

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

ANGLOPHONE EAST AFRICA

Anglophone East Africa includes the countries of Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania, along with several neighboring nations where English is widely used in schools, business, and ministry. While most people can speak English, the deepest transformation happens when people hear God's Word in the language they speak at home. Many communities in these countries face drought, political conflict, and disease outbreaks; yet, local believers and translation teams continue to serve faithfully so their families, friends, and neighbors can encounter the gospel message in their own language. We praise God that more and more communities in this region are receiving Scripture and look forward to the day when every people group has all of God's Word in the language they understand best.

Pray for Those Still Waiting for Bible Translation to Start

Languages	Population
8	50,070

Pray for Those without the full Bible

Population
44.5 million

Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. June 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

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.”

Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT)

PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pray that God will provide wisdom for our facilitator and consultant as they decide on terms to convey the meaning of obscure biblical terms in our language. Pray for healing from the community's many illnesses and other health struggles. Also, pray for the Lord to send young people who are willing to work in translation and Scripture distribution.

— **The Amoshanamukon team in the Americas**

Pray for the recovery of Pastor Jhony Cruz, who underwent emergency surgery for appendicitis in late May. The surgery went well, but he moved back to his community before spending the recommended time for rest. This led to complications and a return to the hospital. Pray for his patience, and praise God for the support that his family and community are providing.

— **The Quechua Central Cluster team in the Americas**

Pray that our project's technical challenges will be resolved, and that a Deaf brother and sister who live in a remote Oaxaca, Mexico community can set aside time to complete their planned work on time. Ignacio and Clemencia still need to sign and video record initial Bible stories. Pray that the gospel message will become clear to the Deaf community as they receive it.

— **The Santa Catarina Albarradas Sign in Mexico**

Praise God for this encouraging note to the team: "The way you are translating and using songs is very rewarding, for we do not merely hear the recitation of the Psalms; we sing and dance to them, and we praise God for this initiative."

— **The Cokwe Psalms that Sing of Angola team**

REGIONAL UPDATE

Partner Organization Prioritizes Spiritual over Professional Calling, Surpasses Goals

The Word for the World (TWFTW), Uganda, originally agreed to complete 10 New Testaments in 5 years. They emphasized their spiritual calling over their professional calling, then surpassed their goals, completing the New Testaments in 3.5 years! These 3 main factors attributed to their success.

- 1) **Using [cluster](#) languages prudently.** Translation teams in each cluster project shared their best practices and focused on the same books at the same time, generating mutual learning experiences and building camaraderie across the teams.
- 2) **Bolstering pre-consultant work.** By implementing systems that call for mid-level quality assurance work and 2–3 exegetes (specialists that help interpret biblical passages) per cluster, the teams prepared the highest quality draft translation before consultants started their checking. The teams also logged daily progress to ensure goals were on track or ahead of schedule.
- 3) **Building a family-like culture and spiritual foundation.** This enabled teams to be prepared, educated, and supported from start to finish. TWFTW staff and translators exemplified a healthy balance between their spiritual and professional callings, which resulted in high performance, faithfulness, and accountability at all levels of the organization.

PRAISE

For this incredible achievement by an entirely new Bible translation organization in Uganda. They have set a pace that others in Uganda and the rest of the world can look to as a model for success.

PRAY

- For the 10 teams, as they do final publication checks and typesetting before printing these New Testaments for their communities.
- For the completion of the full Bible in the Kupsapiiny [KOOP-SAH-PEEN'] language in Uganda.
- For the planning of the dedication celebrations of each New Testament and for the next project phase, which will complete the full Bible for these 10 language communities.

IMPACT STORY

Rufumbira Scripture Transforms Young People

Christ speaks to each of us in different ways.

For Martha, 18, His voice came through a book she had never owned. In fact, Martha had never even held a Bible. Scripture always felt distant to her.

That changed when a copy of the Rufumbira [ROO-FOO-MBEE'-RAH] New Testament was placed into her hands at Edge Uganda (an organization supporting young people in Kisoro, Uganda).

Martha says, "When I read this Bible, Christ speaks to me ... in the language closest to my heart. I feel Him differently. He is no longer only the Savior preached on Sunday; He becomes my Savior, my friend, present in every moment of need."

For the first time, God's Word felt personal to Martha. She reads it each evening with her family. The time with God's Word has deepened both her faith and the bond she has with her sisters and grandmother.

Praise God, Martha is not alone. Translators report that among the 1.3 million people who speak Rufumbira, many young people are experiencing Christ more personally through their heart language Scripture.

PRAISE

- That the Rufumbira New Testament and audio Bibles continue to have a strong impact among Bafumbira fellowships in Uganda.
- That the team remains healthy and dedicated, enabling them to make steady progress in their translation work.

PRAY

- For the completion of the Rufumbira Bible project.
- For resources to conduct more translation activities.
- For continued spiritual transformation among the children receiving the Rufumbira New Testament.

SCRIPTED PRAYER

“O Lord my God, you have performed many wonders for us. Your plans for us are too numerous to list. You have no equal. If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds, I would never come to the end of them.”

Psalm 40:5 (NLT)

Dear Father, we praise You for your wondrous works and gracious plan to make your Word known among every nation, tribe, people, and language.

Amen.

FIELD CELEBRATION

Banyala New Testament Dedication

The Banyala people live in Kenya near Lake Victoria, and they speak the Lunyala language. The Bible Society of Kenya and Seed Company have partnered together to advance the Banyala translation project. On March 6, the Banyala community dedicated the Lunyala New Testament.

The team reports that the launch of the New Testament, Proverbs, and Psalms, along with audio Scriptures, has greatly increased awareness of the Lunyala Bible. There is now constant discussion around the translation work and the use of the language, offering opportunities to bring clarity to God's Word.

Community member Jerusa Walela says the Scriptures are more meaningful when she reads them in Lunyala. She's read Psalm 24 many times but found it difficult to understand several verses. Reading it in Lunyala, however, demystified the text and made it come alive, she says.

PRAISE

- For the successful launch of the Lunyala New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs, along with the audio Scriptures, in March.

PRAY

- For the team's upcoming meeting with the community to receive feedback on the translated Scripture.
- For the team's success in translating several Old Testament books.

TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE

Samburu [SAHM-BOO'-ROO] Language of Kenya

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

— Romans 10:14–15 (NLT)

Naa aji eiko ltung'ana teneipot ilo leitu eiruk? Naa aji eiko teneiruk ilo leitu apake ening? Naa aji eiko tenening tenemeata lalikoroni? Naa aji eiko ltung'ana tenelikoo teneitu eirruaari? Ana naigero ajo, <<Kewuaa sa supaticho tenening'oi nkejek ee lolo oolikoo Lomon Supati!>>

— Romans 10:14–15 (Samburu)

ABOUT THE SAMBURU

In 2019, the Samburu community dedicated their translated New Testament. Since then, there's been a growing unity among believers. Young men who used to raid neighboring communities have been convicted by the Scripture they listen to on their phones. Local churches report an increase in both attendance and conversions.

While 15% of the 160,000 who speak Samburu identify as Christians, most still adhere to their traditional religion and animism. Many fall prey to the practices of witchcraft. Yet local Christians are passionate about reaching unbelievers in their community and long to see God continue to change lives.

PEOPLE GROUP ARTICLE & PRAYER

The Samburu live in a desert area in the center of Kenya, where they herd their cattle and live in rudimentary shelters, much like the more well-known Maasai tribe. Having already published the New Testament, translators are making good progress on translating the Old Testament.

Most recently, the team tested their draft translation of Job and Ecclesiastes with the local community to gather feedback on its clarity and naturalness. After addressing community feedback, the team worked with a consultant to complete work on the 2 books.

Translators have witnessed the Samburo Scripture's impact on their community, as many churches have been planted and listening groups established.

- Pray that as people engage with the distributed New Testament Scriptures, audio Bibles, and Bible apps, there will be deep spiritual transformation and renewed faith within the community.
- Pray that translators will continue to make good progress in translating God's precious Word, for the benefit of their fellow Samburu.

SCRIPTURE

“Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the Lord hears my voice.”

Psalms 55:17 (NLT)

PRAY NOW

Ebola Outbreak in East Africa

Pray for the health and safety of the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda who have been affected by the recent Bundibugyo strain of Ebola. There is no known vaccine or cure for this specific strain, which has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization. Pray also for translators, church leaders, partner organizations, and Seed Company staff in these areas, that God would protect them and allow His work to continue. Also, pray for people in countries on the watch list, which include Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania.

GLOBAL TRANSLATION LEADER

Bonane Salumoni in Tanzania

Bonane Salumoni grew up attending church in Tanzania. As an adult working in ministry, he heard about Bible translation and realized it was another way to implement Jesus' command to testify and preach the gospel. He began to work with The Word for the World (TWFTW).

Today, he is a Global Translation Leader, pursuing a Diploma of ICT and a bachelor's degree in computer science at Jordan University College in Morogoro. Meanwhile, he is helping to develop a ticketing system for IT support for TWFTW Tanzania while providing day-to-day support for their in-house project database.

PRAISE

- For the way that God has helped Bonane understand that Bible translation is one way He calls people to bring the gospel to the world.
- For the impact that he is already having on daily work, as he provides reliable technology services for TWFTW Tanzania.

PRAY

- That he will continue diligently completing his studies and serving Bible translation efforts well.
- That he will fully recover from the facial paralysis that is affecting him.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

An Unexpected Blessing

Gudele grew up in an Olu'ba community in a remote area of South Sudan. Her village had no schools. When the war broke out, soldiers, including Gudele's father, were required to move to the town of Nimule. Gudele, her mother, and her brothers stayed behind in the village. Later, not wanting them to suffer hardship alone, her father sent for them. This proved to be a blessing for Gudele. She was able to attend a nearby primary school at age 10. God helped her to excel and quickly progress through the grades.

Now at age 30, Gudele is a translator on the Olu'ba oral Bible translation team working under Spoken Worldwide. Their mission is to provide oral Bible stories where written Scripture is not accessible. Gudele has witnessed much suffering in South Sudan. While working on Acts 14, which tells the story of Paul and his companions suffering at Lystra to the point of death, she was encouraged to remain steadfast in her faith. She said, "Although God's people go through suffering and trials, the Lord gives His graces so that they endure suffering and become strong."

PRAISE

- God for His sovereignty in leading Gudele's family to a place where she could attend school.

PRAY

- That God would give the team peace and safety as they travel to remote Obu'la villages.
- For the Holy Spirit's guidance as the team reviews previously drafted oral stories, shares them with the community, and uses them for discipleship.

IMPACT OR SCRIPTURE USE

A New Believer Stands Firm

Ministry partners are trying to connect with the Meadowlands people, where there are very, very few believers. As the partners gathered to discuss what they could do, a pastor began to share the story of a Meadowlands man, “Stephen.” It was so heartbreaking that he was overcome with tears and couldn’t finish his report until the next day.

The pastor was no stranger to heartbreak. He and his congregation were from a different ethnic group who had migrated into the Meadowlands area after atrocities forced them out of their homeland. People who followed the majority religion thought these Christians were “strange,” but allowed them to settle there in peace.

Recently, the congregation got to know Stephen, who became interested in knowing about their Savior. He responded to the gospel and gave his life to Jesus!

The pastor was delighted. Still, he knew what would happen to a Meadowlands person if he openly shared about following Jesus. He told Stephen to keep quiet, but the man couldn’t do it.

As a result of his openness, he faced severe persecution. They took away his wife, children, and job, but he has continued to stand firm. Now he is helping to check the Meadowlands translation.

PRAISE

- That there is now one more Meadowlands speaker following Christ.
- That the majority religion in the area allows this pastor and his congregation to live peacefully among them.

PRAY

- For Stephen, as he endures tremendous shame and persecution for becoming a Christian.
- For Stephen and the translation team, as they begin to check Scripture portions together over the internet.

PRAY NOW

Dinka Rek Scripture Distribution

Praise God for the work of the Dinka Rek churches in South Sudan as they distribute Scripture. Both the recently published book of Genesis and the New Testament have been handed out. Now, the community is requesting additional copies of the New Testament. Pray for Dinka Rek translators as they continue translating several Old Testament books.

“Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness.

Let the whole world know what he has done.

Sing to him; yes, sing his praises.

Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds.”

Psalm 105:1-2 (NLT)