



Lutheran Bible
Translators

the messenger

Fall 2020

**One Day to
Celebrate a
World of
Possibilities**

REPORT
**Gola New
Testament
Launch**

A celebration in Liberia

**Sealed
in Faith**

**Missionary
Understanding**

Understand



Rally around
Vision

**“We walk by faith not
by sight.” [2 Cor 5:7]**

See | Follow | Understand | Share

Bible Translation Sunday

page 2

REPORT Gola New Testament Launched

page 3

Sealed in Faith

page 6

Missionary Understanding

page 7

Member Information

page 8

Prayers & Financials

page 9

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Dear Reader:

When I first entered a remote African town to learn language, I found that learning from scratch is difficult. How do you pronounce kpa, gba, mba, nda, nga? Then the tone – **a different melody plus same set of syllables equals a different meaning** – ndà ‘its mouth’ and ndá ‘my mouth’! But that was not all. The local thought-processes were also different!



DR MIKE RODEWALD

Neuroscience studies show that brain-process is different from culture to culture. **We might all come to the same conclusion but how our brains get there is not the same!**

When we use our own languages and thought-processes to present the gospel to those from different cultures, there are barriers. **They just *can't* understand!** We talk different. We act different. We think different. No wonder there is anxiety and lack of understanding among the peoples of the world.

But God gives us good news. We learn through the words of Scripture, “...**while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).**” That message is translatable. Our brains understand through our own languages – our own thought-processes. And we come to the same conclusion through the power of the Holy Spirit – Jesus is our Savior.

The world’s unity comes only through Christ. It is not about how we look or act, **but about understanding and knowing Jesus.** Thank you for serving in God’s story of salvation with your gifts and prayers that the whole world might understand and know Jesus too.

In Christ,

Dr. Mike Rodewald

CEO and Executive Director

On the Cover, a man reads the freshly translated Gola New Testament at a celebration in Liberia. *Photocredit: Caleb Rodewald*

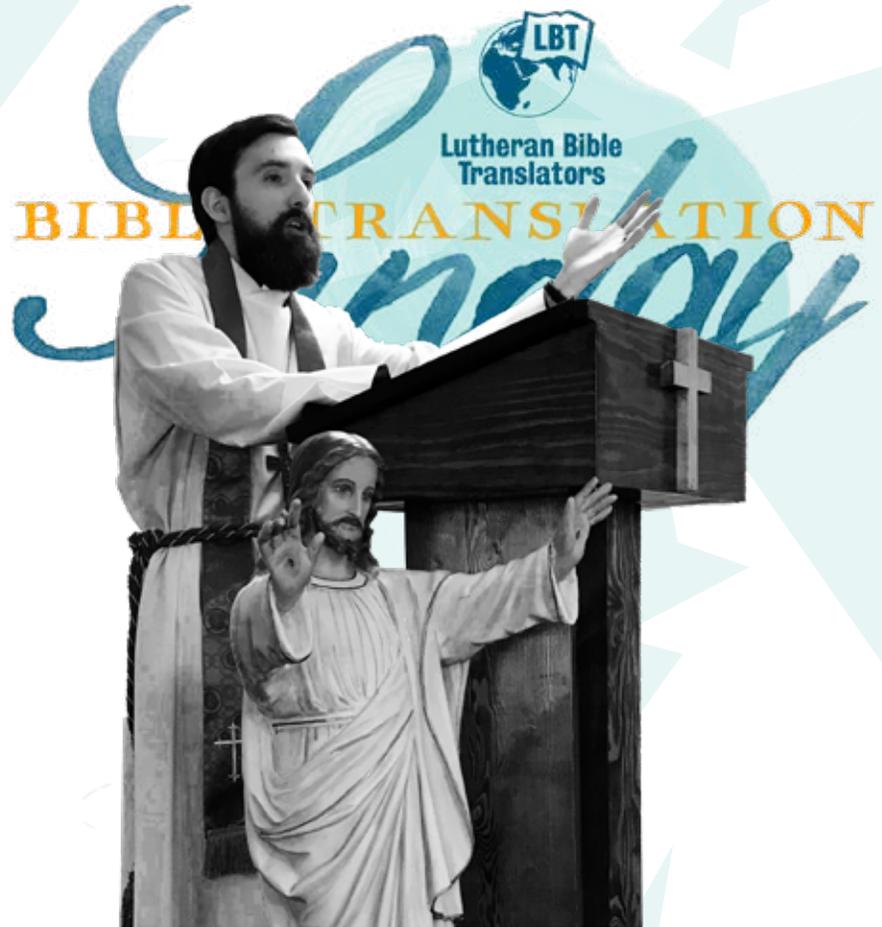
One Day to Celebrate a World of Possibilities

September 27 is Bible Translation Sunday! Millions around the world will celebrate Bible translation as mission.

