

# 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.

## Find More Resources:

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

# SAHEL

“Sahel” means “coast” in Arabic; in our context it refers to the belt along the southern “coast” of the Sahara across Africa. The region encompasses 12 countries where local partners—often using French as a common language—are committed, passionate, and gifted. The Sahel region faces persistent challenges that affect ministry and travel, including security risks, political instability and violence, travel hazards, famine, drought, and poverty. Even with these obstacles, Bible translation and Scripture engagement continue through resilient local teams and partner organizations across the Sahel.

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

Languages	Population
77	2,270,030

## Pray for Those without the full Bible

Population
123.6 million

*Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. May, 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

*“When you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.”*

**Matthew 6:6 (NLT)**

# PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pray for former sector leader Lokosa and traditional chief Lokpama, who decided to reconcile after a Bible study session. Ask God to enable these 2 men to live out their decision to make a radical change, and for the testimony that change will represent to their community.

— **The Bodjenga team in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

Pray for communities affected by the growing outbreak in Central Africa of a rare type of Ebola that the World Health Organization said could last for months. Pray for effective strategies to restrict the disease's spread, and God's protection for project teams and their families.

— **Bible translation teams in Africa**

Pray for a lead translator who was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. She is receiving several rounds of targeted chemotherapy for the specific mutation. Pray that she will tolerate each treatment well, and that God will guard her and her family against fear or anxiety.

— **A Bible translation team in Asia**

Pray for God's peace that surpasses human understanding in the many lands ravished by physical and spiritual warfare. Praise Him for perseverance among men and women who have answered His call to translate His Word, and for transformed lives among those who receive it.

— **Bible translation teams in the regions of conflict**

# REGIONAL UPDATE

## *Projects Face Economic Challenges*

Translation projects commonly meet with a variety of local obstacles: persecution from hostile governments or oppressive religions, technology or communication issues, and outbreaks of disease. But another obstacle can be the value of currency, which affects plans for funding the work in areas under economic duress.

In the Sahel region, Seed Company and partner organizations are facing a second year of rising prices. At the same time, a weaker dollar purchases fewer of the CFA francs used in the countries where we work. As a result, budgets are becoming stressed, especially for organizations and teams that are working the fastest.

Planners face some difficult decisions. Will they have to delay some activities? Extend some timelines? Involve fewer people to hold down costs?

We are counting on flexibility and creativity from both partner organization staff and Seed Company as we face these challenges. We will all be putting our trust in God to guide us through each choice as well, to stretch the value of every dollar that He supplies to accomplish its intended purpose.

## **PRAISE**

- That so many teams are working even faster than planned.
- For how well our partner organizations' staff responds to each new challenge.

## **PRAY**

- For creativity and grace to make wise budgetary choices that solve for economic realities while bringing glory to God.
- That challenges will not discourage people in the region, who already face many security threats.

# IMPACT STORY

## *Miserable Bride Finds Comfort in Christ*

Affoussatou, a young Bajiginoro [BAH-JEE-GIHN-YOH'-ROH] girl, was forced by her father into marriage with a much older Muslim man. She went to live with him, and her life became truly miserable. Many times, she tried to escape, but she was always caught and brought back.

When Affoussatou acquired an SD card containing the book of Genesis in her language and started listening to God's Word in secret, her life began to change. As the truth of Scripture penetrated her heart, she started thinking differently about her Muslim faith.

After Affoussatou's father passed away, she was able to go back home. When the mourning period ended, she decided to attend a church service. She didn't understand much of what was happening, but afterward, she met with the pastor. He listened to her story and helped her understand more about the God of Abraham. Moved by the Holy Spirit, Affoussatou gave her life to Jesus and now attends church regularly!

## **PRAISE**

- For the hope translated Scripture brought to Affoussatou's life.
- For Affoussatou's pastor, who led her to Christ, and a church that uses heart language Scripture to help their communities grow in their love for God.

## **PRAY**

- That God will protect Affoussatou, strengthen her faith, and meet all her needs.
- That God will continue to use Bajiginyoro Scripture to open the eyes of many in the community who follow a false religion.

## SCRIPTURE

*“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”*

**Colossians 4:2 (NLT)**

## PRAY NOW

*Joseph Film Impacting Ilem Speakers*

The Ilem [EE'–LEHM] team shared a film of the story of Joseph dubbed in their language on social media sites. The team leader shares: “For the moment, there are still no testimonies of lives transformed by Joseph’s film within the Ilem linguistic community, but the fact that there has been such a strong negative reaction—which led our only Muslim collaborator to decide to leave us—shows us that the message has still gotten through; the seed has been sown. May God do the rest!” Pray for the Ilem team as they share the truth with their community.

