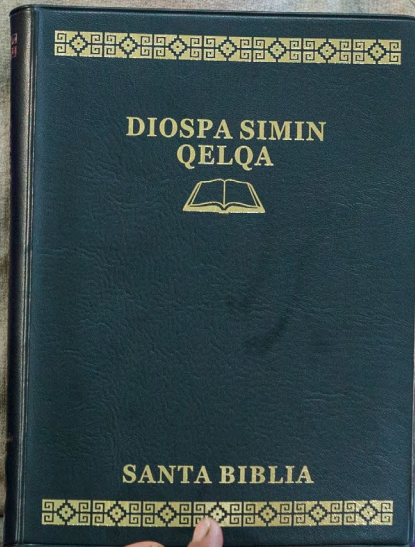


THE 2021

FINISH LINE





DEAR FRIENDS,

The last year was challenging for many of us in ways we could not anticipate. Even in the midst of trials, I was encouraged to see how God continued to move in the hearts and lives of people, changing them through his Word.

But there are still millions of people without access to Scripture in a language and format that speaks to their hearts. Prayer is foundational to the work of Bible translation, and we're grateful for the role that you play in bringing God's Word to all people.

In this booklet you'll read about 31 Bible translation projects that are within three years of completion. Projects often experience obstacles as they approach the finish line. Over the last year, many of these projects encountered additional obstacles and difficulties because of COVID-19. The projects, teams and language communities represented in this booklet need your prayers to cross the finish line.

Because of partners like you, we are closer to the day when all language communities will have the opportunity to be transformed by God's Word. Thank you for praying with us!

Until all the nations worship,

JOHN CHESNUT

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 additional resources 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/JOINPRAYER

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 ext. 3870)
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 1: UMBANGALA; Angola (400,000)

The Umbangala New Testament was typeset and printed in Brazil last year! This is a huge praise because the Brazil team only had half of their staff due to COVID-19. The translation team is working closely with local churches on literacy programs to encourage personal development and Scripture engagement for the Umbangala people.

Prayer points:

- » Health and safety of all donors, translators and consultants involved in ministry with Umbangala speakers.
- » Effective training sessions for translators at the Higher Institute of Theology in the Huila province; recruitment of a new translator.
- » More churches to partner with the Bible Society of Angola to promote Scripture and help support the work financially.
- » The Holy Spirit to soften Umbangala hearts so they will know Christ and apply his Word to their lives. "... I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart" (Ezekiel 36:26, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ANGOLA

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.