Mobilize your church to pray for and support Bible translation:

- **Talk** to your pastor or board about planning for this special Sunday.
- **Promote** your activities with a video or bulletin insert. Resources are available at www.lbt.org/bts
- **Modify** worship elements like liturgy, readings, prayers, and hymns to reflect the theme.
- **Add** graphic elements for the worship slideshow or announcement screen.
- **Invite** a missionary to visit and share their story.
- **Consider** another date if it's more convenient. Bible translation happens all year long!

Hundreds of years ago, the reformation rallied around Luther's translation of the Bible. Today people still wait for access to God's word and its power to transform.



Lutheran Bible Translators is one of ten major Bible agencies in the world, serving together with local church and language communities. Join the story and help put God's word in the hands of all people in a language that speaks to their hearts.

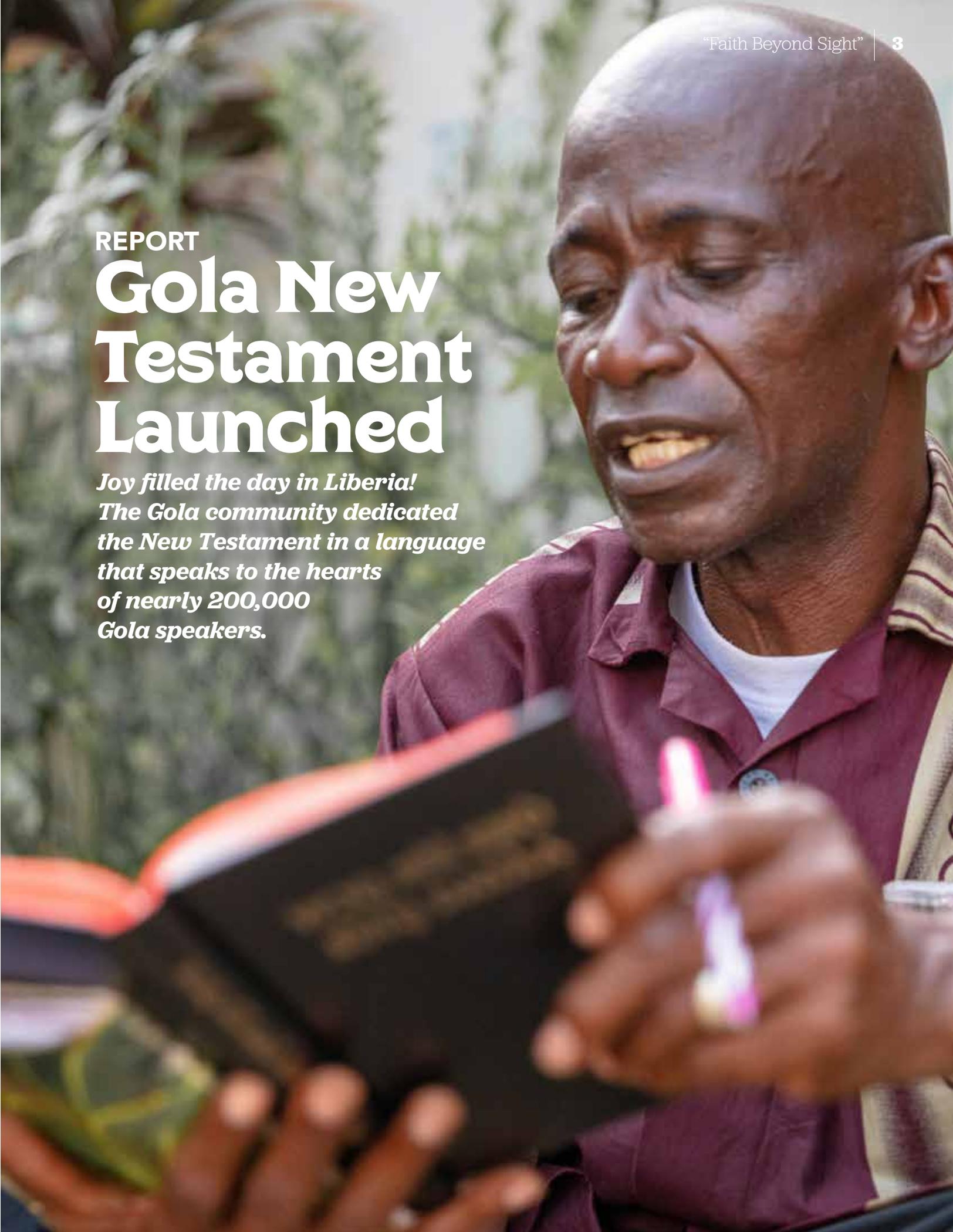
Celebrate, **Bible translation equips the church to proclaim the gospel, teach the faith, and care for the community.** Share the story! Involve your congregation in this life-changing mission. **m.**

