



How are translation teams in Liberia and I continuing to work and progress during this restricted time? First of all, all of LBT's work is continuing in some manner because of **people like you** who continue to pray and support Bible translation and related work around the globe.

**Thank you!**

Instead of boring you with a detailed account of some very detailed work I have been doing over the last several months, let me illustrate through some examples you can play around with. *Transliteration* is a fancy term we use

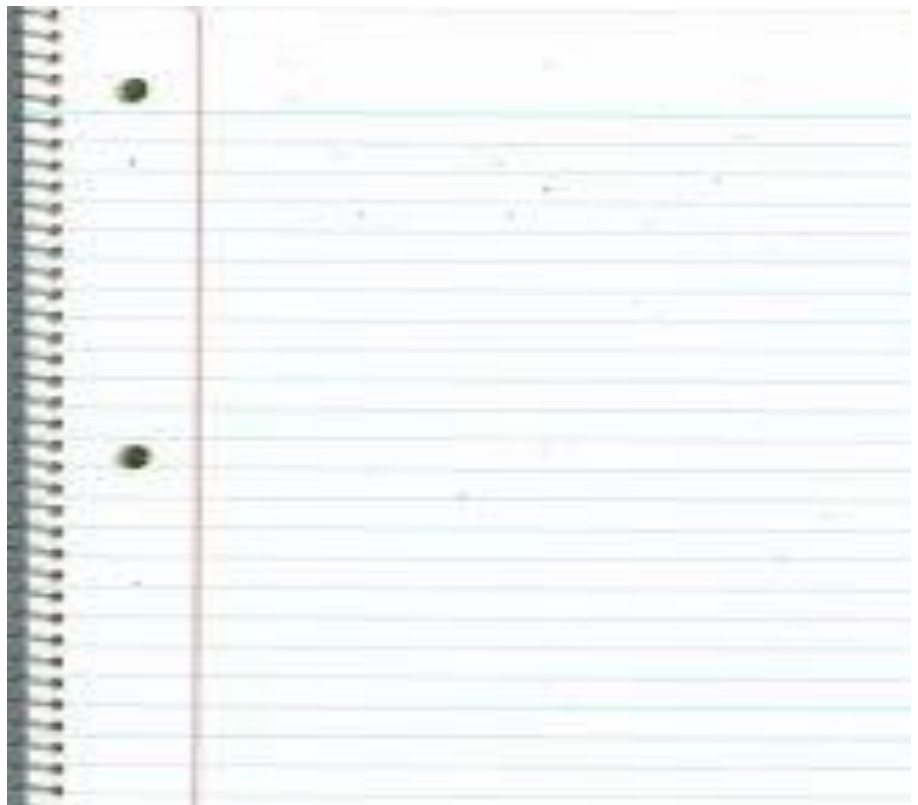
when writing out names in another language. We want to represent as closely as possible the names that are in the Bible using the alphabet of the receptor language. Below you will find several sets of names that are very similar and make it difficult to differentiate in Liberian languages. Pick a couple sets and see if you can make some acceptable spellings using the language rules given. These rules do not exactly represent a particular language because that would get too complicated here, but there are enough to help you in your decisions and to grasp some of what we do.

Here are some example name sets:

- |       |      |         |        |         |          |
|-------|------|---------|--------|---------|----------|
| Amnon | Ebed | Haman   | Jobab  | Michal  | Shimea   |
| Ammon | Ebal | Hamor   | Jotbah | Michael | Shimeah  |
| Armon | Eber | Hamath  | Zobah  | Micah   | Shimeam  |
| Amos  | Ebez | Hammath | Asaiah | Micaiah | Shimeath |
| Amoz  |      | Hammoth | Isaiah | Mica    | Shimei   |
|       |      | Hamel   |        |         |          |

Vowels	Pronunciation key
a	ball
e	they
i	as in the Spanish word <i>si</i>
o	boat
u	boot
ε	bed
ɔ	awe
ə	put

All vowels can be nasalized for a second set of vowels: ã, ě, and so forth.



## PRAY

**Praise:** for successful Bandi team training and completion of the pre-check of 1CH in Dan.

**Pray:** for perseverance, internet stability, good health, and return of air travel.

## Who I am

Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "TELL THEM." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship greatly.

## Contact/Support

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**Consonants:** b, ɓ, d, ɗ, f, g, gb, h, k, kp, kw, l, m, n, ŋ, p, r, s, t, v, w, y, z

Language rules: Letters like *gb* and *kp* together are considered one sound. The *b* and *ɗ* with the little tails are pronounced "softer". The letter *ŋ* is said like the *ng* in *sing*. This language does not have a "th" sound. And very importantly, you cannot put a consonant at the end of a syllable or a word. The name Jot-bah cannot have the *t* after the *o* and occur directly before the *b*. Only the letter *n* can be last in a syllable.

How did you do? The translation teams also must supply the correct tone to each syllable. Perhaps you found more than one "correct" answer.

In addition to some of the issues you faced above, other questions may need to be answered such as:

1. Do we base the transliteration on the Hebrew and Greek pronunciations or on the English source text?
2. What do we do where there are two spellings in the source text for the same name, or a person has two different names?
3. What should be done with familiar names already in use that aren't consistent with the rules?

Other difficulties come up because these names are not found side by side in the Bible. Different translators have done different books. It is difficult to remember how a certain name was spelled in an earlier verse when so many are alike or only occur a couple of times. Spellings of a name come out the same when they need to be different or different when they need to be the same. In order to make sure that the same name is spelled the same everywhere and that it is not spelled the same as a different name, I have painstakingly examined each name in a tool we have, first sorting on the receptor language and then sorting on the English spelling to compare and contrast. I found the above groups of names plus more by doing that and realized we have a problem.

The Bible has hundreds of names and so to circumvent this problem, I undertook to devise a tool that will help avoid these issues with new projects. Some of this tool comes from the writings of previous missionaries. I found a technical paper written by Don and Dini Kovac, former LBT missionaries in the Bandi project, addressing this very issue of spelling names and how Bandi phonological structures play into spelling. The idea is that rules will be written ahead of time. For instance, if the English name begins with a *J*, then the Dan team uses *Z*, or *th* can be represented with *f*. The next step is to use the names tool and spell all names according to the rules before even getting to the translation. When the translators come up to a name in the current verse, the correct spelling will pop up for them to use. It should save them time looking around for ways others did it or trying to remember all the phonological rules that were drawn up. And it should save me some time as well knowing that some consistency has already been applied.

In all of this I am reminded of the theme we find in 1 Corinthians 3:6-- "I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow." You, other missionaries like the Kovacs, the translation teams, trainers, and administrator--each doing their part when given the task--then God can work to grow faith in the hearts of those that hear His Word, names and all.

By His Name,

*Becki*

Are you looking for ways to share the story of Bible translation? On **September 27<sup>th</sup>**, Lutheran Bible Translators invites you to join congregations across the world in worship. Join the story and share! **Bible Translation Sunday** is a time to involve your congregation in this life-changing mission. Go to <https://lbt.org> to access **free resources** for you and your whole congregation. (You can also pick a different date to celebrate.)