distributed, including to elderly folks and mothers who do not understand the national language well. Now, God’s Word can speak clearly to them in the language of their hearts.

[Click here to watch a video from the Makhmali dedication ceremony celebration](#)

## **PRAISE**

- For 3 New Testament dedications held back-to-back for 3 language teams who have been working together for 10 years on the Rhododendron Cluster project.
- For the audio recordings of the New Testaments that were recently completed.

## **PRAY**

- For the effective distribution of these New Testaments across the plains and rugged hills where these 3 languages groups are located.
- That the Makhmali New Testament will strengthen the faith of believers and draw many unbelievers to Jesus.
- For the project's translation teams as they begin working on the Old Testament using AI-assisted drafting.

## SCRIPTED PRAYER

“For we live by believing and not by seeing.”

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT)

Dear Father,

I praise you for the work you are doing in the South Asia region. Strengthen our confidence in You, Lord, knowing You are working, protecting, and faithfully carrying out Your purposes for Your people. Amen.

# TRANSLATOR'S STORY

## *Choosing Ministry Over Job Security*

When Peter graduated from college, his church offered to pay for him to pursue theological studies. But he did not want to be in “full-time” ministry. He said he would seek other jobs. He applied for many positions but could not find work. When the Moltansa project’s translation committee asked Peter to be part of their team, he turned them down. He had just finished an interview with a coal mining company and was hoping for a job offer. The job offer never came.

Some 2 years later, the committee approached Peter again about joining the team. They needed a man who could travel and test translation work in the villages. Peter’s wife encouraged him to consider their offer. He joined the team shortly thereafter in 2017.

Recently, Peter and another team member were preparing to record the Moltansa New Testament, but Peter felt conflicted. He had recently received an offer letter to be a mining company supervisor, which would offer good wages and job security.

As he considered the job offer, God’s Word brought clarity. Says Peter, “As we were reading Luke 9, my whole confusion ceased as I came to verse 62, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and then looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’ I decided not to look back. And I committed myself to carry on the task that the Lord has given me, until he asks me to stop.”

## **PRAISE**

- Team members praise God for leading them, including Peter, to be a part of His work.
- The Moltansa New Testament was recently dedicated. Praise God that this community now has His Word in their language!

## **PRAY**

- Pray that God would use the now available Moltansa New Testament in their community. Addictions and false religions keep many people in spiritual bondage.
- Many believers have struggled to understand God's Word. Pray that the Holy Spirit will illumine the translated Scriptures so that many will grow in their faithfulness in following Jesus.

# FIELD PARTNERS

## *A Partner's Team Is "Born for This Very Purpose"*

[The Word for the World](#) is built on the idea that language communities take responsibility for Bible translation and related activities and ensure its availability and accessibility.

As a result, a local team is expecting to finish the New Testament by December for one of the smallest tribes in a large South Asian nation.

"God powerfully encouraged us by placing in our heart the desire to bring His word to [this tribe], ... which had never had the Bible in our language," they report.

"This mission feels like the fulfillment of the Scripture, 'Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.' As we translated the gospels, we felt a divine calling, as though we were born for this very purpose.

"This sense of being part of God's plan filled us with strength, joy and motivation, reminding us that we are an instrument in bringing His Word to our people and glorifying His name."

### **PRAISE**

That God is gracious to generously equip and inspire these translators.

### **PRAY**

For the successful completion of each step still remaining to translate and publish the New Testament.

## SCRIPTURE

“May God be merciful and bless us. May his face smile with favor on us. May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere.”

Psalm 67: 1–2 (NLT)