Find resources at www.lbt.org/bts

REPORT

Gola New Testament Launched

*Joy filled the day in Liberia!
The Gola community dedicated
the New Testament in a language
that speaks to the hearts
of nearly 200,000
Gola speakers.*





A woman sings in celebration at the beginning of the Gola New Testament Dedication.

“**M**y favorite part of the day was watching the Gola women dance their way to the front with the Bible. They were so filled with joy and **cradled the Gola New Testament in their arms like a baby!**” said Rev. Nate Schaus, who attended the event. His parents served on an early translation team.

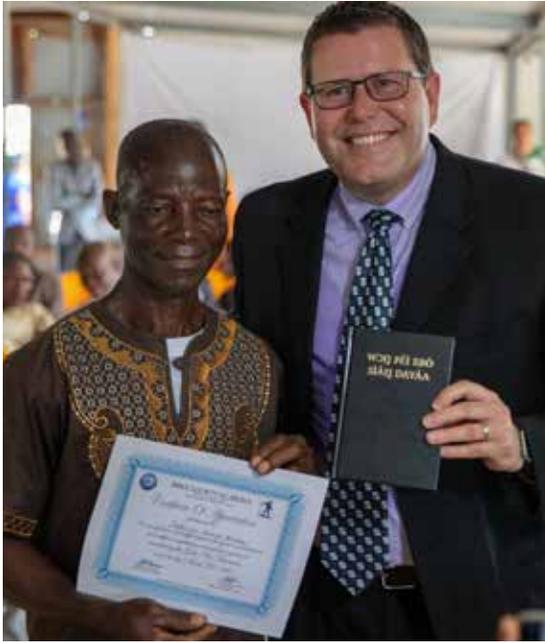
**People shouted in the crowd:
“Use your Bible in church!”
“It’s so much easier to understand!”
“It brings Jesus closer!”**

“I want to thank God for who He is,” said Richard Morris. “He said that **His chosen ones will never be forgotten.** In the 1980s, I worked on the Gola translation. When the project restarted, I was again selected as one

of the translators. **God wanted me to be counted among the Gola people to translate His Word into my language.”**

Rev. Schaus presented a certificate and copy of the Gola New Testament to the three translators who helped to complete the work. “I’ll never forget looking Richard Morris in the eye – and seeing the joy on his face in that moment,” he said.

The Gola New Testament translation was one of Lutheran Bible Translators’ first projects in the 1960s. Over the course of 30 years, three different missionary families served with local translation teams. Illness and recurring civil war forced evacuations in the 1990s.



Rev. Nate Schaus presenting a certificate of appreciation to Jefferson Boakai, a key leader in the New Testament Translation.

But interest persisted. In the past decade, Lutheran Bible Translators partnered with the Bible Society in Liberia to renew translation efforts. In 2012, Dr. Becky Grossmann joined as advisor to the translation team. The combined efforts brought the project to completion in God’s time. **m.**

Praise God for the Gola translation completion and pray that God’s Word draws many to faith in Jesus. If you are interested in helping put God’s Word in their hands & in other areas of Liberia, you can give to lbt.org/project/maan/



Translators Morris Johnson, Jefferson Boakai, and Richard Morris with Dr. Zobong Boima Norman (second from right), Oversight Committee Chairperson for the Gola project

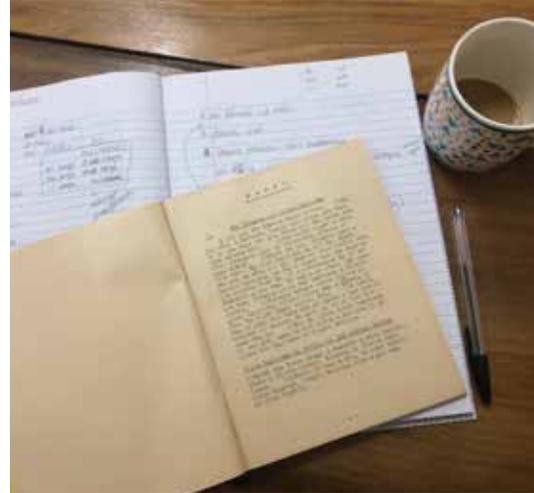
Sealed in Faith

John waited four decades to meet someone like Elliot.

