

# Houge Mission News

## August 2021

*Claude and Rhoda Houge are serving with Lutheran Bible Translators as Adjunct Missionaries.*

*Lutheran Bible Translators is a highly trained group of women and men working with church and Bible agency leaders to bring God's Word to those who don't yet have it.*

Greetings after over a year! We're still around, and we haven't sent out a newsletter because our activity with Lutheran Bible Translators was very limited during the Covid lockdown. As we reported in our last newsletter (May 2021), we were able to leave Ghana and return to the US and finally get settled in our own home again in Eagan, Minnesota. We kept in touch with missionaries, but all of the women's conventions we planned to attend were cancelled, as well as a potential West African retreat.

But LBT was busy at work, some missionaries in the states and some overseas. Modern technology made meetings possible over the internet, and translation work continued as well as ways for people to hear and read God's Word in their own language.

Once restrictions were lifted, we were able to get busy again, and our first activity was working at the LBT exhibit at the LWML convention in Lexington KY June 24-27. It was a great experience to be part of the almost 3000 people who came to support missions of all kinds. These ladies have raised millions of dollars over the years and often have supported LBT projects.



*Many people stopped by the LBT exhibit to learn more about Bible translation. This picture shows Alyssa Petty from the LBT office as well as a group of missionaries from LBT Liberia days in the 1980's – Alvina Federwitz, Becky Grossman, Claude, Rhoda, and Diane Meyer.*



*We enjoyed talking about the important work of Bible translation with visitors. This picture makes us think of how we all work together to make this happen!*

Another event that we were happy to be part of was the annual Concordia Mission Institute which gathers missionaries from Lutheran Bible Translators and Mission of Christ Network, another Lutheran mission sending organization. 130 of us came together in Concordia MO July 11-17 to be refreshed with timely topics, Bible study, and fellowship. We both were happy to be able to meet in person with others from all



over the world as well as our own missionary staff. We were touched by stories of how the Lord is opening hearts to hear the Good News in so many places. While we celebrated some retirements of missionaries with many years of faithful service, we also rejoiced to see how many young people are involved in missions.

In the midst of all this activity, we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 11! God has blessed our years together with a wonderful family as well as lots of places and miles. We are so thankful for His provision, guidance, and faithfulness through it all.

So what's next for us? I (Rhoda) am starting a new position with Lutheran Bible Translators as Development Assistant, working remotely from home. I'll be scheduling appointments for LBT speakers as well as other tasks related to development. I'm glad to be able to help promote important information about the work of Bible translation. There are over 2000 languages in the world who don't have any Scripture in their heart language. Right now LBT missionaries are involved in 120 language projects. And many more people are part of this work through their prayers and support! That includes you who are reading this letter. We thank you for your participation in bringing God's Word to people in their heart language.



Claude will continue working with member care for LBT missionaries as needed, and we will both be available for various conferences and assignments throughout the year.

This **September 26<sup>th</sup> is Bible Translation Sunday**. You can join the Bible translation movement to put God's Word in the hands of people around the world. Congregations can celebrate with any of the following resources:

- Sermon by Dr. Reed Lessing
- Worship Service Elements
- Children's Sermon by Dr. Reed Lessing
- Adult Bible Study
- Children's Activities
- Videos



Access the resources and tell LBT how you are celebrating Bible Translation Sunday. Visit [lbt.org/bts](http://lbt.org/bts).

Together in His Mission,  
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