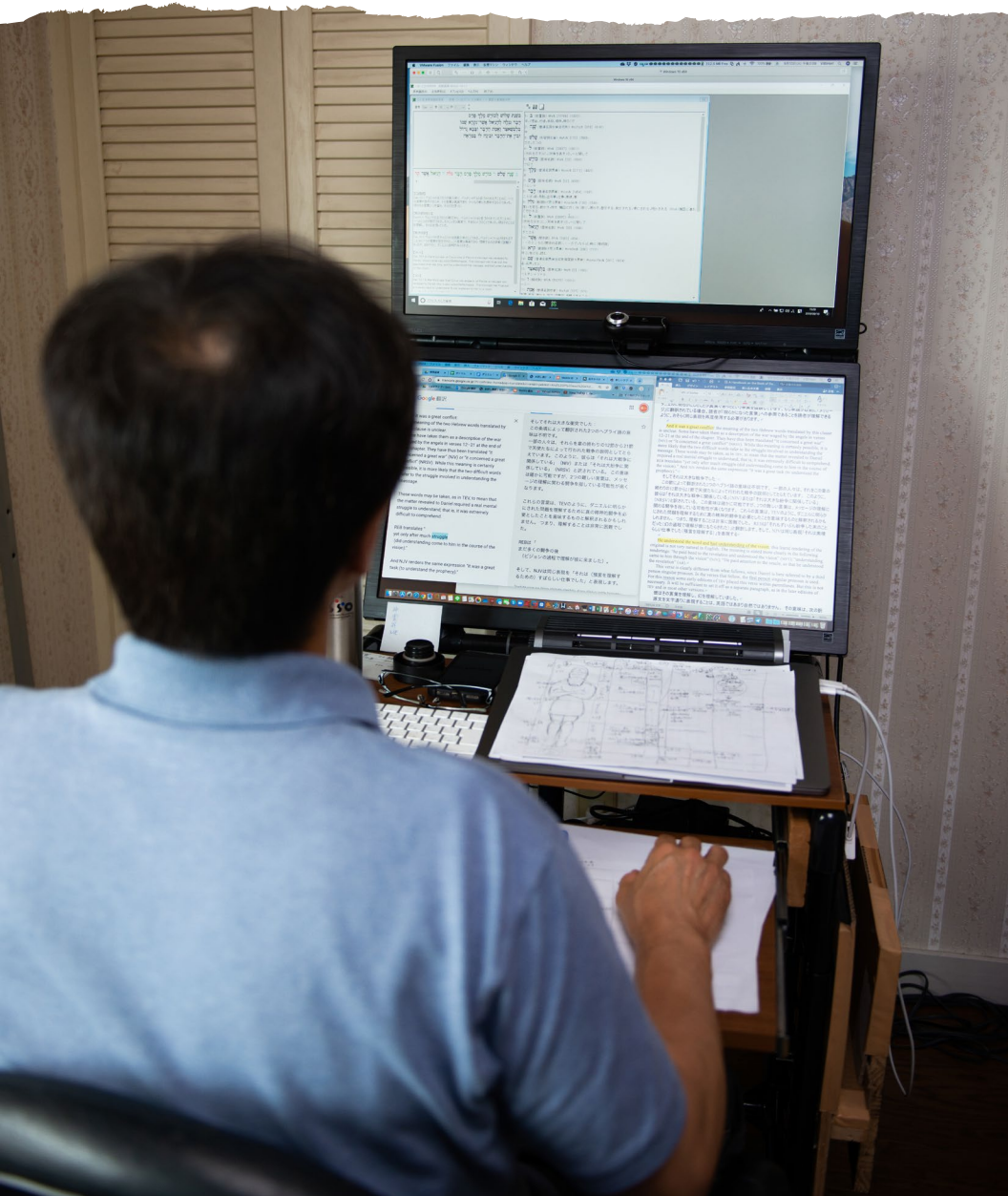
CONSISTENCY CHECK: Ensuring consistent translation of key biblical terms, important theological concepts, Bible names and parallel passages throughout the entire text. Reasons for necessary variations are clarified.

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 it.

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.

Dedicated Back to God: The Nap* New Testament Crosses the Finish Line

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, the Nap people found a way to celebrate the completion of their long-awaited New Testament.

The Nap project progressed on schedule in late 2019, and plans were underway to host dedications for the New Testament in March 2020. Excitement grew in the community as representatives from different churches went back to their villages to spread the word.

But as COVID-19 began to spread in the region, the company that was printing the New Testaments shut down. The project team was committed to moving forward with the dedication, so they located another printer who could print a small order of New Testaments.

With that crisis averted, dedication planning continued. But COVID-19 became worse as the dedication approached. Just days before the big event, the local government requested that the dedication be either postponed or cancelled.

After waiting so long for the New Testament, church leaders desperately wanted the dedication to proceed on schedule to give honor to God and offer the Scripture back to him before the community began using the Scripture.

Three leaders from different churches met and decided to host small dedications at two churches during their Sunday services, which were still permitted at the time. Copies of the New Testament were carried into the country by hand before the borders closed. It might not have been the large celebration the Nap people had been anticipating, but now they have something they've been anticipating even longer — God's Word in their language.

Praise God for the completion of the Nap New Testament! This translation project has been featured in The Finish Line, and your prayers helped bring this New Testament to completion. Please continue to pray for the Nap as they engage with Scripture, and ask God for wisdom for the project team as they plan another dedication in a neighboring country when the borders reopen.

Just like the Nap, every project you'll read about in The Finish Line has been impacted in some way by COVID-19. Please lift up each of these translation projects as the teams navigate health concerns, accessibility issues related to internet connections or travel restrictions, decreased funding and additional challenges.

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: UMBANGALA; Angola (400,000)

The Umbangala New Testament was typeset and printed in Brazil last year! This is a huge praise because the Brazil team only had half of their staff due to COVID-19. The translation team is working closely with local churches on literacy programs to encourage personal development and Scripture engagement for the Umbangala people.