John realized that the Subula people weren't ready to seek God through His Word.

He hoped that would change. John had supported the work of literacy and Bible translation in West Africa from the 1980s. He was the president of the Subula Language Committee. John had worked with a previous missionary and helped create many Biblical short stories and literacy primers. **He sealed these precious books in an oil drum in the corner of his house to keep them safe from mice and rain.**

Note: Specific details were intentionally changed to protect individuals and the affected language community.



Before meeting John, Elliot and Serena only had three books to use, now they have more than 12!

His faith and persistence paid off. When Lutheran Bible Translators sent Elliot and Serena Derricks family to serve in his community, he eagerly met them. After 40 years, he lifted the lid off the oil drum and showed them his treasure!

Elliot and Serena were surprised by this discovery. **“These stories and primers will cut years off our language learning time!”** Serena said. “We are already using them daily in our class.” The resources will also help with a deeper study of how the language has changed over time.

John had no way of knowing if there would be another opportunity to have God's Word in his language. But he had faith, **never losing hope** that he would be able to **hear and read Scripture in a language that speaks to the heart of his people.** Praise God for the faith John showed all these years! Praise God that the Subula people are now ready and eager to have a full Bible in their language. **m.**

Learn more about the Subula project at lbt.org/project/subula/

Find out more about the Derricks at bit.ly/derricks2020
or
lbt.org/derricks

Forty years ago, John understood the importance of God's Word in his language, for his people.

John presents the once-lost materials.





“Every day I learned something new with translation or Scripture Engagement or the language; there was always something to learn.”—Tiffany Smith

Lutheran Bible Translators intern

Missionary Understanding

Many missionaries started with just a kernel of understanding about ministry that grew. Some **aspired** to live and serve cross-culturally. Others **hoped** to develop or refine language skills. All **dreamed** of engaging in God’s Mission as a career.

Essential traits of a cross-cultural worker in ministry include a passion for God’s Word, servant leadership, adaptability, emotional intelligence, and a learner’s heart.

Candidates are encouraged to prayerfully consider missionary service to determine **“What is God’s will for my life?”** Opportunities are available to help individuals actively engage, such as:

- **Mission Exploration**—a multi-day conference led by cross-cultural ministry workers (in-person and online).
- **Crossroads**—a multi-week visit to the field to observe the work of partners and missionaries.
- **Internship**—serving internationally with a missionary to learn more about the ministry.

All these programs equip participants with a deeper understanding of the expectations and benefits of language ministry, and the great needs that exist.

How do Missionaries Serve?

Translation:

- Learn the local language & culture.
- Aid in local church Scripture goals.
- Assist local translation processes.

Vernacular Media:

- Assess non-print Scripture needs.
- Develop language program strategies.
- Mentor local production skills.

Literacy:

- Assist assessing literacy needs.
- Empower community literacy values.
- Train local literacy development.

Information Technology:

- Develop IT strategies.
- IT skills development.
- Specialized software training.

Missionary Kid Teaching:

- Plan teaching strategies with missionary families.
- Engage and encourage learning.
- Provide support for families in Bible translation ministry. **m.**

Learn more at lbt.org/go/

Member Information

Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) bylaws define who may vote and **gives you a chance to participate in nominating and electing the Board of Directors** as well as participate in changes to the LBT bylaws (charter document).

You serve as a voting member and are eligible to receive 2020 voting materials and notification of the Annual General Meeting if you are:

- **at least 18 years old**
- **a member of a Lutheran congregation.**
- **a 2019 donor or have given a gift in 2020**

For stewardship purposes, we prefer to send out voting information by email as the most cost effective means of communication. If you have provided your email address to us previously, thank you and you will receive voting materials by email. **If you have not provided LBT your email in the past and would like to now, please send your email to Board.Business@lbt.org, prior to September 1, 2020.**

Spouses who donate jointly through one address are eligible to each vote. Just notify us of both spouse names in your email to Board.Business@lbt.org.

If you do not have email capability but we have your postal address, we will contact you via the mail.

