

THE 2023

# FINISH LINE



Wycliffe<sup>®</sup>  
BibleTranslators



Prayer changes everything.

Throughout my life, I've seen God answer prayer time and time again. His answers haven't always been in the way that I hoped or requested, but they've always accomplished his purposes and ultimately brought him glory.

Prayer is an opportunity to commune with God, to learn more about his heart. Through it, you align yourself with his will for your life, the lives of your friends and family and for the lives of his children all around the world.

The Finish Line is a guide, inviting you to pray for communities around the world that are within three years of completion — a time often filled with additional challenges and spiritual warfare. But as members of God's global church, it's a privilege to pray on behalf of these projects and the communities they will impact.

I encourage you to join me in praying for the projects featured in this year's edition of the Finish Line. By praying together, we can see God's global mission accomplished.

Thank you for being a part of seeing these projects cross the finish line!

Until all the nations worship,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "John Chesnut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Dr. John Chesnut  
President/CEO  
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

# ABOUT THE FINISH LINE

Prayer is an important part of Bible translation, and it's especially critical during the final stages before completion. Often this is when spiritual attacks happen and troubles arise. The translations are so close to being done, but it can be difficult to persevere.

That's why The Finish Line exists. This booklet is a quick-access resource to help you pray more effectively for translations that are within three years of publication or arrival to a language group. These projects and teams need prayer, and you can be a part of the team that supports them.

But these 31 projects aren't the only ones in need; they represent more than 300 similar translation projects worldwide waiting to cross the finish line. Check out the additional resources below to stay up-to-date on the prayer needs of translation projects around the world.

## WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

### WYCLIFFE.ORG/FINISHLINE

A complete list of all projects sorted by area of the world.

### WYCLIFFE.ORG/PRAYER

Prayer email updates and an updated Finish Line guide for each month.

### PRINTED COPY

To receive a printed copy of The Finish Line by mail,  
call **1-800-WYCLIFFE** (1-800-992-5433)  
or email **prayer\_usa@wycliffe.org**.

# HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Each entry in The Finish Line is packed with useful information. For most projects, you'll find the country and population of the language group. If a translation project is handled by a partner organization, their name is included at the end of the entry.

Here's an example explaining what each section of the entry means.

LANGUAGE NAME   LOCATION   POPULATION

## **DAY 7: KAIWÁ; Brazil (33,000)**

Many Bible translation teams face unique trials and setbacks as they approach the finish line. Mr. Salvador, the main translator for the Kaiwá, and his family suffered two motorcycle accidents last year. His wife experienced severe injuries in both, and Mr. Salvador cared for her and also took over her work responsibilities. Even with these difficulties, he remained steadfast and excited to complete the New Testament, which has been a tremendous testimony to Kaiwá believers and non-believers alike.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » For God, through his Word and Holy Spirit, to encourage the team and keep them healthy. “And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled” (Romans 15:4b, NLT).
- » Successful completion of the last books: John, Hebrews and Revelation. The team would like to finish the New Testament by the end of the year.
- » Fruitful arrangements with Faith Comes By Hearing to record the New Testament.

ASSOCIAÇÃO LINGUÍSTICA EVANGÉLICA MISSIONÁRIA

PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)

# PRAYING THROUGH THE STAGES OF A TRANSLATION PROJECT

**FIRST DRAFT:** A preliminary, tentative translation that will be tested and improved. Revisions continue throughout successive drafts.

**REVIEWER CHECK:** Speakers of the target language read through the translation to make corrections and suggest improvements.

**BACK TRANSLATION:** Rendering a translation back into a language of wider use, usually in a word-by-word or phrase-by-phrase format. The back translation enables consultants who do not know the target language to evaluate the accuracy and adequacy of the translation.

**CONSULTANT CHECK:** A skilled and experienced adviser meets with the translation team to discuss the wording of the translation, verse-by-verse. The adviser may share how known problem passages have been handled by others and also give advice on broader and more general aspects of the program.

**EXEGETICAL CHECK:** Ensuring accuracy in translation and faithfulness to the source text by comparing the translation to the original Greek or Hebrew.



**CONSISTENCY CHECK:** Ensuring consistent translation of key biblical terms, important theological concepts, Bible names and parallel passages throughout the entire text. Reasons for necessary variations are clarified.

**REVISION:** Changes made to the translation to improve accuracy and readability, making it more faithful to the original meaning and more natural in expression in the target language. Every translation goes through many revisions. Revisions require follow-through, entering corrections and further rechecking.