Prayer points:

- » Health and safety of all donors, translators and consultants involved in ministry with Umbangala speakers.
- » Effective training sessions for translators at the Higher Institute of Theology in the Huila province; recruitment of a new translator.
- » More local churches to partner with the Bible Society of Angola to promote Scripture and help support the work financially.
- » The Holy Spirit to soften Umbangala hearts so they will know Christ and apply his Word to their lives. "... I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart" (Ezekiel 36:26, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ANGOLA

DAY 2: AGHEM; Cameroon (60,000)

On May 28, 2020, Aghem pastors and community members held a small dedication of the New Testament in Yaoundé, the capital city. Excited for the Scripture, the Aghem did not want to wait for larger celebrations that could only occur after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

Prayer points:

- » God's deliverance in bringing an end to the political crisis and COVID-19, which are causing untold suffering and fear. This will allow the Aghem language communities to gather for a larger and wider reaching dedication of the New Testament.

- » Increased distribution of the New Testaments and inventive ideas for Scripture use to help the local community learn to draw their hope from God. Because of the political crisis and COVID-19, almost every family in Aghem has experienced a family death or the destruction of their homes or farms. Many are internally displaced or have family members who have been uprooted.
- » God's Word to bring deep peace, hope and confidence as the Aghem people experience Scripture in their language! "But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence" (Jeremiah 17:7, NLT).

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY

DAY 3: MOGHAMO; Cameroon (183,000)

Located in rural western Cameroon, Moghamo language communities are already experiencing transformation through the New Testament translation project. One translator shared, "Every time I'm at the translation table with the team, I find comfort, peace and hope." As the local people apply Scripture to their lives, they are questioning traditional religious practices that have caused harm.

Prayer points:

- » Health, strength and safety for the Moghamo translation team and their families so they can focus and continue to make timely progress on the New Testament.
- » God's supernatural peace over the language communities as they are greatly affected by civil unrest and COVID-19.
- » God's Word will continue to transform Moghamo speakers during the translation process. "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right" (2 Timothy 3:16, NLT).
- » Unity in the community as they begin to organize a dedication for late 2021 or early 2022.

CAMEROON ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY

DAY 4: BANDA-LINDA; Central African Republic (183,000)

On February 25, 2020, a translator on the Banda-Linda team lost his older sister. Members of the team supported him morally, spiritually and financially. The translator and his family were amazed at the outpouring of love. The "JESUS" film was shown in Banda-Linda at the memorial service, and some attendees made a commitment to walk with Jesus. The place of mourning was transformed into a place of evangelism.

Prayer points:

- » More consultants to work on the five books waiting to be consultant checked before the New Testament layout is prepared.
- » Accuracy in the Banda-Linda New Testament typesetting process scheduled for the end of 2021; it is a tedious and meticulous job.
- » Health and safety for the translation team. One translator had a serious motorcycle accident and a coordinator had surgery last year.
- » Finances and health for two translators as they complete training in specialized areas.
- » Wisdom for authorities in the region so peace will be restored and the team can return to work closely with the Banda-Linda community.

CENTRAL AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY; SIL

DAY 5: CACUA; Colombia (220)

The Cacua, a small group of people located in the southeast jungle area of Colombia, received the New Testament in 2004! This sparked their desire for the full extent of God's Word so a team has been working on the Old Testament with a completion goal of 2023. Rejoice that even though they couldn't reach their translation goals for 2020 because of COVID-19 and a health concern of the consultant, they were still able to finish consultant checks of 28 books.

Prayer points:

- » The team to develop a strategy so they can work together virtually when necessary.
- » Effective Scripture engagement activities with communities along the main river.
- » Good health for the translation team and the consultant.
- » Good collaboration, effective teamwork and accurate and faithful translations.

FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALIZED PEOPLE GROUPS; SIL

DAY 6: UBANGI CLUSTER PROJECT — Mono, Ngbandi-Ngiri and Pagabete languages; Democratic Republic of the Congo (354,000)

The Ubangi Cluster includes three language groups: Mono, Ngbandi-Ngiri and Pagabete. Praise the Lord for the completion and printing of the New Testament for each of these languages last year! They hope to dedicate the books this year if COVID-19 restrictions decrease.

