How to Pray for ASAP

**All Scripture, All People*

Consider this: People encounter the love of Jesus when they hear God's Word in their own language.

Yet thousands of language groups are still waiting for access to the full Bible.

Together, let's pray for all Scripture for all people.

Start with This Prayer

Jesus, accelerate the work of Bible translation so that all people can access all of Your Word. Help every language group still waiting for Scripture to receive it, and reveal Your love through Your Word.

Join the Journey to ASAP

Use this guide individually or in small groups to pray for Bible translation and the vision of All Scripture, All People by 2040.

Learn More About Vision ASAP:

https://seedcompany.com/all-scripture-all-people/

Southern Africa

The Southern Africa region spans the nations of Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius and Portuguese-speaking countries on the African continent. Thanks to strong partnerships across the body of Christ, Southern Africa is moving closer to a day when all Scripture is translated for all people and everyone can encounter the full counsel of God's Word in their heart language. Hindrances to finishing the task include poor roads, political instability, and a lack of workers to train local translators.

Pray for Those Still Waiting for Bible Translation to Start

Languages	Population
8	192,730

Pray for Those without the full Bible

Population
28.5 million

Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. September 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

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion."

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

Prayer Updates From Around the World

Pray for our 3 translators—María Elena, Ofelia, and Alfredos—and their father, Miguel. Communication with Miguel is difficult since he suffered a stroke in late August. He is home after a few weeks in the hospital, but is mostly paralyzed from the neck down. He can understand others' signing, but cannot sign or care for himself.

— The Mexican Sign Language team in Mexico

Praise God that our translation of Mark has been successfully checked with a consultant. Pray for the actors and production staff who will be recording the "JESUS" film in the next few months.

— The Yangere team in Central African Republic

Pray that God will comfort our team and the family of a Muslim convert who was serving as a senior translator in our sensitive project. He passed away from double pneumonia and other complications within a few weeks of entering a hospital in mid-September. Join the team in thanking God for his faithful service and contribution to Bible translation.

— A Bible translation team in South Asia

Ongoing fires in our area have made the air quality extremely unsafe. Some Seed Company staff members needed to evacuate. Pray that the effects of this natural disaster will quickly abate and not delay the scheduled completion and dedication of the New Testament in 6 languages next year.

— Robeno Cluster teams in Islands Asia

Regional Update

Scripture Engagement for Immediate Impact

Since our last update, Southern and Lusophone Africa (SLA) partners met twice for meetings on Scripture engagement, with strong attendance. The purpose: to motivate partners to build Scripture engagement into every Bible translation project so that Scripture already translated will foster immediate impact in the community, rather than waiting for the completion of a full Bible.

In June, Helen van der Walt of Wycliffe South Africa shared best practices that are bearing fruit. In Mozambique, the number of listening groups in the Marenje community grew from 12 to 20 within just a few months. And in Lesotho, the Siphuthi community launched Scripture-based women's seminars addressing domestic violence and alcoholism across 10 communities.

In September, partners heard how the Mapulana community in Mpumalanga, South Africa, dedicated Mark’s Gospel on film in August—dubbed free by partner Faith Comes By Hearing—with about 250 people gathering to watch, dance, and celebrate. Tim Hatcher from Dallas International University shared research on 70 translation programs where local ownership, partnerships, a servanthood ethos, and creativity most consistently led to Scripture being used.

PRAISE

- For the completion of the Gospel of Mark film in the Mapulana language in South Africa.
- For the growth of listening groups in Marenje, Mozambique, as more people gather to hear and share God's Word together.

PRAY

- For the Siphuthi women’s seminars in Lesotho, that Scripture would continue to bring healing and change to communities affected by domestic violence and alcoholism.
- For SLA partners as they apply what they have learned so that Scripture already translated across the region would be read, understood, and lived out.

Impact Story

Saved From a Mine, Rescued for Eternity

When a guard wouldn't let Buana into the mine, he felt furious. In his northern Mozambique homeland, he was struggling to earn even a day's wage. He threw up his hands and walked away. A couple of hours later, the mine collapsed. If Buana had been allowed inside, he would've died.

Instead of working at the mine, Buana found himself walking down the beach where he came across a pile of Christian books a pastor had abandoned after converting to Islam. Buana was the only one of his 12 siblings from a fisherman's family who could read. He picked up the books and started slowly working through them.

