

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

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
1	10,500,000

Pray for Those without the full Bible

Population
280.5 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

“The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.”

Psalms 145:18 (NLT)

PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pray for Venezuelan communities and Bible translation teams and partners after two earthquakes in June caused extensive destruction and loss of life. Pray for the people who lost family members and friends in the tragedy, and for those yet to be rescued. Pray that God will open hearts to receive the unshakeable comfort of His Word and provide every need for team members to move forward in their work.

— Bible translation teams in Venezuela

Pray that non-believers will respond to God's Word as we teach literacy classes in more villages and engage followers of another world religion with newly completed New Testament books. Pray also for our team members as we work with a consultant to check other books.

— A Bible translation team in Mainland Asia

Praise God that we have been able to resume a review of the Gospel of John that was started years ago. We needed a translator to work alongside the facilitator and found someone from the ethnic group who completed Bible seminary last year. Pray with us for more people from the community to step forward and join our team.

— A Bible translation team in the Americas

Praise God for the completion and dedication of the Jakalteko Bible! Pray that the typesetter will soon finish working on the Ixil Bible.

— The Jakalteko and Ixil translation teams in Guatemala

REGIONAL UPDATE

163 Old Testament Projects in the Works

Bible translation across South Asia continues to advance with remarkable momentum. Recent data shows that 273 New Testaments have been completed across the region—including 124 since 1993.

The number of Old Testament translations currently underway is staggering: 163. Most of them are in India (135 projects) and Nepal (28). Altogether, 40 Bible translation organizations are involved in these projects. When these Old Testaments are completed, the number of languages with full Bibles will rise to 247.

Despite the encouraging progress, significant challenges remain. Many projects continue to face shortages of consultants, limited resources, restricted access, and communal or political opposition.

Even so, the overall picture is one of hope and determination. The Bible translation movement across South Asia is demonstrating increasing collaboration and expanding Scripture access. Leaders note that accelerating progress in the coming years will depend on addressing consultant shortages, strengthening local capacity, and overcoming policy and access-related obstacles.

PRAISE

- For the 163 Old Testament projects now underway in South Asia.

PRAY

- For continued collaboration and cooperation between partners and translation teams in the region.
- For wisdom for translators operating in regions not favorable to Christianity.
- For God's favor and blessing on teams as they strive to finish their work on time.

IMPACT STORY

Two Generations, One Calling

Priscilla had never heard of God until her mother joined the Himnauri [HIM-NAW'-REE] Bible translation team in 2017. At first, Priscilla couldn't understand how her mother, who had no education and could not read or write, could take part in such important work.

As the years passed, Priscilla observed a remarkable change taking place in her mother's life. She was no longer limited by her illiteracy but rather served on the team with dedication and wisdom. Priscilla realized that only the true and living God could transform a person like this. As she watched her mother's example, Priscilla felt her own heart changing and her doubts turning to faith.

Unlike her mother, Priscilla was highly educated. When she completed her master's degree, she approached the translation team and said, "I want to do the same work my mother is doing." Since then, she's been actively involved in translating Scripture into Himnauri.

Through translation work, Priscilla is growing closer to the Lord as her understanding of His Word deepens. Priscilla is excited to start working on the Old Testament in the project's next phase.

Priscilla's story beautifully displays how God used a mother's faithful service to lead her daughter to faith in Jesus and service in His kingdom.

PRAISE

- To the Lord for drawing Priscilla to salvation through her mother's faithful service.
- For providing the Himnauri translation project with these two faithful translators.

PRAY

- That Priscilla will continue growing in her relationship with the Lord, gaining wisdom in the translation process, and becoming a blessing to many through her service.
- For Priscilla and the team as they're in the final weeks of preparing the New Testament for printing, as they begin planning the dedication, and soon start working on the Old Testament.

SCRIPTURE

“I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God.”

Psalms 17:6

PRAY NOW

Learning About the One True God

Vita language translators recently introduced stories from Genesis at a community event, inviting people to read, listen, and reflect together. Those attending showed great interest in the Vita Scriptures, offering suggestions and improvements to the translation. Pray that many Vita speakers who currently place their faith in many gods and goddesses will read these heart language Scriptures and turn to the one true God, who loves them and died for them.

FIELD PARTNERS

Wycliffe India Celebrates 45 Years of God's Faithfulness in Bible Translation

Translation partner Wycliffe India marked a significant milestone in their history earlier this year, celebrating 45 years of indigenous Bible translation ministry in India. The anniversary celebration was a time of thanksgiving, reflection, and renewed commitment to the mission of making God's Word available in every language. Throughout the celebration, speakers emphasized that Bible translation is not merely about producing translated texts but about helping people encounter God through His Word and experience spiritual transformation.

A key highlight of the event was remembering the vision that launched the movement in 1980. At that time, approximately 200 language communities in India were identified as still needing access to Scripture in their heart language. Through the faithful efforts of translation teams and partner organizations over the past 45 years, more than 120 New Testaments have been completed. This remarkable achievement stands as a testimony to God's faithfulness and the dedication of countless translators, consultants, trainers, supporters, and partners.

PRAISE

For Wycliffe's 45 years of ministry, for God's sustaining grace, and the extraordinary accomplishments achieved through ordinary people who answered God's call.

PRAY

For the next generation of leaders to remain committed to ensuring that every remaining language community in India has access to God's Word in their own language.

TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE

Rothra 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.

— John 3:16 (NLT)

काहेकि परमेसवर दुनिया से इरंग परेम करलिथ कि वैं अपन एगलोता बेटवा के दे दलिथ, येहे खतिर कि उन्खर पर जे कोय बिसवास करते उ नास नाय होते, मगर सदाए के जिनगिया पेटे।

— John 3:16 (Rothra)

About the Rothra People

The region where Rothra is primarily spoken is culturally rich and includes diverse caste and tribal communities. It is also home to some of the most economically disadvantaged communities in their nation. Agriculture, mining, industry, and labor work provide the primary means of livelihood.

Only a few churches can be found among the Rothra. Corruption is rife, resulting in very little governmental aid reaching the people. Christian organizations are trying to address issues of poverty and low education in the region. They believe instilling biblical values within Rothra culture, along with heart language Scripture, is the way to bring lasting transformation.

Rothra New Testament Completed

The Rothra language New Testament was dedicated earlier this spring. Churches, believers, and mission organizations gathered to celebrate on behalf of the more than 4.7 million people who speak Rothra.

Roughly 80% of Rothra speakers follow 1 of 2 major world religions, often mixed with animistic beliefs and practices. Christians make up less than 2% of the population. Although small in number, believers continue to serve faithfully through church planting, education, community development, and Scripture engagement ministries.

PRAISE

- That availability of God's Word in the Rothra language represents a significant step toward spiritual growth, discipleship, and lasting transformation among the Rothra people.
- For God's provision through prayer partners, translation partners, and translators who faithfully labored over many years to complete the Rothra New Testament.

PRAY

That Rothra believers will be encouraged, grow in their faith, and share the Scriptures and their faith with those who don't know Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

“In those days when you pray, I will listen.”

Jeremiah 29:12 (NLT)

PRAY NOW

Bible Listening Groups Spreading

With the New Testament now available in Kamal, Bible listening groups are spreading and growing, and more people are hearing God’s Word, the first step in being transformed by it. Translators recording Old Testament books and portions of Genesis are requesting prayer for the 258,000 Kamal speakers who “are now hearing Scripture in their heart language for the very first time.”

FIELD PARTNERS

God Opens a New Way

A premier national missionary agency in India has partnered with Seed Company for more than 20 years to affect about 50 language communities in their country. In early 2025, the government revoked their privilege to bring funds into the country from other places. This has choked off their active projects, bringing work on about 30 languages almost to a standstill.

In this crisis, God has prepared another organization to step in and continue the translation work in the country. This new ministry has fund importation privileges. Not only have they offered to import funds for these projects, but also to assume responsibility for managing them.

These are the first projects the new organization has managed. They will be learning and applying new project management skills for 30 languages at once, while navigating the transition to their own management style.

Thank you, Lord, for making a way for Bible translation to continue!

PRAISE

- For the collaboration between these organizations so that translation projects can move forward and be funded, as needed.
- That the leaders of both organizations are well known to each other and have a cordial relationship.

PRAY

- That God will guide these 2 organizations through this very significant transition.
- That the 30 language teams will embrace the changes and work diligently to complete their goals.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Yes, Hearing Does Result in Faith

Speech has a higher priority than the written word in many cultures around the world. These societies depend on memory to preserve political, legal, and religious knowledge. Oral communication is not primitive, but historically the dominant method. Around 70% of people today prefer audible communication as their primary way of learning. That is why [Faith Comes by Hearing](#) (FCBH) partners with other organizations to freely provide recordings of God's Word in every language that needs it by 2033.

The Trigom people of South Asia are among those hearing God's Word for the first time through the ministry of FCBH. Many have expressed deep gratitude to those who supported and worked tirelessly to make this moment possible. During a time of testing the translation in the community, even some Buddhist families came to listen. Praise God, a few of them came to faith in Christ, and 7 were baptized.

Before their heart language Scriptures were available, Trigom believers struggled to share their faith. Non-believers refused to listen to them. Now, as non-believers participate in community testing sessions and begin to understand God's Word, they are increasingly open to discussing spiritual issues.

PRAISE

For those who accepted Christ after hearing the Word of God in their own language.

PRAY

- For the new believers to grow strong in faith, be nurtured by God's Word, and become examples of His love within their community.
- That God will grant the Trigom team good health, wisdom, and understanding to accurately record the Scriptures in their language.
- For the translation work to resume after a temporary halt due to recent changes in leadership.

IMPACT STORY

Disinterest Gives Way to Dedication

One Apokip translator admits that when he first joined the project, he didn't have much interest in translation work. It felt hard, and he thought that surely a pastor or missionary should be doing this work. Another team member encouraged him to stick with it, so he did and is still serving with the team. Even when the managing partner couldn't pay his salary due to government restrictions, this translator kept on working.

Not long ago, the translator declared, "This translation is an eye-opener for my faith. It transforms my life, and I am able to teach my friends and in the youth and women's fellowships. I believe His Word will penetrate the heart of my community, so that we will know deeply about Him. It is my humble request to you all to continue praying for us so that we can give the entire New Testament within this year.

The Apokip New Testament was dedicated on May 14, 2026!

PRAISE

For the completion of the Apokip New Testament and recent dedication celebration.

PRAY

- That the community will embrace translated Scriptures.
- For the Apokip translation team as they transition to working on the Old Testament.

PRAY NOW

Believers Organize Prayer Walk Across 24 Villages

The launch of the Trabhat [THRA–BHAD'] Bible app—with features like audio Scripture, a daily verse, and reading plans—has expanded the reach of God's Word. Believers recently organized a prayer walk across 24 villages, interceding for the 600,000 people who speak Trabhat and trusting God to open doors for the gospel. Pray for success and wisdom for Trabhat translators, who often encounter resistance and restrictions from some political groups and law enforcement.

SCRIPTURE

"But my name is honored by people of other nations from morning till night. All around the world they offer sweet incense and pure offerings in honor of my name. For my name is great among the nations," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Malachi 1:11 (NLT)