**FORMAT AND STYLE CHECK:** Ensuring that supplemental material is prepared and checked, including a preface, footnotes, glossaries, maps, pictures, captions and introductions to the books. Verses and chapters are numbered, and spelling, punctuation and paragraphing are checked.

**PROOFREADING:** The long, intense and demanding task of checking all the details of an entire manuscript, including those listed under “Format and Style Check.”

**TYPESETTING:** Once final decisions are made on the aesthetic presentation of the book (size and style of print, overall layout and design, etc.), the edition is ready for print.



# HOW DO I PRAY FOR TRANSLATION PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION?

*Every translation project is unique, but many face similar challenges and obstacles. You are welcome to use this list of prayer points to help you begin and focus.*

## **PRAY FOR THE TRANSLATORS**

Translation teams and their families are vulnerable at this time. Pray the Holy Spirit will encourage the translators and keep their focus on Jesus in every circumstance. Ask God to provide for them financially and for the health and stamina of them and their families during the process. Pray for healthy relationships with local denominations and that they will agree on wording and writing style of the translation.



## **PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE**

As a project nears completion, it is important to prepare those who will be receiving and engaging with the translated Word. Pray for the local church to incorporate the translated Word into their services. Pray that local communities will be excited for the completion and publication of the Scriptures and that they will be transformed by them.

## **PRAY FOR PROTECTION**

Many translators are living and working in sensitive areas. Pray that God will grant safety for those working in translation around the world — especially those working in secret. Also ask God to cover those who may experience sickness or natural disasters.

## **PRAY FOR PROGRESS**

Pray for the finalization of the text. Lift up accuracy for the typesetters who are often working in a language they don't understand. Pray for local readers to participate in a community check of the acceptability of the translation. Ask for God's favor in the printing process, that he will provide the resources needed to publish and that he will guard the delivery of finished products.







Celebrating the  
Occidental Tawbuid!

On July 18, 2022, in a small village in the mountains of the Philippines, hundreds of people from throughout the area — and even a few people from different countries — came for a celebration. The whole Bible in Occidental Tawbuid had been completed!

Their New Testament was completed in 2000, and the community requested the whole Bible in 2010. The Occidental Tawbuid team prayed that the dedication of the Bible would be a peaceful event and that God would be glorified in it.

The Lord answered their prayers! Even though the beginning of the week was marred by unprecedented insurgent activity in the area that prevented some translators from attending the dedication, the four-hour service was joyful. The celebration featured singing and testimonies from many people. Bishop Efraim Tendaro delivered a heartfelt message about how the Bible transforms lives and how God chooses to speak to us through his Word. Scripture reminds us: “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103). But the Bible is only sweet if we can understand it. Now the Tawbuid can understand and enjoy the sweetness of Scripture in their language!

Translation consultant Kermit Titrud said, “During the dedication ... I choked up when I was asked to share. I expressed my joy working with the translators for the past 10 years and of their many personal sacrifices in order to finish this translation.”

He concluded: “I guess the reason I choked up ... was that the joy I had was too great to not express it emotionally — of how beautiful the body of Christ worked in the production of this translation. To [God], the head, be the glory. And to him be the power as he encourages his children to read his Word and find joy in it.”

Praise God for the completion and celebration of the Occidental Tawbuid Bible! This translation project has been featured in *The Finish Line*, and your prayers helped bring God’s Word to this community in the Philippines.

# 31 DAYS OF PRAYER

*Note: The following section is comprised of a list of 31 projects and how to pray for them. Unless otherwise noted, each project is for a complete translation of the New Testament. We are so grateful for your prayers and partnership in Bible translation.*

## **DAY 1: KRAUN\*; Africa (100,000)**

With persistence and determination, the Kraun team is ready to cross the finish line! The entire Kraun Bible has been checked, proofread, typeset and will be sent for printing this year. May the Lord bless the people with receptive hearts as they welcome this long-awaited gift. “Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name” (Hebrews 13:15, NLT).

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Timely printing and shipping of the Kraun Bible. Pray for a quality print job, durable binding, reliable transport and wide distribution among the people.
- » That the dedication committee will successfully organize details of the ceremony.
- » Funding for workshops and Scripture engagement activities. Pray that local church leaders receive training in how to teach the Kraun Old Testament.
- » Lasting peace in the region and safety for the team as they travel from cities to villages.