A short time later, Buana met a missionary who gave him a New Testament to read. Before long, he gave his life to the Lord and was baptized. "Since then," he says, "other ways of living don't have meaning."

His life then followed a new path that led him into Bible translation. He's now helping to translate the Old Testament. Old Testament books are giving him a fuller picture of who God is and how He has worked throughout history, providing him with a deeper foundation for his faith. He looks forward to sharing these books with the Nahara people.

PRAISE

Our faithful God, who saved Buana's earthly life and then led him toward eternal life.

PRAY

- For Buana and his team as they just started the Nahara Old Testament project.
- For open hearts among their non-Christian neighbors as Old Testament material becomes available in their heart language.

Scripture

"Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise him, all you people of the earth.
For his unfailing love for us is powerful."

Psalm 117:1-2

Pray Now

New Project Starts

During September, three new language projects were officially approved and launched in African countries where Portuguese is the dominant language: Nahara in Mozambique, Kimbundo in Angola, and Kabuverdiano Creole in Cape Verde. In the same month, five other projects began in Southern Africa: Bhaca, Sepulana: Psalms that Sing, Namibian Sign Language, Zambian Tumbuka, and Zambian Sign Language. Pray for God's guidance, protection, and blessing for each of these projects, their teams, and the communities that will begin to receive Scripture in their heart language.

Project Update

500 Years and Still Waiting for a Bible

Cape Verde gained notoriety during this summer's World Cup competition. Home to just half a million people, the country consists of 10 volcanic islands off the West African coast. More than 1 million Cape Verdeans live off the islands, scattered across the United States, Portugal, the Netherlands, France, and Senegal. Locals call this scattered population the "Eleventh Island." Wherever they've landed, they're held together by Creole, their home language, and by *sodade*, the word for missing a place so much that it aches.

More than 90% of Cape Verdeans identify as Christian, and church has anchored their daily life on the islands for 5 centuries. Yet no one has ever finished translating the Bible into Kabuverdianu, the Creole spoken on every island. In September, that started to change. A translation team based at the Catholic University of Cape Verde began the country's first Bible translation project: a New Testament, translated directly from the original Greek into Kabuverdianu.

PRAISE

- For a team of translators who spent years preparing in the biblical languages long before this project even began.
- For a church already deeply engaged in this work

PRAY

- That the Christian community across Cape Verde would feel invested in this project from its earliest days, through the workshops and listening sessions ahead, and would eagerly await the day they can read and pray with it in their own language.
- For the translation team, as they are new to this work, that God would give them patience with the learning curve and steady confidence as they grow into it.

Translated Scripture

Oshiwambo Cluster: Ndonga and Kwanyama Languages

We must thank God at all times for you, brothers and sisters, you whom the Lord loves. For God chose you as the first to be saved by the Spirit's power to make you his holy people and by your faith in the truth.
— 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NLT)

Vamwameme, ovaholike vOmwene, fye otuna alushe okupandula Kalunga, eshi emuhoolola okudja petameko, opo muxupifwe keenghono dOmhepo, muninge ovanhu vaye vayapuki, kokwiitavela oshili.
— 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (Kwanyama)

Aamwameme, aaholike yOmuwa, otu na okupandula Kalunga aluhe, oshoka okwe mu hogolola nale okuza petameko, opo mu hupithwe koonkondo dhOmbepo, e mu ninge aantu ye aayapuki, mokwiitaala oshili.
— 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (Ndonga)

About the Oshiwambo People

The 1.5 million Oshiwambo people living in Namibia and Angola speak 2 languages: Kwanyama and Ndonga. Most identify as Christians, attend church, and read their Bibles, but syncretism weakens their ability to apply Christian principles to daily living. An updated translation will resonate with young people and appeal to those who don’t yet know Christ.

Translating the Old Testament

Our partner, the Bible Society of Namibia, is currently working on a new Oshiwambo Bible that contains both the Ndonga and Kwanyama languages. Earlier versions produced 40–50 years ago do not meet the needs of the younger generation. The revised New Testament has been completed and printed in both languages. Translators are working on the first few books of the Old Testament with an eye toward completing the full Bible in the next few years.

PRAY

- For protection and safety for translation teams traveling on Namibia's busy and sometimes dangerous highways.
- For success for the Oshiwambo team as they translate Old Testament books.
- For the Bible Society of Namibia team, as they distribute Bibles and work with translation teams in their nation.