# FIELD PARTNERS

## *New Director at SIL-Burkina Faso*

Dr. Joël Ganamé, the new director of translation partner [SIL-Burkina Faso](#), is reminding pastors and churches in his country that SIL is not an autonomous organization led and operated by expatriates. Rather, it is deeply rooted in Burkina Faso and in need of the active engagement of the nation's churches—both in prayer and financial support. The organization is committed to developing languages and translating Scripture for those who do not yet have a Bible in their mother tongue.

Part of Seed Company's All Scripture, All People vision calls for greater local ownership of translation and deep Scripture impact. These priorities align closely with SIL-Burkina Faso and Dr. Ganamé, who holds a PhD in theology and a PhD in linguistics.

### **PRAISE**

- For a smooth leadership transition at SIL-Burkina Faso and for Dr. Ganamé's availability to serve.
- For continued alignment of vision between SIL-Burkina Faso and Seed Company.

### **PRAY**

- That Dr Ganamé would lead with clarity, and that God would guard him and his family from the attacks of the evil one.
- For peace for the people of Burkina Faso and for their leaders, as significant unrest continues along the nation's borders.

# TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE

## *Nangnda [NANG’-DAH] Language of Chad*

*Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, “Yes, let’s rebuild the wall!” So they began the good work.*

— Nehemiah 2:18

*M-ilə rəm m-ər-de go tɔgi Luwə ki adi e səm nim, ki ta je ki maji-maji ki ngar əl-m nim. Lo kin ti, indəi ndude naa ti kare baa əli əi nə: “Adi j-ij taa, j-indəi ndogi bər kin.” Ningo iləi dɪngəm menaa ti mbata ra kilə ki maji kin kadi osi rəbə.*

— Néhémie 2.18

## *About the Nangnda People*

Many of the 36,000 people who speak Nangnda engage in rudimentary agriculture, hunting and fishing. They use ox-drawn carts for transport and store cereals in granaries to feed their families. Agricultural production often falls short of meeting their daily needs but has improved slightly with the introduction of harnessed plows.

When the Nangnda New Testament was printed in 2012, people responded enthusiastically. All 4,500 printed copies were sold, and more than 200 churches are using the heart language Scriptures in their worship services and for individual and group Bible studies. Translators are currently drafting several Old Testament books. Church leaders believe that more Scripture will offer hope and light in a place where many still follow traditional religions and where another world religion is growing.

## *Scripture Reveals the Need to Trust God Alone*

A large number of Nangnda speakers are Christians, but all too often, they do not fully trust the gracious hand of God alone. Too often, Christians are influenced by non-believers, plunging many of them into a life of syncretism.

Some Nangnda speakers have not fully freed themselves from traditional rites and harmful ancestral practices. Some still indulge in alcohol consumption or polygamy. Traditional religions are also an obstacle to evangelization. Persecution by non-Christians often coincides with times of traditional practices, such as initiations.

Recently, a Nangnda reader expressed deep joy and satisfaction that translators have made it possible for them to read Scripture in their native language. This provides them with the opportunity for both spiritual and social transformation.

### **PRAISE**

- That translated Scripture is being appreciated and used to transform the spiritual and social lives of the Nangnda people.

### **PRAY**

- For the health of the translation and editing teams.
- For the completion of each step required to meet their goals.
- For peace and security amidst the turmoil in their region in Chad.

## PRAY NOW

### *Unwatched Story Unfolds*

The country of Mali in West Africa needs earnest prayers. In April and May, coordinated Jihadist attacks took place throughout the country. Some say that, on the world news scene, this is “the most important story that people are not watching.” Blockades have effectively placed the capital city of Bamako under siege. One news outlet reports, “Without a coherent and proactive African strategy that treats the continent as a central theater rather than a peripheral concern, Mali’s Islamist chaos might turn out to be the opening chapter of a much larger story.” Ask the Lord to care for His people who are suffering amid these difficult and treacherous circumstances. Pray that God’s kingdom purposes will advance despite the spread of Islam’s violent agenda.

## PRAY NOW

### *Translating Among Muslims*

Political unrest, the lack of a strong church, and social pressure against the Amerek translation team have made their work on the Old Testament quite difficult. Pray for God to call people to Himself through the Amerek Scriptures in this heavily Muslim community. Pray for translators to be appropriately bold in proclaiming God’s Word during community testing sessions and other interactions with Amerek speakers. Pray for God to sustain and preserve the team in their very challenging work.

