



PRAYER RESOURCES

HOW TO PRAY FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION TO BEGIN - GETTING STARTED



There are still around 2,000 language communities who likely have a need for Scriptures in their own language. How will they hear the Gospel message and establish a healthy sustainable church without the Scriptures? How will the work of language development and Bible translation start in these communities?

- **Awareness of and hunger for God:** Pray that God will prepare hearts with an awareness of who He is, a hunger for spiritual truth, and a readiness to receive Christ. "God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him." (Acts 17:27 NIV)
- **Openness to and hunger for God's Word:** Pray that as individuals and groups within this language community become aware of the Bible, that they would have an openness to receive it and a desire to read it. "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ." (Rom 10:17 NIV)
- **More workers:** Pray that the workers God calls, from both the local and global setting, would say "Yes!" to His call to serve. "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:38 NIV)
- **Engagement by the local community or a nearby church:** Pray that God would provide key people in the local community who would see the value of language development and lead this work. Pray that if a church is present in the language community, it would become involved and provide leadership to the Bible translation.
- **Unity:** Pray that all of the workers, the churches and the mission agencies would serve in love and be united in the task that God has for them. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Phil. 2:3-4 NIV)
- **Communication of the message:** Pray for Christians to be able to clearly communicate the gospel message by word and by deed to people in the language community. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Rom. 10:14 NIV)
- **Spiritual victory:** Pray for victory over the rulers, authorities and powers that oppose the work of Bible translation. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Eph. 6:12 NIV)



HOW TO PRAY FOR TRANSLATION MILESTONES



Scripture translation is a demanding task and needs constant prayer support from start to finish. We have noticed, however, that special difficulties seem to surface when translations near a milestone, such as the publication of the first Bible book, the New Testament or the whole Bible; the production of the JESUS film; or the production of audio Scriptures. Difficulties may arise as a natural part of an intensive season of work. However, often spiritual opposition is encountered from Satanic powers who oppose the work, and prayers for spiritual protection are needed.

- **God's mission and discernment:** Pray that God's will would be done and His kingdom come for this people group, and that the local church community and the translation workers would discern their role in advancing His will and His kingdom. (Matt. 6:9-10 NIV)
- **Health:** Pray for the stamina and health of all of the people involved and their families. This includes translators, consultants, reviewers and typesetters.
- **Consensus and cooperation:** Pray that local churches will be fully involved and reach consensus on wording, writing and publication. Pray that final decisions on use of key biblical terms will be acceptable to all concerned.
- **Technical issues:** Pray against technical failures of computers, computer programs, storage devices, copiers, printers, and internet connectivity.
- **Spiritual victory:** Let us pray for victory in all areas because we are from God and have overcome the spirits not from God. The One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4 NIV)
- **Scheduling issues:** Pray that scheduling of each person and group's contribution can happen when they are needed as the milestone gets nearer. Pray especially for the availability of trained consultants so that translation checking and final approvals will not be delayed.
- **Safety and protection:** Pray for the safety and protection of all of the people and the materials involved. Pray concerning extreme weather conditions, like earthquakes and tsunamis. Pray against wars, civil unrest, or attacks. Pray for a special hedge of protection for the work being done.
- **Accuracy and advancement:** Pray for accuracy — for the proofreaders or other checkers, the consultants, the typesetters, and anyone else involved in the process. Pray that all of this would be done in a timely manner.
- **Funding:** Pray for the funding needed to support the workers, pay the expenses, and publish the materials. "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Cor. 9:8)



7 WAYS TO PRAY FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION IN SENSITIVE AREAS



Translation is in progress for hundreds of language groups whose homelands are in “sensitive” areas. A sensitive area is a part of the world where the political, religious or cultural context increases the risk of attack or persecution for those involved in Christian ministry. Work may take place within the language community, in a neighbouring region or among a diaspora community. In order to reduce the risk for the ministry and the people involved, limited details are shared and often pseudonyms are used for people and places. Your prayers for people working in sensitive areas are essential for overcoming strongholds and barriers and seeing God’s Word bring truth and hope to people of all languages.

- 1. Mother-tongue language workers:** Pray that God will raise up and protect mother-tongue language workers. Education, economic, religious, cultural and political issues often make it hard to find people within a language community who are able and willing to become language development helpers, literacy workers or translators for their own language. “So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” (Luke 10:2 NLT)
- 2. Visa access:** In some parts of the world, it is difficult for foreigners to obtain visas that will allow them to reside in a country or stay long enough to work with the local language speakers. Pray for wisdom to know how and when to obtain visas and residence documents, how to arrange the translation work and how to train local language speakers. “...because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.” (1 Cor. 16:9 NIV)
- 3. Isolation and discouragement:** People (from the local and global setting) in a sensitive area can have a sense of isolation due to things like security issues, cultural sensitivities or lack of trust. Pray for the provision of ongoing support, and that people working and living in such situations will experience a special sense of God’s closeness, love, encouragement and strength for perseverance. “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Is. 41:10 NIV)
- 4. Vision:** In some areas, local churches do not encourage outreach to non-believers in their community. Pray for translation teams to have good relations with existing churches and Christian communities, for strength and vision of the local believers who do reach out, and that they will be able to encourage others to reach out also. “...to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Eph. 4:12 NIV)
- 5. Testing translations:** Scripture will be better (more accurate, natural and acceptable) if there is more input into their preparation by local people who speak the language well. Pray that those working on translations will be able to find people who are willing to help with checking or testing translation drafts. “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15 NIV)
- 6. Boldness to speak:** In sensitive areas, often the most appropriate form for publication of Scripture is through a non-print medium, such as audio or video. Some people do not want their voices used for fear that they will be recognized by their friends and families. Pray for courage and protection for those who allow their voices to be recorded. “The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?.” (Ps. 118:6 NLT)
- 7. Funding:** Pray that the Lord will provide adequate financial support for work to advance. “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19 NIV)