Prayer points:

- » Approval of customs documents for shipping the New Testaments from South Korea to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to each language community.
- » Perseverance and attention to detail as the team works on scripting the “JESUS” film in nine Democratic Republic of the Congo languages.
- » Successful planning of the New Testament dedications in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions.
- » Health and well-being of the translation teams. The Ngbandi-Ngiri project coordinator suffers from very high blood pressure, the Mono team is grieving the loss of one of their translators who passed away, and each translator is trusting God for future employment when the projects are completed.
- » Peace in the country and substantial distribution of New Testaments in the language communities; that the Lord will “... accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20, NLT).

CONGOLESE ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION AND LITERACY; SEED COMPANY

DAY 7: SEBAT CLUSTER PROJECT — *Bilen, Komo AND Seize languages; Ethiopia (132,000)*

Praise the Lord that a local adviser was able to enter Seize and Komo language areas to perform advisory checks with the team when both phone communication and internet connections were disrupted. Due to strict COVID-19 regulations in the Bilen communities, consultant checking was accomplished remotely by phone.

Prayer points:

- » God’s protection and provision for the Seize, Komo and Bilen translation teams as they press forward through each step of the translation process to bring God’s Word to underserved communities.
- » Unrest in Komo and Seize communities to end quickly and lead to a season of peace and restoration.
- » God’s hope for Ethiopians, especially in light of COVID-19. “But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence” (Jeremiah 17:7, NLT).

WYCLIFFE ETHIOPIA

DAY 8: ZAYSE; Ethiopia (18,500)

The Zayse translation team is rejoicing that all consultant, review and technical checks for the New Testament were completed last year, and that the Bible Society of Ethiopia is preparing the New Testament for printing!

Prayer points:

- » Stamina for the team as they work with a typesetter to format the Zayse New Testament. It's an intense and detailed process.
- » Health and safety for the translation team and the Zayse community, especially from COVID-19.
- » The rainy season will pass without causing damage. Last year flooding destroyed the translators' homes and properties.
- » The Holy Spirit will anoint each copy of the Zayse New Testament and use the Word to draw many Zayse into his kingdom and mature those who are already believers.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIA; ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS-SOUTH WEST SYNOD; SIL; WYCLIFFE POLAND

DAY 9: SINTE ROMANI; Europe (300,000)

After years of dedicated work by a number of Sinte Romani speakers, the Sinte Romani community dedicated their New Testament in 2011. The translation team continued to work and hopes to dedicate the Old Testament later this year! Thank the Lord for keeping the team strong and steadfast through this arduous task.

Prayer points:

- » Completion of typesetting that began the end of 2020 and an excellent print job of the whole Bible in 2021.
- » Hunger and thirst for God's Word from the Sinte people who live in over 11 countries across Europe.
- » Increasing and effective distribution of the Romanes media: the Bible, children's Bible and Scripture CDs.
- » Successful Bible reading and language learning classes so more Sinte will confidently engage in society and with the Scriptures. Rejoice that classes resumed last year after being shut down for COVID-19.

ROMANES-ARBEIT MARBURG E.V.

DAY 10: ISLES OF THE SEA CLUSTER PROJECT — *Nukuoro language; Federated States of Micronesia (900)*

Nukuoro is one of two Polynesian languages in Micronesia. Praise God that last year the Old Testament and a revised New Testament were typeset in the Netherlands. Two team members on Guam proofread it individually, and then it was sent for printing!

Prayer points:

- » Eager expectation by the people for the Nukuoro Bible, and generous donations toward the printing cost. God's direction for the date, venue and program for the Bible dedication.
- » The Word to fall on fruitful soil among the 900 Nukuoro, transforming their lives and giving them eternal hope.

SEED COMPANY; SIL (ISLES-OF-THE-SEA.ORG)

DAY 11: KAAKYE; Ghana (80,000)

Every New Testament translation goes through multiple checks to ensure excellent quality. With the completion of the translation, the Kaakye New Testament is ready for the rigorous process of proofreading and typesetting. The team is making final changes to each book to improve accuracy and readability and to check for consistent use of key terms, punctuation and spelling.

Prayer points:

- » Strength for the translation team as they work on final revisions and keen eyes to catch any parts needing improvement before publication. Unity and clarity for the team as they make decisions about formatting and spelling.
- » Divine appointments during Scripture engagement activities in Kaakye language communities.
- » A desire in the Kaakye people to know God personally and love his precepts. "And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments" (1 John 2:3, NLT).