# GLOBAL TRANSLATION LEADER

## *Scripture Engagement Coordinator Adelle N'Dri*

When Adelle N'Dri answered God's call to serve in full-time ministry, she opened her eyes to a particular job posting on a bulletin board. SIL Côte d'Ivoire needed a Scripture engagement coordinator. God's guidance was clear when she applied and was selected for the position—a place where she also found healing.

Her heart had been broken by many unfortunate events before she went to i-DELTA training. The darkness of a heavy heart, insomnia, and many tears clouded her ability to learn. “But thank God,” she says, “the content of the i-DELTA morning meditations on the 7 *I*ams of Jesus began to heal me gradually. And when we started studying the Trauma Healing module, I began to feel better.

“I had become a new person. To this day, I continue to enjoy this inner healing.”

### **PRAISE**

- For the way God drew Adelle to this calling on her life. She is an amazing gift to all the translation projects in Côte d'Ivoire.
- For the way God worked through her training to provide healing.

### **PRAY**

- For continued inner healing in Adelle's life.
- For the Lord to enable Adelle to be a “wounded healer” and a channel of healing to others, as she leads many translation teams in their Scripture engagement goals.

# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

## *God's Word Enriching Lives in Benin*

Audio Bible stories are impacting Taneka speaking communities in the country of Benin, thanks to a project led by partner [Faith Comes By Hearing](#).

Sanni listens to the stories every day while he works. He says the audio recordings “strengthen my faith, teach me more, and make my days more enriching.”

Aicha, a married woman with 1 child, teaches children at her church. She finds the stories help her to better convey the Word of God to these little ones. And the children have shown more interest in Bible stories since she started using the recordings.

Hassan was heavily involved in occult practices, even serving on a committee to organize rituals. She considered this activity normal. Through the teaching of a local pastor, Hassan realized she was in spiritual bondage. She abandoned the occult and began listening to the Bible stories. “Each story brings me closer to God and helps me understand His will for my life,” she says.

## **PRAISE**

- That Taneka communities are learning more about God's love, truth, and grace through the audio recordings.

## **PRAY**

- That God will open doors for nearby language communities to also gain access to God's Word through translation.
- That God will strengthen the faith of the translation team, give them wisdom, and protect them from spiritual fatigue.
- For the salvation of team members' unsaved family and friends and for courage to share the gospel with them.

# SCRIPTURE USE

## *Typesetting Complete for 3 New Testaments*

The Sawa Cluster of 3 communities (Bafaw, Bomboko, and Balong) recently celebrated the typesetting of their New Testaments. Pastors and traditional leaders presented translators with initial copies of the New Testaments at a pre-dedication ceremony hosted by the Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy (CABTAL).

A few who received copies of the New Testaments shared their thoughts.

“I have read the English Bible so many times ... but listening to the reading of the Scriptures in Bafaw sounds different and touches the soul. This has made me understand ... that the Word of God needs to be translated into every language.” — Rev. Dr. Nje David King

“The Bomboko Bible translation project is a dream come true for me. I am already seeing how God is transforming the lives of our people. Our people are eager to read and listen to the Word of God in our language.” — Rev Thomas Ngutto

“Taking time to read through [the Balong New Testament] from Matthew to Revelation has changed my life. The Scriptures have preached to me during this time.” — Mama Pauline Eposi

Plans are underway for public dedication ceremonies for all 3 languages once the New Testaments are printed.

## **PRAISE**

- For sustaining the lives of all Sawa Cluster project workers during the ongoing political unrest and violence in their region.
- For God's provisions of funding for the printing of the Bafaw, Balong, and Bomboko New Testaments this year.

## **PRAY**

- For preparations for the dedications of the New Testaments in all 3 Sawa Cluster languages. Pray for God's leading of the inter church committees as they arrange logistics for these events.
- For the dedication ceremonies to serve as evangelistic outreaches to their communities and that many would turn to Christ.
- For God to raise up vibrant readers for audio recordings of the Bafaw, Balong, and Bomkoko New Testaments.

## SCRIPTURE

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)**

## PRAY NOW

*Missionary Journey Begins*

Pray for a missionary from a village in Chad who is preparing to conduct evangelistic outreaches in two Chadian villages. He will show the “JESUS” film as part of his program. Ask the Lord to keep him safe, especially from those who desire to prevent his plans. Pray that many people will be receptive to the gospel message, embrace God’s truth, and experience life transformation.