Note that the 2020 Annual General Meeting for voting members of Lutheran Bible Translators will be held during the September board meeting. This meeting is open to all voting members. For details on venue and time, see lbt.org/agm up to 30 days before the meeting.

What Supporters Say

Marvin & Shirley Schaus, California: “Bible translation has always been a priority for us as there are so many people in the world who don’t yet have God’s word in their own language. We answered God’s call in Isaiah 6:8 [Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” (NIV)] to go serve Him on the mission field, both overseas in Liberia and now in our retirement years. It was a blessing that our son, Nathan and family could represent us at the dedication of the Gola New Testament.”

Alice Decker, Illinois: “It is such a joy to be a small part of sharing God’s Word around the world and helping enable its translation into every person’s heart language. I pray for the Lord’s continued blessing on this critical ministry.”

Birthdays September

Marshall Schultz
Eden Federwitz*
Kelsey Grulke
Karissa Esala*
Carrie Federwitz
David Snyder
Caleb Rodewald
Rebecca DeLoach
Gideon Grulke*
Isaac Grulke*

October

Gloria Kuhn*
Jim Laesch
Elizabeth Wagner*
Chicodi Derricks*
Martin Weber
Naomi Ersland
Rob Veith
Jonathan Federwitz
Becky Grossmann
Linda Gari
Charlotte Brandt
Chuck Tessaro

November

Rebecca Rudowske*
Michaela Federwitz*
Leah Federwitz*
Rob Hilbert
Amy Formella
Andrew Olson
Sarah Esala

*missionary kid

Gift Designations

We make every effort to honor donor designation preferences; however, all gifts are subject to the discretion and control of Lutheran Bible Translators.

FINANCIALS

April 1—
June 30, 2020

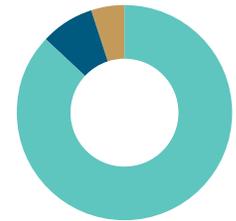
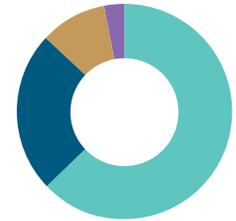
Unaudited 2nd Quarter Unaudited Year-to-Date

INCOME

■ Designated	\$	550,706	1,358,192
■ General (Undesignated)		211,425	522,833
■ Restricted Funds		(6,709)	(5,661)
■ Bequests		110,317	211,951
■ Endowments		37,229	60,849
TOTAL INCOME	\$	916,385	2,159,486

EXPENSES

■ Program	\$	1,587,600	2,882,370
■ Administration		120,761	266,976
■ Endowments		92,930	165,862
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	1,801,291	3,315,208



Pray for:

Botswana

> Pray for **Carl and Kelsey Grulke** as they visit with congregations to raise ongoing support during their time of partnership development.

Ethiopia

> Praise for the work of **Berhanu Ofgaa** as Program Director for Ethiopia and thanks for God’s continued blessings in his life.

Liberia

> Pray for the **Gola language committee** encouraging Gola literacy in churches.

Nigeria

> Thank God for **Chuck and Karen Tessaro** and their 17 years of missionary service.

Sierra Leone

> Pray that the annual celebration of the **Children’s Ministry Program** can take place and that it will motivate new members to enroll in the available literacy programs.

Southern Africa

> Pray for the growth and strengthening of literacy skills among the language communities of **Botswana and Namibia**.

Worldwide

> Pray for international partners who continue the work of **Bible Translation and Scripture Engagement**, even while learning to adapt to new ways of doing things.

United States

> Pray that **Lutheran Bible Translators missionaries** who returned to the United States during the pandemic can return to the field safely and smoothly transition back into their work.

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Lutheran Bible Translators, an independent mission
group founded in 1964, is the only Lutheran organization
dedicated to making God's Word accessible to those who
do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. LBT
actively recruits Lutherans to serve as Bible translators,
literacy or vernacular media specialists and support
missionaries. The LBT ministry is supported by the
prayers and contributions of fellow Christians. It is not
subsidized by any church body or sponsoring agency.

Executive Director: Dr. Mike Rodewald



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FORUM
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**Lutheran Bible
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ESSENTIALLY TRANSLATABLE

with **Rev Rich Rudowske**

Check out Lutheran Bible Translators' new podcast,
Essentially Translatable, hosted by Rev. Rich Rudowske!

Join us twice a month with new guests
as we dig into what is essential about translation.

Find us at lbt.org/podcast | also available on:

