

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

ISLANDS ASIA

The Islands Asia region includes just 3 countries, yet the spiritual and translation need across these islands is immense. Some areas have strong, vibrant churches, while others have very few, if any, known believers. Remote geography, natural disasters, and persecution often slow translation work and place added strain on local believers. Praise God that translation organizations, churches, and businesses are working together 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
52	256,550

Pray for Those without the full Bible

Population
42.4 million

Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. August 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

“Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.”

Psalm 5:3 (NLT)

PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Pray that our 3-language cluster's annual planning workshop with the inter-church committees in early September will go well. We will also begin practicing the use of an artificial intelligence tool, Scripture Forge, in September to accelerate translation steps. Pray that the Eton translator, Pastor Letsina Marcel, who is being trained, will be able to explain the process well to other translators.

— The Eton, Swo, and Mengisa teams in Cameroon

Pray for our new believers who have been forced to leave their village because of their faith in Jesus. One family of 5 recently lost their home and belongings. Pray that God will continue to provide for new believers, strengthen their faith, and open the hearts of their communities to the hope of the gospel.

— A Bible translation team in Asia

Praise God that our translators and readers were able to travel safely to and from their villages to audio record passages. The session, which included recording Psalms and most of Isaiah in Misima and Acts in Saisai, spiritually impacted the translators. Pray that they and their advisor will be able to set up a new work schedule that fits all their family, civic, and church responsibilities.

— The Misima and Saisai teams in Papua New Guinea

Prayers and medications have helped the wife of a translator deal with mental issues in the past, but she recently experienced a setback. Pray for healing, strength, and wisdom for this couple.

— A Bible translation team in Asia

REGIONAL UPDATE

When God's Word Takes Root

Earlier this year, Seed Company set out to find the long-term impact of Bible translation on language communities. In April, a video team traveled to the Philippines to spend time with the Koronadal Blaan and Sarangani Blaan language communities.

What they documented was a living testimony to God's faithfulness. The communities received the New Testament in the mid-1990s. Now, a new generation is translating the Old Testament, with 9 books already completed. Some translators are the adult children of those who worked on the New Testament decades ago.

The video team captured story after story of lives transformed through God's Word, including [Marcela's moving account](#). These communities are a portrait of what it looks like when Scripture takes root and bears fruit across generations.

Just a few weeks after the visit, on June 8, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the region, followed by more than 7,000 aftershocks, damaging over 150 homes and several churches in these communities. Praise God, everyone in both communities, including all 6 translators, survived the devastating earthquake.

PRAISE

- That every member of the Blaan community was spared. Despite the earthquake's severity, only minor injuries were reported—a clear answer to prayer.
- For God's faithfulness in raising up the next generation of translators. Majarin, son of the late Pastor Saya, stepped into his father's role as a translator in April, continuing a beautiful legacy of family faithfulness.

PRAY

- For the Blaan community as they rebuild after the June 8 earthquake.
- For God's provision to sustain the work. The translation project receives large local financial support. Many individuals' and churches' giving plans have been disrupted by the collapse of their own church buildings.

IMPACT STORY

Outreach Bears Fruit

Tiow team members are faithfully translating God's Word in an environment where Buddhism and Confucianism dominate their people's way of life. Along with another team, they recently visited a neighboring island that's only accessible by boat or ferry. They partnered with the local church to distribute devices containing audio Scriptures to people in their homes. They shared the gospel with anyone willing to listen. Team members rejoiced when two people chose to start following Jesus. The following Sunday, both people showed up at church.

Many others with whom the teams interacted were hearing about Jesus for the first time. They were not ready to make commitments of faith, but seeds were planted. The Tiow team plans to do another outreach trip in September.

PRAISE

- That the outreach trip resulted in 2 Tiow speakers accepting Jesus as their Savior.
- That the team recently completed Luke's Gospel and consultant checking of several chapters in Acts.

