

Hello! Thank you, thank you for letting me know how you're doing / how I can be praying.

**Spread the word,
not the virus.**

At work, there are a lot of projects happening around "[Spread the word, not the virus](#)": an initiative about making basic health information to help protect communities **available** to the minority language communities we serve.

One of those initiatives is called "[Wash Your Hands](#)": "Wash your hands" isn't enough to combat this pandemic, but it's already more than some communities are hearing. The initiative is to translate "wash your hands" into as many languages as possible using both human and machine translations. If you check out the link, you'll see the list of translations. The machine translated ones are marked with a little robot icon.



Machine translation is based on "feeding" the machine with lots and lots of language sample data. Usually millions of samples are used to train machine translation models. In the case of minority languages, there are far fewer available samples (thousands not millions)*. However thanks to Bible translation, there still are a treasure of samples, including [James 4:8](#), etc.

The Bible, the most translated book of all time, continues to have a unique role in applications of machine learning.



And also, we find non-Christian community leaders asking for the Bible to be translated into their language. These leaders have no interest in the contents of the book (yet). They want it because this gives the language some prestige. It **dispels** prejudices that some languages are not capable of communicating complex ideas. It **encourages** governments to provide for that language to be used as a language of education. And when that happens, children and adults who learn to read in a language they know first, are more successful learning to read a foreign

language. Literacy rates improve, which has many positive associations: lower rates of poverty, lower rates of infant mortality, etc.

All of these are **good reasons on their own** to translate Scripture --- and the very best reason is that it brings to people living in darkness, the **light of hope**, that **a savior has come** to save us from despair, that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

Thanks for praying that whatever the reason for Bible translation, many may come to know **the God who is the only true hope** as they encounter God in His Word.



Stay safe!

*This helps explain why [Google Translate](#) is available for less than 200 languages, a small fraction of the world's 7,700 languages.