

# 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)

# SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Southern Africa region spans the nations of Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Portuguese-speaking countries on the African continent. Thanks to strong partnerships across the body of Christ, Southern Africa is moving closer to a day when all Scripture is translated for all people, and everyone can encounter the full counsel of God's Word in their heart language. Hindrances to finishing the task include poor roads, political instability, and a lack of workers to train local translators.

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

| Languages | Population |
|-----------|------------|
| 9         | 184,830    |

## Pray for Those without the full Bible

| Population   |
|--------------|
| 28.6 million |

*Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. April, 2026.*

*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.*

## SCRIPTURE

*“This, then, is how you should pray:*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.”

**Matthew 6:9–13**

# PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pray for team members who travel great distances to help with Bible translation, including 2 of our translators. Our team journeys many hours from Albancay to Cotahuasi every month to work alongside the rest of the local team for 2 weeks. Pray that God will continue to grant all travelers safety and sustain them in their work.

— **The Quechua La Union team in Peru**

Pray that God will provide for the language community where we are translating the New Testament. They lost almost all of their crops this year due to recent flooding.

— **The Maby language team in the Sahel**

Pray for our team and community as we are experiencing many tragedies. Translator Kukuye went home to be with the Lord when she fell off her motorbike after colliding with an ox. The team coordinator had a similar accident, but thankfully is recovering at home from injuries he sustained.

— **The Kuvale language team in Angola**

Our project's translation adviser, a woman from America, has been diagnosed with hepatitis and mononucleosis. Because she is in her 40s, mono can be a serious threat. Pray for her well-being, and that her plans to travel and work with the team to keep the project on pace will not need to be postponed.

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

# REGIONAL UPDATE

## *Celebrating and Enhancing Effective Partnerships*

Seed Company's Bible translation work is rapidly expanding across Southern and Portuguese-speaking Africa, which covers 18 countries. We are actively collaborating with 17 different partners. We are also negotiating with 5 additional organizations, paving the way for even more progress in the future.

On March 16, 90% of the partners participated in a significant Zoom meeting—an attendance record! They covered 5 key topics.

The meeting highlighted Seed Company's vision: [All Scripture, All People](#). As fewer languages remain with no Scripture, the emphasis is moving from initiating new projects to completing existing ones, particularly focusing on finishing Old Testaments. Partners were also introduced to Seed Company's new brandmark, which depicts the vision for Bibles to be accessible and opened up to transform lives.

Participants also discussed support for translation projects, including matching them with translation consultants. Conversations focused on making proposal submissions more efficient for language projects and global translation leaders, setting the stage for translation opportunities.

These meetings encourage open communication, build trust, and strengthen partnerships, helping to speed access to Scripture for everyone.

## **PRAISE**

- For enthusiasm and unity among partners as they translate God's Word for people throughout Southern Africa.
- For the opportunities that partners have to align and coordinate the role each one plays.

## **PRAY**

- That partners will successfully navigate the challenges they face in translating the Word of God.
- For good communication with partners that builds trust and enhances effective partnerships.

# IMPACT STORY

## *Bringing Bibles to Every Home in São Tomé and Príncipe*

God is opening doors for the Bible Society of São Tomé and Príncipe to provide people in their country with Scripture. Recently, they completed the [One Bible for Every Home](#) project, distributing Bibles to families throughout the islands.

Churches and volunteers worked together to bring Bibles to communities across the country, including several places that are difficult to reach. Those involved in distributing the Bibles reported that they were warmly welcomed. Many people received a Bible for the first time; some shared their gratitude for finally gaining access to God's Word in their homes.

Unfortunately, the Scripture that was distributed is in Portuguese, the language of wider communication, and not the heart language of the people. There is a growing desire to hear and understand God's Word in Angolar, the language that most people speak every day. This has led to conversations about beginning an oral Bible translation (OBT) project in Angolar so that people can have access to Scripture in their heart language.

[Watch the Bible for Every Home video](#)

## PRAY

- For the people of São Tomé and Príncipe who are facing a severe and ongoing energy crisis that has led to frequent power outages and economic difficulties across the nation. Pray that people will trust God and sense His presence during these blackouts and times of crisis.
- That God will open doors and provide a way for the Angolar OBT project to begin soon so that more people will clearly understand God's love for them.