## **DAY 2: KURDISH KURMANJI; Armenia/Georgia/Russia (190,000)**

Kurdish Kurmanji speakers have had the New Testament in their language since 2000 but soon they will have the whole Bible! A team has worked hard to translate the Old Testament and is making final adjustments that are needed before printing. Due to COVID-19, the team has relied much more on virtual means to complete the final tasks. Work has also been delayed due to health problems of several team members.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Good health for the whole team as well as strength and concentration as they assess corrections in the final manuscript, make any needed changes and proofread the Bible.
- » For God to abundantly provide finances to cover printing and distribution costs.

- » That churches will endorse and promote the translation so that Kurdish believers will accept it, feed on it and let it penetrate their hearts.
- » That believers will witness more to others as they are impacted by God's Word.

INSTITUTE FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION (RUSSIA/CIS)

### **DAY 3: HAZER\*; Asia**

The Hazer translation team is working in two different countries. Praise God that communications have remained open and the team completed drafting the New Testament last year!

#### ***Prayer points:***

- » For the team to successfully record the New Testament by mid-2023; the audio recording will reach many Hazer who do not read.
- » Strength, a clear voice and safety for the Hazer man who will make the recording. Pray that God will encourage his faith as he reads and absorbs God's Word.
- » Wise and effective distribution of the Scripture app with the Hazer New Testament for mobile phones in the second half of 2023. It will need to be distributed selectively among believers and those interested in the faith.
- » Transformation in the hearts of Hazer men, women and children as they hear and receive the Good News of Christ. "But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence" (Jeremiah 17:7, NLT).

### **DAY 4: AJA; Benin (910,000)**

The Bible Society of Benin is scheduled to publish the Aja New Testament this year. At that time, nearly 1 million people will get God's Word in their language! The Aja have taken ownership of the translation project and eagerly await the printed Scriptures. Team members are making significant progress toward completing the Old Testament and have started a literacy program to prepare the community to receive and use the Word.

#### ***Prayer points:***

- » For the final stages of publication and distribution of the Aja New Testament. Pray for sturdy books with great binding and clear print.
- » A joyous dedication ceremony where many Aja would purchase the New Testaments.
- » Stamina for the team as they translate the final Old Testament books. May God bless them and their families with good health.

- » Great collaboration between the project partners and members of the association.

ALLIANCE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE IN AJA; BIBLE SOCIETY OF BENIN; SIL

## **DAY 5: KAIWÁ; Brazil (33,000)**

Many Bible translation teams face unique trials and setbacks as they approach the finish line. Mr. Salvador, the main translator for the Kaiwá, and his family suffered two motorcycle accidents last year. His wife experienced severe injuries in both, and Mr. Salvador cared for her and also took over her work responsibilities. Even with these difficulties, he remained steadfast and excited to complete the New Testament, which has been a tremendous testimony to Kaiwá believers and non-believers alike.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » For God, through his Word and Holy Spirit, to encourage the team and keep them healthy. “And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled” (Romans 15:4b, NLT).
- » Successful completion of the last books: John, Hebrews and Revelation. The team would like to finish the New Testament by the end of the year.
- » Fruitful arrangements with Faith Comes By Hearing to record the New Testament.

ASSOCIAÇÃO LINGUISTICA EVANGÉLICA MISSIONÁRIA

## **DAY 6: LYÉLÉ; Burkina Faso (213,000)**

Last September the Lyélé team sent the entire Bible for printing, and they plan to dedicate the Scriptures early this year! One team member spoke about how people are excited to receive the Bible: “Many in the community can hardly wait for the day to arrive. People cherish the portions of Scripture that they do have in their language. Copies of the Lyélé New Testament, and many of the Old Testament books that have been published, are sold out. Not only do people read Scripture, but they also apply it. Translators have witnessed transformed lives and restored marriages. The number of genuine followers of Christ is growing.”

### ***Prayer points:***

- » For the Bibles to be shipped promptly and safely to the language area.
- » A worshipful and well-attended dedication service that encourages the Lyélé to continue reading and applying the Scriptures. Pray

that their transformed lives will be a testimony to the surrounding communities.

- » Guidance for the three translators as they finish the project and follow God's calling in their future endeavors.

SIL

## **DAY 7: TCHOUVOK; Cameroon (15,000)**

The Tchouvok, subsistence farmers who live in earthen homes without electricity or running water, eagerly desire their own translation of God's Word. While battling extreme poverty, they began a "corn and millet challenge" to help raise funds among their people for Bible translation. The challenge was for children to contribute a cup of corn or millet and for adults to contribute two cups to sell at local markets. Many people contributed more than was asked and helped fund the long-awaited Tchouvok New Testament! It is currently at the printer in South Korea and will soon be in their hands.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » A smooth and timely printing process and for God to protect the printing presses, binding machines and finished New Testaments as they are transported back to the language area.
- » Creative ideas for Scripture engagement so the Tchouvok will understand God's great love for them.
- » For the Lord to prepare the hearts of the local people to receive his life-changing words. "They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb" (Psalm 19:10, NLT).

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

## **DAY 8: NZAKARA; Central African Republic (50,000)**

Consultant checking is a rigorous process essential to producing an accurate biblical translation, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nzakara team did not have consultants available. Give thanks that our Father always provides! He answered their prayers and sent two consultants, Paulus and Will. Now the team is prepared to finish checking the four remaining New Testament books this year: Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, Hebrews and Revelation.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Stable internet connection and functioning Paratext software, which provides translators with automated checks that evaluate the accuracy and consistency of a translation draft.
- » Energy and funding for the team to complete the final publication

stages and prepare for the Nzakara New Testament dedication.

- » Good attendance at Scripture workshops and training courses. Pray that the classes will mobilize Nzakara churches for service in the community.
- » Safety as the team travels to and from the language area by plane. They hope to move back into the region this year.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SIL

## **DAY 9: DADJO DAR DADJO; Chad (70,000)**

The Dadjo Dar Dadjo predominantly follow another major world religion but also rely on traditional religious practices for their daily needs because they believe God is too distant. Very few believe in Jesus, and the Daju reputation for fierce opposition to the gospel can be a deterrent to groups who consider reaching out to them. Praise the Lord for the committed translation team, especially the exegete (who ensures that the translation is faithful to the biblical texts) who was very ill this year. Praise God for his recovery. The Dadjo Dar Dadjo team hopes to dedicate the New Testament by 2025!

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Good communication between the team, exegete and consultant as they check the epistles and other translated books.
- » God's hand on an intern who joined the team to assist with the exegesis. May this addition help improve the quality of the text.
- » For the Dadjo Dar Dadjo to yearn for God. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV).

COORDINATION RÉGIONALE DES COMITÉS DE TRADUCTION DE LA BIBLE AU GUÉRA

## **DAY 10: PUINAVE; Colombia (13,000)**

As the translation team worked on the Puinave New Testament, an adviser said, "It is exciting to the translation team to hear Scriptures come alive which they have read in Spanish but never understood very well — and then want to teach others of their people to read it!" Praise God that last year the team completed a final consultant check of James and 1-2 Peter, inserted corrections and reread all previously checked books and portions to ensure the manuscript was clear and sounded natural.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Focus and strength as the team checks spelling and consistent use of vocabulary before the New Testament is formatted.
- » For an expert typesetter to be available to do the final formatting.

This is a detailed task which will be followed by multiple proofreadings.

- » Funds to print 2,000 copies of the New Testament.
- » God's guidance on the best printing firm to use.

#### GLOBAL PARTNERS

### **DAY 11: KRU CLUSTER PROJECT — *Gagnoa Bété, Godié and Guéré languages; Côte d'Ivoire (706,000)***

After learning to read the Gagnoa Bété language, one pastor smoothly read a passage from Romans. Two local pastors heard him and responded by saying, "This is the first time we have heard a text read in our language. We are ready to participate in the workshop on engaging with Scripture!" Praise the Lord for his faithfulness to the Kru Cluster project! The Guéré New Testament was dedicated in November 2021 and is now in the hands of the people. Literacy efforts, including strategic teacher training, began in Guéré and Gagnoa Bété communities.

#### ***Prayer points:***

- » Wide distribution of the printed Guéré New Testament. May all who read and hear God's Word in their language encounter the true and living God.
- » An exponential increase in literacy among the Godié and Gagnoa Bété communities as literacy classes continue to prepare people to receive the New Testament in their language.
- » Creative ideas for the Godié and Gagnoa Bété teams as they prepare God-honoring ceremonies to welcome the arrival of the New Testament.

#### SIL

### **DAY 12: OMI; Democratic Republic of the Congo (155,000)**

Last year Omi literacy workers revised their transition literacy primer to include Bible stories with comprehension and application questions in each lesson. The aim was for church leaders to become more fluent readers of the Scriptures they prepared while waiting for the arrival of the New Testament. A 55-year-old literacy student shared that this was the first time he understood the meaning of the parable of the sower. Praise the Lord, the Omi New Testament dedication is scheduled for Jan. 15, 2023!

#### ***Prayer points:***

- » Wide distribution of the New Testament. May it be used by churches, families and individuals throughout Omi communities and produce a great harvest.
- » Safety within the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in



the regions where Bible translation is taking place.

- » Lasting spiritual transformation of the Omi. “I will teach all your children, and they will enjoy great peace” (Isaiah 54:13, NLT).

SIL

## **DAY 13: SEBAT CLUSTER PROJECT — Gwama, Komo and Seize languages; Ethiopia (45,000)**

Trusting in Christ, the Gwama, Komo and Seize teams navigate various challenges in their translation work. The language region is filled with violence and strife. Team members and their families recently relocated to a more secure area with greater access to Scripture workshops and training. However, they lost valuable time in their New Testament projects. All the Sebat Cluster teams have been adversely affected by the conflict and instability in their communities. May God strengthen their efforts as they run with endurance toward the finish line! “Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established” (Proverbs 16:3, ESV).

### **Prayer points:**

- » Perseverance and energy for the teams as they continue the detailed work of reviewing, checking, revising and proofreading the New Testament translations.
- » Productivity for the translators as they work diligently to redeem the time that was lost due to insurgency. Pray for Christ’s peace to reign in Ethiopia.
- » Comfort for the Seize team and the family members of two translators who died during the conflict.
- » Protection for the teams and their families. Pray for security amid political unrest and safety when traveling to workshops and training courses.

WYCLIFFE ETHIOPIA

## **DAY 14: UNA; Indonesia (6,000)**

On Aug. 24, 2022, 600 Una speakers, including ministers, elders, team members and local believers, joined together to dedicate their entire Bible! The Una New Testament has been available since 2007, and the Old Testament was completed in 2021. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, 20 community and church representatives were called forward to receive the Bibles. One Una team member shared, “With singing and cheering, the Bibles were lifted up in thanksgiving. It was a joyous event, with many unable to hold back their tears.” The Una Bible is printed in two columns, has thumb indexes, and contains an anthology of rhymed psalms and texts often used in the liturgy, including the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles’ Creed.

**Prayer points:**

- » That many would attend the Una's anniversary service this summer. Fifty years ago, the gospel arrived in the Una region. A stone monument will be unveiled in the exact location where the helicopter carrying missionaries and evangelists first landed in 1973.
- » For the Scriptures to bear much fruit in Una lives.

INDONESIAN BIBLE SOCIETY; PAPUA REFORMED ASSEMBLY CHURCH

**DAY 15: NTANDROY; Madagascar (1,300,000)**

The Ntandroy live in a very arid region in southern Madagascar and have recently suffered through famine and cyclones. The team has persevered through many trials and is eager to finish the full New Testament. Father Benolo François, leader of the Ntandroy team, began translating Scriptures in the early 1970s. The team has completed the Gospels, Acts, several epistles and the "JESUS" film. This year they plan to finish checking the New Testament manuscript with consultants and then conduct a read-through with the community.

**Prayer points:**

- » God's provision for the team and protection from the enemy as they complete checks and work through the remaining New Testament tasks.
- » Determination for Father Benolo and the team as they disciple the Ntandroy. Pray that Christians in the language area would stand boldly for Jesus and encourage others in their walk with him.
- » That God will bless the Bible translation organization as they continue spreading the Word in Madagascar.

TOGETHER IN BIBLE TRANSLATION

**DAY 16: STEEP MOUNTAIN ZAPOTEC\*; Mexico (2,500)**

The Lord is transforming generations of Steep Mountain Zapotec speakers through his Word. The team reports: "The children who attend the church have paid more attention to the lessons and have been more successful memorizing Bible verses when the material is in Zapotec. The kids' Sunday school teachers have noticed the difference that having the Scripture in Zapotec makes." The local church is supportive of the translation project, which includes the complete New Testament and selections from the Old Testament, and many believers assist with activities such as Scripture recordings and hand puppet Bible videos for children.

**Prayer points:**

- » Good health and mental clarity for the team. Pray that their responsibilities in the community government will not limit their availability to help with the translation.
- » Wisdom for the local pastor as he teaches churches biblical doctrine.
- » God's direction as the team organizes a songwriting workshop based on Psalms.
- » Significant spiritual impact in the lives of adults and children who learn from the Bible videos, Sunday school lessons and Scripture portions.

**DAY 17: OKPHELA; Nigeria (100,000)**

About 85% of the Okphela population profess Jesus as Savior. All 3,000 copies of the New Testament have been distributed to the 10 Okphela villages. Traditional religion, however, continues its grip on the community. As a result, Okphela church leaders are eager for the rest of the Bible to be completed so they can more effectively combat false teachings. Praise God that the team had the opportunity to translate COVID-19 information into Okphela for a popular local television station which has drawn further attention to their work.

**Prayer points:**

- » Wisdom, strength and skill as the team presses forward. Their goal is to complete the full Bible this year!
- » Keen eyes as the team prepares a dictionary in Okphela.
- » God's protection over the team members and their families.
- » That people's hearts are prepared to encounter the living God, be set free from fear and bondage to false beliefs, and that they'll be a testimony of love, peace and hope to others.

**MISSION FOR LANGUAGE TRANSLATION**

**DAY 18: ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT —  
*Carolinian language; Northern Mariana Islands (3,100)***

The Carolinian language is one of 16 languages in the Isles of the Sea Cluster project. Because of COVID-19's impact, the translation team was unable to finish a final review of the New Testament last year. After this work of carefully reading the manuscript to catch any errors is complete, the team can move forward with typesetting and printing, hopefully in 2024.

**Prayer points:**

- » That people are available and willing to review the translation.
- » Clear minds and focus for the reviewers so they will catch any errors.
- » Good communication between team members and outside consultants.

SEED COMPANY; SIL – ISLES-OF-THE-SEA.ORG

**DAY 19: APAL; Papua New Guinea (900)**

Apal is considered an endangered language. With roughly 900 people in the population, only 500 still speak in the vernacular. The team carefully incorporated additional local dialects into the Apal New Testament translation to ensure wider distribution, greater readability and a clearer understanding of the text. The community is already using an audio recording of the Scriptures, and the printed version is scheduled for dedication this year. Even though this language group is small, the Lord cares for the people and wants them to hear his Good News!

**Prayer points:**

- » Energy for the team as they prepare to host a three-day event prior to the dedication.
- » Sustainable solutions for powering the Scripture audio devices. The current units are only lasting up to six months.
- » Devoted church leaders who will have an opportunity to purchase the Apal New Testaments and attend a training course in April. Pray that they will be studious and teach with accuracy.
- » Eagerness among the people to receive and apply God's Word in their lives.

PIONEER BIBLE TRANSLATORS PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**DAY 20: ACHÉ; Paraguay (1,885)**

Since 2005, the Aché team has worked toward translating the entire Bible while facing a unique challenge: their language does not include poetry, so properly interpreting books such as Psalms and Proverbs is a difficult task. The people are relying on God to grant wisdom, understanding and discernment as they strive to complete the Old Testament by 2025. “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up” (Galatians 6:9, NLT). By God’s grace, the complete Aché Bible will be dedicated in 2026!

**Prayer points:**

- » Strength, stamina and rest for the team during the final stages of translation.
- » That the Aché church will reach out and care for the community during the trials of COVID-19.
- » Accuracy and readability of the whole text, including the Bible's poetic books.

LATINOAMERICANOS EN TRADUCCIÓN Y ALFABETIZACIÓN; SEED COMPANY

**DAY 21: ORIENTAL TAWBUID; Philippines (10,000)**

Oriental Tawbuid is a unique language compared to other Filipino languages, with some of its grammatical features resembling English and others Hebrew. In 1996, the people received the New Testament. Praise God that the team expects to dedicate the full Oriental Tawbuid Bible this year! They are grateful for the Lord's provision of good health and two productive translation workshops in 2022.

**Prayer points:**

- » Successful printing, binding and distribution of the Oriental Tawbuid Bibles. Pray the books are used widely in homes, churches and Bible study groups.
- » A worshipful dedication service that brings the community together in one accord to honor the Lord and celebrate his Word.
- » For God to prepare the hearts of people as the translation work crosses the finish line. "And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest" (Luke 8:15, NLT).

OMF INTERNATIONAL; SIL; TEAM

**DAY 22: TÉKÉ-TYEE; Republic of the Congo (14,400)**

The Téké-Tyee have many similarities to their neighbors; they hunt, farm, garden and live near the Congo River. However, the community is set apart by its royal heritage, and its people preside over local spiritual matters. Their cultural belief system includes animism, rituals, superstitions and submission to an impersonal supreme being. Anyone who professes Christ is shunned from society and rejected by family members. Prayer is vital as the Téké-Tyee team continues to translate the New Testament and portions of the Old Testament. Ruth, Mark and Luke are complete and ready for publication.

**Prayer points:**

- » Spiritual growth and continued cooperation in the local churches as they work together to teach God's Word to the people.

- » Well-attended literacy classes and strong community ownership of the project.
- » Wisdom for the team in translating the New Testament. Pray that God would guide them in every linguistic decision.
- » Courage for the Téké-Tyee people to turn from religious traditions and follow the Savior.

SIL

## **DAY 23: KOMI-ZYRYAN; Russia (156,000)**

The Komi live in the Komi Republic of Russia, west of the Ural Mountains and south of the Barents Sea. This year the Komi-Zyryan Bible will be available to the Komi! Rejoice that, when translation drafts were tested with Komi readers and they read Bible books that were already published, they found answers to their questions of everyday life. The Word has led people to repentance, protected them from sin, brought comfort and healing, and has given them strength to help other people. Praise God!

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Quality printing and binding for the Bibles.
- » A wide distribution of the Bibles among Komi communities, including the farthest villages with poor transportation connections. There are villages that are only reachable by river, in the summer by ferry or in the winter by ice roads.
- » Transformation among the Komi as they use the Bible.

INSTITUTE FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION FINLAND

## **DAY 24: MONO; Solomon Islands (3,000)**

Mono is a language primarily spoken on three of the Solomon Islands: Treasury Island, Shortland Island and Fauro Island. Each island speaks a slightly different dialect, and the translation team is working hard to produce a New Testament that everyone will understand.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » That community members from three churches will have a successful read-through of the New Testament to ensure that speakers of all three dialects clearly understand the Word.
- » A spirit of unity as the team works together to finish this project which was stalled for many years. “And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled” (Romans 15:4b, NLT).
- » Alert eyes for those who will proofread the New Testament. Pray that they will catch any errors so that the manuscript is excellent and easy to use.

- » Extensive use of the Scriptures by Mono speakers so they will know and love Christ and want to share him with others.

**BIBLE SOCIETY OF SOUTH PACIFIC; SOLOMON ISLANDS TRANSLATION ADVISORY GROUP**

## **DAY 25: HIRANG\* and GAMU\*; South Asia**

The Hirang and Gamu teams have worked closely on their New Testament projects. The Lord is using their efforts in mighty ways to impact the communities. One Hirang translator shared, “For many years, whenever I visited different area churches, I heard numerous testimonies of how Scripture, audio, video stories, dubbed movies and radio programs have touched people’s lives. One recent example was when our friend from the Gamu area felt sick or weak, he would watch translated video songs and God gave him peace and healing.”

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Opportunities for the adviser to visit the Hirang and Gamu teams and assist with read-throughs of both New Testaments.
- » Increased use of the existing Android apps in Hirang and Gamu. Pray that the Scriptures will be widely accepted in the language areas.
- » That team members will grow in the Word so they become leaders among the people. Pray for fertile hearts that yield much spiritual fruit.

## **DAY 26: LAARIM; South Sudan (37,000)**

Translation team members conducted a successful community check of Psalms in Farasika village. Local pastors were excited to have the beloved book and began using it in their teaching and preaching. Psalms deeply touched the people. One person said, “This book gives us confidence that we can rely on God.” Now evangelists carry and use the translated Book of Psalms when they minister in Laarim communities.

### ***Prayer points:***

- » Health and safety for the translation team and their families. Travel within the language area is unsafe due to security issues.
- » Smooth completion of the typesetting and a mistake-free printing process that results in quality books. The team hopes to dedicate the Laarim New Testament in print and audio formats and Old Testament portions by the end of 2023.
- » Transformation as the Laarim receive the Good News in their language. “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect” (Romans 12:2, NLT).

## **DAY 27: TOWUD\*; Southeast Asia (25,000)**

The Towud team has been translating the New Testament into two related dialects. Last year they worked hard to check the spelling in both manuscripts and then typeset them. They also moved forward on a dictionary, which brings prestige to the language, and revised a songbook app. Praise God that COVID-19 has only minimally affected their progress!

### **Prayer points:**

- » For God to guide every aspect of the printing of these New Testaments — for functional printers, a smooth bookbinding process, and secure packing and shipping of the New Testaments to the language area.
- » Wide and effective distribution of the New Testaments in the two dialects.
- » A bountiful spiritual harvest as people encounter the Word of God in their languages for the first time. “And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” (Mark 4:20, NLT)

## **DAY 28: MBEYA C CLUSTER PROJECT — *Safwa language*; Tanzania (158,000)**

The Safwa live in the highlands of southwestern Tanzania where approximately half the population follows local beliefs and others follow occultic groups whom they fear. However, the “JESUS” film and audio Scriptures on MegaVoice players are reaching communities. Many receive Christ after hearing the Scriptures in their language! One pastor talked about the translation work and said, “Truly, this work you do is very good. The Safwa language used [in the film] is very good and easily understood by all people.”