PRAY

- For team member Han, who became a believer through the translation work but is experiencing spiritual attacks and firm opposition from his family. Ask the Lord to protect him and his wife, who has also struggled to support him at times.
- For the translators as they make difficult decisions about key biblical terms—their options for important words such as God, Holy Spirit, and prayer feel limited and less than ideal for communicating in a clear and acceptable way.
- That God will prepare people's hearts to receive the good news of Jesus when the team returns to the neighboring island.

SCRIPTURE

“But God did listen! He paid attention to my prayer. Praise God, who did not ignore my prayer or withdraw his unfailing love from me.”

Psalm 66:19–20 (NLT)

PRAY NOW

Celebration Ahead

Pray for the Pacific Shores team as they prepare for a New Testament dedication in September. Pray that the printed copies will be ready in time for the celebration. Ask God to prepare the hearts of the Pacific Shores people to receive His Word in their language.

FIELD PARTNERS

Faithful Partner Enters New Season

Since 1953, SIL Philippines has partnered with language communities throughout the Philippines as a volunteer, nonprofit organization. Working alongside the Philippine Department of Education and other partners, SIL helps build lasting local capacity for language development through research, translation, training, and the creation of educational materials. SIL has contributed to language research in 93 of the Philippines' 170 recognized languages—a testament to decades of committed service alongside communities that are still waiting to receive God's Word in their own language.

SIL Philippines is also entering an exciting new season of leadership. After faithfully serving as director for the past six years, Jill Choa has begun a new role as partnership and resource development director for SIL Asia Pacific. On June 15, 2026, Maria Cecilia (Cecille) Osorio-Van Zante became the new Director of SIL Philippines. A member of SIL Philippines since 2002, Cecille brings a wealth of experience in mother tongue-based education, curriculum development, and teacher training. Her passion and expertise position her well to lead the organization as it continues serving language communities across the Philippines.

PRAISE

- For a joyful celebration on June 25, where the director role was handed off from Jill to Cecilia.
- For the Kabig Bible dedication on May 30, 2026, and that God's Word is now in the hands of another Filipino language community.

PRAY

- For the Lord to guide Director Cecille and her leadership team as they move forward in this new season together.
- For financial provision and for God's wisdom in hiring key personnel.

TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE

Beseru Language of the Kalbar Cluster Project

“Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people.”

— Luke 1:68 (NLT)

“Tepuji me' Tuan, Tuan Allah Israel, krena Ia datai ngau nulung umat Ia ude' mibas ke sida'.”

— Luke 1:68 (Beseru)

“Praise God, God Lord of Israel, because He came to help his people and free them!”

— Luke 1:68 (Translated back into English from Beseru)

ABOUT THE BESERU

Deep in a region of the Pacific, the 37,000 people who speak Beseru [BEH–SEH'–ROO] have never had access to God's Word in their language—until now. Translators in this First Scripture project are drafting Luke and Acts, producing the “JESUS” film, and audio recording several Scripture songs. Only about 10% of Beseru speakers identify with Christianity. Church leaders are hopeful that heart language Scripture will draw more people to Christ and will also address key cultural issues confronting believers, including syncretism and intermarriage with those outside the Christian faith.

Making the Beseru People Part of God's Story

The Beseru people remember who they are through stories passed down from generation to generation. Their identity has been preserved through the telling of those stories.

When a Beseru believer hears Luke 1:68 in their language, it becomes an invitation to see that the God who guided Abraham, delivered Israel, and raised Jesus from the dead is also the God who has seen the Beseru people throughout their history. Their story is not replaced by God's story; rather, it finds validation within the grander narrative of God wanting to redeem all people, from all backgrounds.

PRAY

- For the next generation, that young people would grow up loving Jesus, valuing God's Word, and faithfully passing their faith and stories about God on to future generations.
- For wisdom as traditions and faith intersect, especially that believers would discern how to honor what is good in their cultural heritage while faithfully following Christ where the gospel calls for change.

SCRIPTURE

“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!”

John 15:7 (NLT)

PRAY NOW

Kuri Pasai Cluster 2

Praise God that all 5 cluster language teams—Ayaw, Imaba, Kiba, Mando, and Sasun—completed their goals in this phase, which will close at the end of September. Pray for the teams’ work after the project concludes, as they seek to increase Scripture use in these language communities in the next few months. Please pray for wisdom for our managing partner and the church community as they discuss future decisions related to translation.

GLOBAL TRANSLATION LEADERS

Training for Translation Consultants

Team members work hard to make sure their translations are clear, natural, and understandable for their language communities. People must be able to say, “Yes, this is my language!” But it’s also hugely important to guarantee that translations are faithful to the original.

People who check for accuracy and naturalness, known as translation consultants, are often in short supply.

When a field partner was asked if they had 1 or 2 candidates to be trained for that role, they said that they really needed 6 or 7!

Training proposals are now in the works for 7 translation consultants. Some will study Exegesis, Greek, or Hebrew. All will take special training that includes classroom work as well as supervised checking of actual translations.

PRAISE

- For these candidates' desire to take on this much-needed role.
- For the eventual impact these new consultants will have on translations throughout the country.

PRAY

- That the candidates will all complete the training. One reason the field partner asked for so many candidates is that they know it's not uncommon for people to drop out. They anticipate attrition. Pray that every candidate becomes an active consultant in God's timing.
- For these candidates to have the mental and spiritual aptitude to absorb all that they'll be studying over the next few years.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Scripture Evokes Admiration, Faith, and Motivation

[Spoken Worldwide](#) aims to provide oral Bible stories where written Scripture is not accessible. They partner with the 3 language teams of the Phinisi Cluster.

As 1 translator working on Genesis observed, “God’s handiwork is truly beautiful and perfect.” He admires Abraham’s steadfastness, patience, and heart for sacrifice. A fellow translator, who worked on the story of Jesus healing Simon’s mother-in-law (Luke 4:38–40), believes His healing power is still active and helped ease his own long-term knee pain.

Yet another translator was pleased that people from different religious backgrounds participated in testing the Bible stories. He said that God provided “precisely the right people to help us, allowing us the opportunity to share the gospel with them indirectly through the very work we are refining.”

PRAISE

That 1 of the Phinisi Cluster teams has completed their translation and audio recording of Genesis.

PRAY

- That the Key Terms Seminar will give translators wisdom and clarity in choosing accurate and meaningful terms for the Scriptures.
- That the upcoming Phinisi Cluster workshop will help the language teams refine their work.

IMPACT OR SCRIPTURE USE

Teams Benefit from Training

The LoTaWa [Cluster](#) unites the efforts of 8 translation teams, each of which is working on a different language. Lately, they have been able to up their game by reviewing the principles of good translation and becoming more comfortable with [Paratext](#) translation software.

Their hard work is paying off.

For example, the Qatxint [KAHT'–ZIHNT] language team has started discussing translation principles on a regular basis. Not only have they become more enthusiastic about their work, but they are also more confident about sharing the translation in churches and schools.

The Fogwim team has focused on mastering Paratext. Their 2 new team members have also been diligently studying translation principles. As a result of the training, the facilitator has noticed an improvement in overall translation quality.

On the Matwafi team, 1 member who used to have a hard time with Paratext has, due to the training, become increasingly independent, and this has made it easier on the others, whose work has also improved.

Thanks to team members' investment in training, they expect to bring the best possible translations to their communities sooner than ever.

PRAISE

- That the LoTaWa Cluster translation teams are seeing their studies pay off.
- That the quality of the 8 language translations, which is already good, is getting better and better.

PRAY

- That the translation teams will stay motivated to improve their skills and apply what they're learning.
- That the LoTaWa communities who receive translations in their languages will be transformed by them.

PRAY NOW

Pray for Thiadora Kantjai's Healing

Please pray for the full recovery of Global Translation Leader Thiadora Kantjai, a quality assurance translation consultant in training. She contracted malaria and typhus during a recent consultant checking session. Thiadora works with several cluster projects in the region.

SCRIPTURE

“For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord.”

Habakkuk 2:14 (NLT)