## SCRIPTED PRAYER

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.”

— **Habakkuk 2:14 (NIV)**

Dear Father, we praise You for the work of Bible translation across Southern Africa and for the ways Your glory is being made known through Your Word.

We pray that as people encounter Scripture in their own language, they  
would know You and be transformed.

Strengthen translators, provide for their needs, and raise up more workers.  
Please make a way through every obstacle, and let Your Word bring truth,  
freedom, and hope. May Your glory fill Southern Africa as the waters cover  
the sea. Amen.

# FIELD PARTNERS

## *LuminAfrica*

LuminAfrica NPC is a South African faith-based non-profit organization with a heart for 1 thing: ensuring that every person across Southern Africa has access to God’s Word in the language they understand best.

LuminAfrica promotes collaboration and raises resources on behalf of a network of partners, including Wycliffe South Africa, Bible Society of South Africa, SIL Southern Africa, Biblica, Hands With Words, and The Word for the World. Together, these organizations advance Bible translation and Scripture engagement across a diverse portfolio of language projects, many of them in remote and under-resourced communities.

LuminAfrica is working to reduce the number of languages without Scripture—project by project, language by language—guided by its core values of prayer, enablement, collaboration, and stewardship. Led by Executive Director Hans Combrink and based in Cape Town, LuminAfrica coordinates work across Southern Africa and Lusophone Africa, including Mozambique.

[Watch the LuminAfrica Heart Language Film](#)

## **PRAISE**

- For the completion of the isiXhosa Bible revision and the Mozambican Portuguese New Testament.
- For the success of Project Imbizo, where LuminAfrica's partners gathered for a week of training, planning, and partnering.
- For LuminAfrica's Prayer Working Group, who gathered in March for a dedicated retreat of prayer, reflection, and renewed commitment.

## **PRAY**

- For field teams in Mozambique who have been hit by flooding and political unrest, teams working in sensitive areas throughout the region, and teams walking through bereavement in Angola.
- For wisdom, discernment, health, and strength for all those participants in LuminAfrica's strategy and planning meetings this spring.

# TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE

## *Shanjo [SHANH'–JOH] Language of Zambia*

*Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on yourselves and learn from me because I am humble and of good heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Because my yoke is easy to carry and my burden is light.*

— Matthew 11:28–30 (NLT)

*Mu keze kwangu inwe mwense se mu kotele no ku koleka i mizigo jo kulema, mi kuti na ndi mi we uku wisa. Mu inde ijokwe lyangu mu li li kambike mi mu li zige kwangu kakuli ndi li mugomba no bulotu u mojo, mi kuti na mugwanine i miuja jenu uku wisa. Kakuli ijokwe lyangu ndi tole uku li koleka mi u muzigo gwangu muuba.*

— Matthew 11:28–30 (Shanjo)

## *About the Shanjo People*

Zambia's Western Province is home to several people groups, including the roughly 3,000 who speak Shanjo.

Most Shanjo speakers are subsistence farmers, growing just enough maize and vegetables to feed their families. Fishing supplements their diets; however, it's often not enough.

Against this backdrop of material need, many turn to witchcraft for help. Communities often have at least 1 witch doctor. Tradition dictates that those in need consult these practitioners.

Local believers (roughly 10% of Shanjo speakers) are learning to reject those rituals, relying instead on prayer and seeking out medical personnel. They are eager to receive copies of the Shanjo New Testament, which will be dedicated this summer (see next article).

## *Shanjo Team Perseveres, Completes New Testament*

Despite enormous challenges, the Shanjo translation team has remained committed to completing the New Testament translation work. Through COVID-19 shutdowns, drought, famine, and the

difficulties of traveling long distances to communities for checking sessions, they pressed forward with determination.

Poor and unreliable transportation often made the journey difficult. At times, team members were also shunned and ostracized by sectors of their community for their involvement in the translation, yet they refused to give up.

Their perseverance, faith, and dedication—and frequent reminders of God’s presence and protection—have enabled them to overcome every obstacle placed before them. What seemed impossible at times has become a testimony of endurance and commitment. Because of their hard work, the New Testament translation has been completed and will be dedicated on August 1, 2026.

## **PRAISE**

- That the New Testament has been completed, and the team has begun translating the Old Testament.
- That progress has exceeded expectations with the help of artificial intelligence software Scripture Forge.

## **PRAY**

- For all who are involved with the planning and coordination of the New Testament dedication ceremony set for August 1.
- That the printed Bibles arrive on time, before the August 1 ceremony.

## SCRIPTURE

“They all met together and were constantly united in prayer.”

**Acts 1:14**

## PRAY NOW

*Preparing the Next Global Translation Leaders Cohorts*

Pray as we prepare for next year’s Global Translation Leaders cohorts, that God would bring the right applicants at the right time. There is a growing need for people to be trained in roles such as mid-level quality assurance (MLQA) and translation consultants, particularly in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, where teams need additional support. Ask God to raise up and equip individuals who can step into these roles and strengthen the work of Bible translation.

# GLOBAL TRANSLATION LEADER

## *Investors Make a Difference*

During a recent IT cohort training workshop in Johannesburg, the global translation leaders (GTLs) answered several questions about their training experience and internship journey. When asked, “What does this training mean to you?” one participant responded, “It has saved my life. It has given me direction and purpose, and I now know I can serve God with my skills.”

When asked what they would say to a GTL investor if given the opportunity, one participant became emotional. With tears in her eyes, she said, “I do not understand how someone could give money so that a person they have never met can receive training. Though I do not understand it, I am so grateful that they have invested in me.”

Their words were a powerful reminder of the life-changing impact of the support that’s given and the heartfelt gratitude the GTLs carry for those who have made their training possible.

## **PRAISE**

That [the 3-year IT cohort](#) that we have been praying for since last year has only 2 training sessions remaining and will be completed by the end of 2026. The participants have done extremely well!

## **PRAY**

That the GTLs will continue growing in their skills and become capable of passing these skills on to others in the Bible translation world.

# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

## *From Little to Great Faith*

Translation partner The Word for the World empowers language communities to translate the Bible into their own language by investing in local people, providing translation training, and building sustainable infrastructure.

One of the local people benefiting from this training is Lameck. Before becoming a Ngoni Bible translator, Lameck had little faith and often complained, especially about sickness in his family. Instead of trusting God, the family gave the Izinyanga (local healer) money, chickens, and goats, but the healing never lasted. Lameck's faith grew as he drafted the story recorded in Luke 7:3–9. He was amazed at the faith of the centurion, who urged Jesus not to come to his home but to “say the word, and my servant will be healed.”

Lameck says, “This encourages me to stop believing in the healers, but in God alone.” He prays to God for healing, and others come to Lameck for prayer. Now, he has great faith in Jesus, who is his Lord and Savior.

## **PRAISE**

For the unity among Ngoni pastors and community leaders, and the acceptance of the translated Scriptures.

## **PRAY**

- That the Ngoni team's passion for the translation work will remain strong as they draft the epistles.
- That there will be an end to the droughts and cyclones, and that God would provide for the Ngoni people.

# IMPACT STORY

## *God Answers Prayers for Reconciliation*

For many years, conflict between the Humbi and Kuvale ethnic groups of Angola meant there was no peace in the villages. In some places, people could not move freely, and fear shaped everyday life. The conflict, which began over cattle theft, led to the loss of more than 20 lives.

But today, there is reason to give thanks to God.

A reconciliation has taken place, and the change is visible. People can now move freely from one place to another. The Humbi are able to visit Kuvale villages, and the Kuvale can visit Humbi communities. They are even able to share food together.

At this moment, there is peace.

Even during the conflict, believers from both groups remained united. Through prayer and the Word of God, the course of this ethnic struggle began to change.

This situation had been a prayer request for some time, with a longing for peace and understanding between the 2 groups. Today, there is gratitude because God has answered those prayers.

## **PRAISE**

That believers from the Humbi and Kuvale groups remained united and faithfully sought the Lord to foster reconciliation between their people groups.

## **PRAY**

That God's Word will continue to bring guidance, wisdom, and life transformation to Humbi and Kuvale speakers as they engage with gospel truth and grow in their understanding of God's love and plan for their lives.

## 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**