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

Pacific

The Pacific region spans numerous islands scattered across a vast ocean, where beautiful but remote geography makes many communities hard to reach. The region is rich in language and culture, and while churches are present in many places, people navigate a mix of beliefs as they seek to understand the truth of the gospel. Local partners, churches, and translation teams are faithfully advancing Bible translation. As more Scripture becomes available in heart languages, communities are encountering God's Word more clearly and being transformed—bringing more communities closer 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
152	204,384

Pray for Those without the full Bible

Population
5.3 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

"Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying."

Romans 12:12 (NLT)

Prayer Updates From Around the World

Praise God for protecting a global translation leader's family when they had to flee their eastern DRC city in early September. They traveled more than 300 miles through a conflict zone to be safely reunited.

— A global translation leader in Democratic Republic of the Congo

Praise God for the arrival of 2 new exegetes, Gustavo and Ana, to join our team. Pray for unity, wisdom, and skill for each of us as we perform various checks and reviews to meet our goals for Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and 1 Corinthians.

— The Iku team in the Americas

Pray for successful planning and completion of our team's initial workshop to study Revelation late this year or early next. Pray also for development of a Scripture use program for our language and that God will bring more people to help with our team's work.

— The Kakabai team in Papua New Guinea

Pray that our community will love to read God's Word in our language, and that Scripture will continue to change lives and build strong churches. Praise God that promoting the translation has motivated others to learn how to read and write the language so they can read the Bible in church.

— The Sekpele team in Ghana

Scripture Dedication

Madi Community in Papua New Guinea

On May 15, 2026, our prayers were answered when the Madi people dedicated the Madi mini-New Testament (Mark, Luke, John, and Galatians, along with Genesis 12–22, and Joshua 1–10).

Even though they live along the rough jungle terrain of Papua New Guinea's northern coast where hiking from place to place can take a long time, the translators report many people showed up, and the ceremony was a great success.

"We had many in the Madi communities in attendance and sold lots of books, audio players, and SD cards with Scripture portions," writes the team. The event was preceded by a community walkabout through all the villages raising awareness and preaching—an initiative that increased local interest in the translation project.

Yamua, an elderly man, heard the audio Bible being played during the dedication. He was impressed and bought his own. He then encouraged his whole family to purchase one. He's excited to see how his life may change now that he can understand God's Word!

PRAY

- That the ceremony honored God and was well supported by various pastors.
- That Yamua and other Madi speakers now have the gospel in a language they understand, clearly.

PRAISE

- That the Word of God will touch many hearts as the Madi use the mini-New Testament in their homes, churches, and Bible studies.
- That the audio Bibles will have an impact on those hearing the Madi Scriptures—some for the first time.

Project Update

A Head Start for the Uma New Testament

Translators from 2 language communities in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Mato and Uma, began collaborating for the first time this summer. Working with SIL PNG, they are meeting in Ukarumpa with SIL advisers and attending a translator training course.

The 2 groups live as neighbors on the north coast of the country. Culturally, they are close. Clan lines between them overlap, and Uma people consider Mato people like "big brothers." At one point, both groups even claimed to be speaking 1 language before later survey work showed their languages are distinct enough to need separate translations. More than half of the words found in the languages look and sound similar.

The Mato have finished the New Testament and are using it to launch work on Old Testament books using an artificial intelligence (AI) tool. The Uma are just starting their New Testament; they are basing it on the Mato New Testament with an adaptation tool called FLExTrans. They plan to check the Gospel of Mark with a consultant after completing their training.

PRAISE

- For the spirit of unity between the Uma and Mato communities.
- That God makes it possible for the Uma to leverage previous work by the Mato to launch their own New Testament.

PRAY

- That the joy of both teams will be multiplied as they form the Momabo Cluster project.
- For the successful achievement of each language's set of goals.

Field Partners

SIL PNG

SIL PNG is a significant resource for Bible translation in Papua New Guinea (PNG). They operate as a linguistics and translation organization that's engaged with around 150 language communities across the country.

Their specialized staff works in close collaboration with locals who understand the culture, context, needs, and desires of the community. Since 1956, they've worked with over 400 language communities, and partnered to develop New Testament translations in over 220 languages!

The organization has been working on plans and processes for training nationals to assume more language program manager and advisor roles. Please pray for the SIL PNG team as they implement these changes.

PRAISE

- That God has used SIL PNG to establish His Word in PNG communities for 70 years.
- That He provides wisdom to SIL leaders and shows them fresh ways to develop effective ways of accelerating Bible translation for people who need it.

PRAY

- For SIL PNG as they identify people to train and to take responsibility as mentors, and for development of the course curricula.
- That they would figure out the best way to train and sustain employment for these national advisors.

Scripted Prayer

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts... They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness."

Psalm 145:4-6 (ESV)

Dear Father, we praise You for the work You are doing across the Pacific region to bring all Scripture to all people. May this generation commend Your works to the next, declaring Your mighty acts and speaking of Your greatness for years to come. Amen.

Translated Scripture

Are'are Language of Solomon Islands

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

— Genesis 1:1–5 (NLT)

Raona arata'ena Warato'o 'e raupua raro ma maraukaria. 'Ai'ene maraukari 'ema hapusu kane ma 'e kapu, rokoroko'aha 'e ruhahia hahoana watawa ma Anoamauri Warato'o 'e ru'a hahia asi. Ma Warato'o 'eka iria, <<Raita'ania makataha 'oko hanetaha,>> ma makataha 'e hanetaha. Warato'o 'e riosia makataha 'e rete ma 'e toribitaria makataha mania rokoroko'aha. Ma Warato'o 'e ha'ahoia makataha ana <<taitani>> ma 'e ha'ahoia rokoroko'aha ana <<meetani>>. Ma 'e raurahi ma 'e rarisi. Inaia etana hairatoa.

— Genesis 1:1–5 (Are'are)

In beginning God 'he made sky and eartha. Now the earth does not make yet and it was empty darkness was covered on deep sea and Spirit God moved over Sea. And God 'was said, <<Let light 'you appeared,>> and light 'was appeared. God 'he saw light 'it good and 'he separate light from darkness. And God 'was named light of <<day>> and 'he named darkness of <<night>>. And 'it evening and 'it morning. That first day.

— Genesis 1:1–5 (translated back into English from Are'are)

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About the Are'are People

Nearly 18,000 people speak Are'are in the Solomon Islands. Some live in urban areas near Honiara, the country's capital city, setting up businesses or serving in government. Others live near the coast, where they hunt wild animals and sell coconuts to generate income.

The vast majority of Are'are people identify as Christians. But without the full Bible in their language, many still mix their faith with traditional animistic beliefs. Since most struggle with English or Pijin, their understanding of God's Word is often limited to what they hear from a pastor on Sunday. This lack of personal access to Scripture limits their ability to internalize biblical truths and grow deeper in faith.

The community's response to translated books like Genesis and Ruth has been positive. Hearing God's Word in Are'are helps them understand His story at the heart level. And it gives pastors new confidence as they preach from Scriptures in their heart language.

- Pray for Are'are team members, who plan to translate and print Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, and Esther during this project phase.
- Pray that translated Scriptures will provide a clearer picture of God's character and faithfulness, helping believers grow in their faith and reject animistic beliefs.

Scripture

"The Lord has demonstrated his holy power before the eyes of all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the victory of our God."

Isaiah 52:10 (NLT)

Pray Now

Starlink Now Available in PNG

After a prolonged legal and regulatory battle between governmental agencies in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Starlink has now been deployed to several remote locations. Praise God for this provision. Pray that the equipment would work well and supply more stable internet coverage for translation teams in PNG.

Global Translation Leader

Rev. Emil Hauteas in Indonesia

A shortage of qualified translation consultants often impacts Bible translation projects. The Translation and Literacy Department of the GMIT (The Evangelical Church of Timor, Indonesia), called UBB, is among those who feel the pinch. For the next 3 years, Rev. Emil Hauteas will be training there as a Global Translation Leader to fill this vital role.

Emil is no stranger to ministry and Bible translation. He received a graduate degree in Theology in 1998 and has served in churches, the Synod, and World Vision. He has also been involved with Bible translation in the region and recently felt a strong desire to contribute in a more significant way.

As Emil completes his training, his contribution to Bible translation in the region will be felt for decades to come.

PRAISE

- That God has been preparing Emil to meet this important need for translation consultants.
- That UBB and Seed Company have been partnering well together for nearly 30 years.

PRAY

- That the Lord will continue to raise up qualified people throughout the world to ensure the completion of translations that accurately reflect God's message.
- That Emil will successfully complete his training and apply it for God's glory.

UPCOMING PROJECT

Siar-Lak Language in Papua New Guinea

Work on translating the Siar-Lak [SEEAHR'–LAHK] language in New Ireland, Papua New Guinea, started in the late 1970s through SIL PNG, —and ended when the SIL advisor team left. In 1994, the next team of 2 single women started work, but it went slowly. Then, 1 of them soon left due to illness. The other also went home for a few years to care for her family, retiring in 2020.

At that time, the only books drafted were the Gospels, just 3 of which were checked by a consultant.

After COVID ran its course, SIL advisor Lisbeth Fritzell began working with the team. As a result, 90% of the New Testament has been studied and drafted, though most has not been checked by a consultant. That work will continue in October, thanks to Seed Company funding. The project will be led by Lorie Temi, a national advisor and consultant from another nearby language group, who just finished his consultant training as a Global Translation Leader.

PRAISE

- That a project is ramping up to complete the New Testament for Siar-Lak speakers.
- That God's timing is always right, and he has prepared Lorie to serve the Siar-Lak language project beginning this year.

PRAY

- For Lorie as he takes on the role of translation advisor and project manager for SIL PNG.
- That God will provide guidance and resources for effectively engaging the community with Scripture.

Pray Now

Upcoming IT Workshop

Plans are in the works for an IT workshop this fall in Dili, Timor-Leste, where Global Translation Leaders from the Pacific Region Toros Araboka and James Soares can meet face-to-face with their Seed Company mentor, Myles Hardeman. Pray for wisdom for those planning the logistics, safe travels for Toros, James, and Myles, and sessions that are educational, effective, and encouraging.

Scripture

"Lord, we show our trust in you by obeying your laws; our heart's desire is to glorify your name."

Isaiah 26:8 (NLT)