### **Prayer points:**

- » Health and safety for the Safwa team and community.
- » Unity for the translation team as they work with a typesetter and make numerous decisions during the layout process.
- » A quality and timely printing process.
- » Opportunities for Scripture engagement and literacy workers to encourage people to use Scripture portions as the Safwa anticipate the arrival of their New Testament.

**SEED COMPANY**



## **DAY 29: MOBA; Togo (319,000)**

The Moba yearn for God's Word! One speaker declared, "I was very happy to receive my Moba New Testament. It was a real need for me for a long time. I can read it fluently and would like to use it to teach Sunday school to the Moba community in our local church. I urge the association to persevere in this task which contributes not only to the development of our mother tongue but especially to the salvation of souls!"

### **Prayer points:**

- » Strength for the team as they translate and check the Old Testament books.
- » Fruitful and well-attended literacy classes. In 2022, the Moba language literacy program held graduation ceremonies for students who passed their final exams. Pray that many Christians would learn to read, write and effectively use the Moba New Testament and Old Testament portions.
- » Protection from the enemy and good health for team members and their families.
- » For the Holy Spirit to guide activities of the language association as they mobilize the community to use the Scriptures.

**ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSLATION, LITERACY AND SCRIPTURES ENGAGEMENT IN BENIN; SIL**

## **DAY 30: YIBE\*; West Africa (20,000)**

Praise God for his faithfulness to the Yibe! The New Testament is being printed, and the team is planning a dedication ceremony! Currently only about 75 of the 20,000 Yibe people are followers of Christ. May the New Testament motivate these believers to share the gospel with their neighbors.

### **Prayer points:**

- » Wisdom to plan the Yibe New Testament dedication. The team needs to consider several factors, including the completion of the printing, growing insurgency in the wider area and the rainy season, which hinders the ability to hold a large event.
- » Health and protection for the team and flexibility and provision as they transition to working in a literacy project among the Yibe.
- » That God will prepare the Yibe church for the arrival of the New Testament so they can grow in numbers and be a light to everyone around them. "No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house" (Luke 8:16, NLT).

## DAY 31: KUNDA; Zambia (162,760)

Every year the Kunda participate in a traditional ceremony designed to preserve the country's cultural heritage and honor community leaders. For three days, the people sing, dance, tell stories and give speeches about Kunda history. Praise God that the printed Kunda New Testament will be dedicated at the annual ceremony this August! The team recently presented the Scriptures in audio format, and now the people will have the first translation written exclusively in the Kunda language.

### Prayer points:

- » For families and churches to embrace and apply God's Word. Pray that many Kunda will trust in Jesus and be a light to the surrounding communities.
- » Comfort for the family and friends of a team member who recently passed; he assisted with six translation projects over the years and will be truly missed.
- » The Lord's direction for the team as they develop Scripture engagement, discipleship and evangelism activities in the language area. Pray for great spiritual transformation among the Kunda.

### SEED COMPANY

Thank you for praying for these 31 translation projects.

# DON'T STOP NOW!

Sign up to receive prayer email updates, which include a daily Finish Line prayer guide for each month, our e-newsletter and more at [wycliffe.org/prayer](http://wycliffe.org/prayer).

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## THE FINISH LINE

**DAY 1: UMBUNDU; Angola (6,000,000)**  
Umbundu, a language spoken by one-third of the population of Angola, was originally used for slave and ivory trade between Ovimbundu people and Portuguese settlers in the 1700s. In 1874, Umbundu also became a local church language. Now it's the most widely spoken local language in Angola! The Bible Society of Angola launched the Umbundu New Testament in November 2015 and

That the Holy Spirit will stir people's hearts to long for the entire Bible and produce lasting spiritual fruit as God's full Word becomes available to Umbundu speakers.

**DAY 3: VULAVA; Papua New Guinea (4,600)**  
The Vulava translation team had a setback in their attempt to get the drafted Old Testament and revised New Testament books through the final steps before publication

located remotely to be readily available to the team for lighter checks and support.

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**DAY 5: MWAGHAVUL; Nigeria (700,000)**  
ed proclaim in Isaiah 55:1: "I send My Word out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it" (NLT).  
Praise God for the hunger for God's Word among the Mwaghavul people. They have expressed the "New Testament Three Times" Over 100 enthusiastic Bible study groups, using a combination of audio and video Scriptures, regularly meet to listen to and apply the Word.

It is the translation team as they press forward with the 29 books of the Old Testament. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill them with power, joy, and health. Pray that their families will enjoy good health, peace in their area and for tribulation persecution to end. Help those who require treatment.



Be joyful in hope, patient in  
affliction, faithful in prayer.  
- Romans 12:12 (NIV)

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