GHANA INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS, LITERACY AND BIBLE TRANSLATION

DAY 12: TADO; Indonesia (5,000)

The Tado translation team made good progress last year. A Wycliffe consultant checked Romans and Hebrews, and a consultant from the Indonesian Bible Society checked nine New Testament books with local speakers to make sure they communicate clearly and naturally. Praise God for the internet that allowed checking sessions to take place online when they couldn't be done in person.

Prayer points:

- » Consultants will be able to complete their checks of the entire New Testament.
- » Training a Tado translator to become a facilitator for another language in Sulawesi.
- » God will raise up funds for printing and dedication costs, both from within the community and from outside sources.

- » A vital Scripture use program in the area where Tado is spoken.
- » Tado people to continue to have an anticipation and a longing for the Scripture in their language. “I pant with expectation, longing for your commands” (Psalm 119:131, NLT).

KARTIDAYA

DAY 13: LAMBYA; Malawi (60,000)

The Lambya people have the “JESUS” film in their language and a New Testament that was completed in 2016. They longed for more and asked for the Old Testament so they can have the complete Bible in their language. Leaders hope the reading and discussion of the Old Testament will lead to increased numbers of believers and deeper maturity among existing believers. Wide transformation has not yet come and many are still clinging to superstitions.

Prayer points:

- » Completion of remaining consultant checks. The team needs God’s wisdom to make sure that each book is accurate, clear and sounds natural. COVID-19 delayed most checks that were scheduled for last year.
- » God’s strength and timing for each step of preparing the Old Testament. The team would like to have the manuscript ready for typesetting by the end of 2021.
- » Good health and safety for the team and their families.
- » That Jesus’ words in Matthew 4:4 will be a reality for the Lambya people: “... ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF MALAWI; SEED COMPANY; THE WORD FOR THE WORLD

DAY 14: HUICHOL; Mexico (20,000)

Thank God that the Huichol Bibles were shipped to Mexico three months before they were expected! Due to COVID-19 limiting crowd gatherings, a small thanksgiving celebration took place. The long-awaited treasures were distributed throughout the Sierra Madre mountains to the hands and hearts of those who have waited with eager expectation to have all of God’s Word in their language. This was a miracle! The entire Bible has also been recorded and a portion has been put online.

Prayer points:

- » Dynamic transformation in the lives of the people as they read God’s Word and surrender to Jesus.
- » Local Huichol churches to lead the way in implementing Scripture engagement practices.

- » The rest of the Bible will be successfully put online.
- » The Lord to open the eyes of the Huichol as they listen to and read his Word in their language: “Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions” (Psalm 119:18, NLT).

SEED COMPANY; SIL

DAY 15: KHOEKHOEGOWAB; Namibia (251,200)

Praise God that amid COVID-19 challenges, the Khoekhoegowab New Translation Bibles arrived in Namibia last year! The Bible Society of Namibia planned to hold a big celebration in October, but due to state-of-emergency regulations, the Bibles had to be temporarily stored in a warehouse.

Prayer points:

- » Wide and effective distribution of the Khoekhoegowab Bible.
- » Many Khoekhoegowab speakers to eagerly seek out copies of the New Translation Bible and understand God’s Word in new, transforming ways. May they testify with the prophet Jeremiah: “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight” (Jeremiah 15:16a, NIV).
- » Health and protection over the people of Namibia.

NAMIBIA BIBLE SOCIETY; SEED COMPANY

DAY 16: HOHUMONO; Nigeria (30,000)

In Genesis 50:20 Joseph comforts his brothers who had previously tried to kill him, saying, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (NIV). The lead Hohumono translator in the New Testament project was shot by another community member last year who hoped to incite further communal battles. God had other plans. Not only did God miraculously save the translator’s life, but he also brought about a peace that the language community had not seen for many years. Praise God!

Prayer points:

- » Peace to prevail in the community.
- » The translation consultant will be able to make up time lost last year due to COVID-19 and the shooting of the lead translator.
- » Wide participation in community reviews of New Testament books ready for that stage. Because of greater peace in the communities now, the translation team can make these visits.
- » Successful scripting and recording of the “JESUS” film in Hohumono.

INITIATIVE ON MOTHER TONGUE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT; SEED COMPANY

DAY 17: NOBONOB; Papua New Guinea (2,400)

The Nobonob New Testament was published in 1990. Praise God, a translation team is pressing forward to complete the Old Testament and a revised New Testament! Before the impact of COVID, the schedule for 2020 included making final corrections in the manuscript and typesetting the complete Bible.

Prayer points:

- » Completion of the typesetting process of all 66 books of the Bible, a very detailed and strenuous task.
- » A seamless printing process and safe shipment of the Bibles to Papua New Guinea and to the Nobonob area.
- » Smooth logistics and God's guidance in selecting a date for the dedication when many can attend. A big celebration is planned; this will be the first complete Bible produced by Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association.
- » The Holy Spirit to create a hunger and thirst for God's Word as people await the dedication.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIBLE TRANSLATION ASSOCIATION

DAY 18: SALIBA; Papua New Guinea (2,500)

“My times are in your hands ...” (Psalm 31:15a, NIV) is a reassuring verse for translation teams who passionately desire to deliver God's Word to a people group but are delayed by unexpected circumstances like COVID-19. The Saliba translation team was experiencing a productive season last year working on Luke and Romans and had a consultant lined up to check six New Testament books. However, two members of the team had to return to Austria in March because of COVID-19 regulations.

Prayer points:

- » Good health and spiritual protection over the team members in the community so they can finish Romans.
- » International travel to open up so that Rainer, one of the members in Austria, can travel to Papua New Guinea to participate in consultant checking sessions and help finish the translation.
- » God to use the delay to create greater hunger for his Word among the Saliba people.

DAY 19: ÑANDEVA; Paraguay (2,270)

The Ñandeva profess Christianity, but they have limited Bible knowledge. They believe in a “Big, Good Spirit” and invoke the power of lesser spirits to solve problems or cure diseases. In addition, personal differences among church members have impacted the translation team. God’s Word in their language will bring knowledge, peace and reconciliation. Give praise for the completion of the New Testament draft.

Prayer points:

- » Diligence and strength for the translation team as they work through consultant checks.
- » Unity among believers in the Ñandeva community. “How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!” (Psalm 133:1, NLT).
- » Hearts prepared to encounter the living God and be set free from fear and bondage to false beliefs. For believers to be a testimony of love, peace and hope.
- » Believers to take active roles in promoting the use of the Scriptures in Ñandeva, as well as actively using it themselves.

LATINOAMERICANOS EN TRADUCCIÓN Y ALFABETIZACIÓN; SEED COMPANY

DAY 20: TICUNA; Peru/Brazil/Colombia (51,000)

The Ticuna New Testament was first published in 1986 in two versions: one for the Ticunas in the Spanish-speaking countries of Colombia and Peru and another for those in the Portuguese-speaking country of Brazil. It has been reprinted twice. A translation team is now nearing completion of the Old Testament and a revised New Testament. This Bible will serve Ticunas in more than 160 communities.

Prayer points:

- » Good communications and internet for team members in Arizona, Michigan and Peru as the Bible is typeset. Wisdom in making decisions about formatting, columns, pictures and extra helps to include.
- » An excellent printing job with good binding to hold up in jungle heat and humidity.
- » God’s guidance to select the best time to hold a dedication.
- » Ticuna hearts to be fertile soil as they receive God’s Word.

SIL

DAY 21: TAGAKAULO; Philippines (120,000)

The Tagakaulo team is steadily advancing toward their goal of having a full New Testament in 2022. COVID-19 limited in-person contact; however, translation team members located in the community and another city were able to communicate via Messenger to continue the work.

Prayer points:

- » Health and stamina for the Tagakaulo translation team and good communication as they work together.
- » Vitality for the revision consultant while going over the translation with the team, checking for accuracy, clarity and naturalness, and looking for omissions, extraneous thoughts or possible misconceptions.
- » Tagakaulo speakers to give input during the final review of the New Testament. The team would like to send the manuscript for typesetting before the end of the year.
- » Pray for God to prepare “good soil” so that when the Tagakaulo receive God’s Word, they will “... hear God’s word, cling to it, and ... produce a huge harvest” (Luke 8:15b, NLT).

SIL

DAY 22: OSSETIC; Russia (529,000)

The Ossetic people have had the New Testament in their language for several years. Another organization published Genesis and continued to translate other Old Testament books. Give praise that the two organizations are now working together to provide the full Bible in one book! Thank the Lord for encouraging and strengthening the team last year as they received feedback from churches on the full text, prepared a glossary, book introductions and supplementary materials to include, and prepared the Bible for publication.