Scripture

"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

Luke 11:9–10 (NLT)

Pray Now

South Africa's Local Government Elections

Earlier this year, people on São Tomé and Príncipe, a small island nation off the west coast of Africa, held presidential elections. On September 27, they also voted in legislative, regional, and local elections. Pray for the elected leaders to govern with wisdom and integrity, and for God's continued work among the people.

Meanwhile, on November 4, South Africans will go to the polls to elect councils for metropolitan, local, and district municipalities across the country—the first such election since 2021. Pray for a peaceful, fair, and orderly process, and for the safety and continued ministry of our partners, translation teams, and the communities they serve throughout South Africa during this election season.

Global Translation Leader

3-Year Cohort Nears Completion

A cohort of 9 Global Translation Leaders (GTLs) from 6 southern African countries has been gathering 3 times a year for classes that help them mitigate issues with the technology and equipment needed for Bible translation projects.

Over the past 3 years, “they’ve grown from a group of learners into capable trainers and contributors to the Bible translation movement,” cohort supervisors report. They have deepened their technical skills, gained confidence in supporting others, and increasingly helped their organizations use technology effectively. As they’ve learned to train others, they’ve become multipliers of their knowledge, further extending their impact.

“It has been encouraging to see their focus move beyond simply learning tools. They are becoming trainers, mentors, and problem-solvers who can strengthen translation work within their organizations and across the region,” supervisors conclude.

PRAISE

For all the ways the GTLs have grown in their technical and leadership skills and are impacting their organizations.

PRAY

As this cohort comes to an end, that God will give each GTL wisdom, confidence, and opportunities to apply what they have learned and multiply their training in others for the progress of Scripture translation.

Stories from the Field

The Soli Take Responsibility for the Translation

The Word for the World (TWFTW) provides services to language communities, enabling them to take responsibility for Bible translation and related activities. The Soli community is taking this responsibility seriously. People suggest new Soli words that can be used to make the translation clear. These additions are introduced into the translated text, and the team adds them to their growing vocabulary list. Community and church leaders help in practical ways. One donated 2 cows. Another leader organizes community testing sessions. Some people offer food and electricity. Others distribute the Soli New Testaments to remote areas.

People are observing that behavior in the Soli community has changed dramatically. The Soli now understand and apply biblical principles in their lives. As a result, marriages have stabilized, and immorality is on the decline.

PRAISE

That the team completed drafts of Isaiah and Jeremiah.

PRAY

- That God will give the team good health and perseverance amid political instability.
- That the Soli community will continue to be supportive as the team pushes forward with drafting Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Hosea.

Regional Update

All Scripture, All People: Closing the Gap Together

In late September, partners in the Southern and Lusophone Africa (SLA) region gathered in Windhoek, Namibia, and Lusaka, Zambia, for vision-casting meetings related to All Scripture, All People (ASAP). That's the initiative to see every language community reach full access to God's Word by 2040. Partners discussed Closing the Gap Together.

In Namibia, local impact partners—the Bible Society of Namibia, The Word for the World Namibia, and Wycliffe South Africa—worked alongside resource partners Seed Company and SIL Southern Africa. In Zambia, local impact partners—the Bible Society of Zambia, the Bible and Literature Translation Association, The Word for the World Zambia, Spoken World Wide, the Zambia Project, and Faith Comes By Hearing—joined the same resource partners, along with Lumin Africa, an alliance of six local partners across South Africa.

Partners prayed, listened, and worked through each step of the process to review the translation landscape ahead and shape next activities, looking for ways to close the remaining gaps fastest by combining their strengths.

It was a small but significant step: many partners, one region, one shared urgency, moving toward the day when Scripture reaches every heart language across the SLA region.

PRAISE

- That God drew together local impact and resource partners across Namibia and Zambia for these significant vision-casting meetings.
- For the spirit of unity among Seed Company, SIL Southern Africa, and their local partners as they aligned around this shared vision: ASAP by 2040.

PRAY

- For strong collaboration among local partners within Namibia and Zambia.
- That the country-specific strategies shaped there will lead to clear, Spirit-led next steps and lasting partnership in the months ahead.
- That these renewed partnerships will open new pathways for bringing translated Scripture to those language communities in the SLA region who still lack it.

Pray Now

Bible Translation Strategies

Please pray for the ongoing development of strategies to bring all Scripture to all people as Seed Company and our partner organizations discern and prepare projects in Southern African countries. Pray for wisdom, clarity, and God's guidance as we seek to expand Scripture access and impact.

Scripture

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)