Prayer points:

- » Wisdom, strength and alert eyes for the typesetters and those who proofread the manuscript multiple times.
- » Good functioning equipment and healthy staff in the firm that prints the Bible.
- » Eager hearts among the Ossetic people to know the importance of Scripture in their lives, meditate on it and hide it in their hearts. “Study this book of instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do” (Joshua 1:8, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF RUSSIA; INSTITUTE FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION

DAY 23: SAAFI-SAAFI; Senegal (200,000)

Praise the Lord that just before COVID-19, internet connections improved, allowing translation work to continue between Saafi team members in the community and one who is in Norway during the pandemic. The team constructed a Saafi Scripture website this past year, and local Christians will begin managing and promoting it to many Saafi.

Prayer points:

- » Effective time management to stay on schedule and maintain the quality of work on the New Testament translation.
- » Creative ways to involve the Saafi-Saafi language communities in Scripture engagement through the Saafi Scripture website, and people to run the website and promote it.
- » Removal of barriers to producing the “JESUS” film in Saafi-Saafi.
- » Continued internet access to produce quality materials over long distances.
- » The opening of Saafi minds and hearts so they will hunger and thirst for God’s Word and respond to him as they read Scripture in their language. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Matthew 5:6, NIV).

SIL

DAY 24: CENTRAL CLUSTER PROJECT — *Díama** language; South Asia (140,000)

A key Díama pastor was martyred for his faith in July 2020. He was a strong advocate for the Díama Scriptures. “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12, NIV). Give thanks for this courageous pastor who now has his crown in Christ’s presence.

Prayer points:

- » Comfort for the pastor’s family, and the Lord to use his testimony to bring others to Christ.
- » Church leaders to gather and do a final read-through of the New Testament manuscript to give feedback and ensure it is clear, accurate and sounds natural.
- » Completion of hundreds of details so the New Testament can be sent to the printer in March 2021.
- » A quality print job that produces books with sturdy binding and clear print.
- » God’s Word to bring hope and eternal life to the Díama who face suffering and persecution on a regular basis.

DAY 25: RUTARA*; South Asia (200,000)

Rutara speakers live in two countries, and the border between the countries was closed last year due to COVID-19. This presented special challenges for the translation team which included members from both countries. Rejoice that God allowed them to transcend the limitations, complete the typesetting of the New Testament and publish it by the end of the year! While Rutara speakers waited, they read portions in small groups for spiritual enrichment and encouragement.

Prayer points:

- » A good reception for the New Testament.
- » People, especially those who are non-literate, to value and use the New Testament; that it will be used extensively in the church, community and individual homes.
- » Spiritual transformation and enrichment in the community as they use the Scriptures in their language.
- » Funds for Scripture engagement, literacy efforts and support of the field team.
- » Two more Rutara translators to join the team and move forward on translating the Old Testament.

DAY 26: TALAPATRA CLUSTER PROJECT — Oriuk* language; South Asia (916,000)

The Oriuk team is working hard toward publishing and dedicating the New Testament in print, audio and on smartphone apps in 2022. Praise the Lord that Scripture portions already available are changing the lives of many Oriuk speakers; they are coming to know and love Christ.

Prayer points:

- » Stable electricity and network connections. The community is located in remote, forested areas that often experience problems that interrupt and delay translation work.
- » Stamina and joy for the translation team as they work through each New Testament book that is already in draft form to improve it for clarity, accuracy and naturalness. "... the joy of the Lord is your strength!" (Nehemiah 8:10b, NLT).
- » Freedom to travel so the team can visit communities to check the translation drafts for comprehension.
- » God's provision for the Oriuk people to survive and thrive amid challenging economic and living circumstances.
- » The Oriuk will know the truth and live in the light of the Lord.

DAY 27: DINKA CAM; South Sudan (1,000,000)

Dinka Cam team members finished translating the Old Testament and are revising an older translation of the New Testament. They'll finalize key biblical terms and harmonize the Old and New Testaments. Christian leaders are looking forward to having all of God's Word in their language. They believe they'll be able to communicate biblical truths more clearly and be better equipped to tackle societal issues such as theft and fighting. Moreover, the complete Bible — in both print and audio formats — will be invaluable as they share the Good News with those who don't yet follow Jesus.

Prayer points:

- » Health and safety for the translation team. Comfort for the team leader and his family; his wife died last year.
- » Energy, alertness and wisdom as the team thoroughly revises a 1950s version of the New Testament to include with the new translation of the Old Testament in a complete Bible. They plan to typeset the Bible next year.
- » An increased sense of excitement for receiving the entire Bible and increased use of available Scripture portions in local Dinka Cam churches. "I pant with expectation, longing for your commands" (Psalm 119:131, NLT).

SIL

DAY 28: RANGI; Tanzania (650,000)

The Rangi are mostly farmers and live in the Dodoma area, a hilly region of north central Tanzania. They predominantly follow another major religion, but a small, growing percentage of people are being influenced by Christianity. Due to COVID-19, the Rangi team primarily worked remotely on final linguistic and consultant checks of the New Testament before moving to the typesetting stage.

Prayer points:

- » Healing for the linguist who has worked with the Rangi for many years and now has medical issues that reduce the amount of time he can work with them.
- » Strength and adaptability for a new linguist to learn about the language before doing the linguistic check. Creativity and ability to complete a linguistic check remotely from the United Kingdom. Completing these tasks, which are usually done in person, while working remotely due to travel restrictions creates a challenge!
- » Health for the Rangi translation team and their families.
- » An end to COVID-19 and its challenges that impact the work; the team longs to finish the New Testament.

- » Increased hunger for the Scriptures in the Rangi community; lives to be changed by the power of the Word.

SIL

DAY 29: KUPSAPIINY; Uganda (250,000)

Praise the Lord that the Kupsapiiny New Testament and Psalms were dedicated during an intimate ceremony on September 18, 2020, so that the Scriptures could be in the hands of the people as soon as possible! The community hopes to hold a larger dedication after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Prayer points:

- » A joyous corporate dedication of the New Testament and Psalms in the Sapiiny community when it is safe to have large gatherings in Uganda.
- » Transformed lives and communities as the Kupsapiiny New Testament and Psalms are used by churches, families and individuals.
- » God's direction and blessing for further translation of the Old Testament in Kupsapiiny as the Sapiiny desire to have the entire Bible in their language.

BIBLE SOCIETY OF UGANDA; SEED COMPANY

DAY 30: NKENISO*; West Africa (2,000,000)

The Nkeniso team is translating the Bible into two dialects spoken by over 2 million people. COVID-19 travel restrictions halted in-person consultant sessions for both dialects last year. The team adjusted to remote checking through Zoom, and they were able to finish checking the Western Nkeniso dialect translation of the Pentateuch. A consultant and an exegete in the U.S., a trainee consultant in the United Kingdom and the team in a village checked Hebrews in Nkeniso in June. The Eastern dialect team consultant checked Exodus and prepared introductions for several books. The team also distributed Scripture portions and related materials at two large events to Nkeniso speakers from around the world.

Prayer points:

- » Seamless publication and distribution of the Pentateuch in Nkeniso West across West Africa and to speakers in other countries.
- » Continued grace to work remotely with consultants and advisers.
- » Open doors for the Nkeniso translators, exegetes and some other national translators to visit Israel in August 2021 to experience where the Bible narratives occurred; this will help in future translation.

- » The Nkeniso community across the world to seek God and find him; God to use available Scripture portions and related materials to bring light and truth to all who use them.

DAY 31: NKOYA; Zambia (146,000)

Give thanks that the Nkoya Bible was printed last year and arrived safely in Kaoma, Zambia. Although the dedication ceremony scheduled for April 24, 2020, had to be postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19, sales of the Nkoya Bible began right away. The Nkoya were ready to receive God's Word in their language!

Prayer points:

- » A blessed dedication of the Bible that reflects God's love for the Nkoya when COVID-19 restrictions subside. The Nkoya community desires to corporately celebrate this historical arrival of their long-awaited Bible!
- » Provision for every person to own a Bible. The local economy has suffered from the effects of COVID-19.
- » Through the Scriptures many Nkoya will "... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NLT).

BIBLE SOCIETY OF ZAMBIA; INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD; SEED COMPANY

Thank you for praying for these 31 translation projects.

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And this is the confidence that we
have toward him, that if we ask
anything according to his will he
hears us. – 1 John 5:14 (ESV)

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