



Lutheran Bible
Translators

the messenger

Winter 2021

The Listeners

REPORT
**In Eager
Anticipation**

**Reading for
the First Time**

**Blessed are
Those Who
Hear**

Glow



Fan the Flame

[2 Tim 1:6]

Glow | Ember | Spark | Blaze

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FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Dear Reader:

I visited a remote location in the Kalahari Desert in southern Africa. It was desolate. When the sun set without electricity or moonlight, it was deep dark. There was no man-made orientation.

I wandered away from my sleeping quarters to stare at the stars and found myself straining to identify landmarks to get back. **The glow of a cooking fire drew my eyes.** It was small but it served as a beacon. I knew the direction.



DR MIKE RODEWALD

The world sometimes seems a dark and despondent place. But the world's story is not ours. We are in God's story of salvation through Jesus – hope and victory over darkness. **God calls, faith glows** and He uses us that others are pointed to the same story of salvation into which He has called us.

God uses us for His purpose – to bring direction and light to the world through Jesus. **There is no other purpose.**

I am grateful for your part. **Thank you for participating in God's story of salvation** by pointing others to faith through your gifts and prayer. You give them direction. You put God's Word in their hands

In Christ,

Mike Rodewald

Dr. Mike Rodewald

CEO and Executive Director

On the Cover, School children excited with arrival of Missionaries.
Photocredit: Caleb Rodewald

The Listeners

On October 25th, “Hundreds of members and leaders of all denominations witnessed the presentation of the new [Khoekhoe] Bible!” So said Valerie Isaaks, Bible Society of Namibia translator. In addition to the dedication of the full Bible text, the New Testament audio production was presented, as well as the Children’s Bible.

The Khoekhoegowab [Khoekhoe people] live in some of the most remote parts of southern Africa. Many cannot read. Throughout the translation process, the translation team not only developed written language but **also engaged in the oral Khoekhoe community for an oral version.**

The KKG team hosted a radio program and read selections of the Bible translation drafts. Listeners called in with their suggestions and advice on

the best ways to express concepts in Khoekhoegowab. Working through all 1,189 Bible chapters, the team finished proofreading, then organized for the production of an audio recording.

“Books are a ‘new idea’ for many people and may not be the best way to convey important information,” says missionary Rob Veith. “Many cultures are oral – the spoken word has historically been the chief means of communication,” he says.

A former missionary doubted that the beauty and wonder of this language could even be expressed in print – **the Khoekhoe language uses 20 different click sounds as consonants!** But now with your help, they can both read or hear the words of Scripture!

“...the spoken word has historically been the chief means of communication,”

The Khoekhoegowab waited years for the Bible to be translated into their language. They waited even longer to hear it, but now all can understand the Word. They can search Scripture for themselves. **God’s Word is alive!** To support audio Scripture, go to lbt.org/give **m.**

Below, two people working on audio for the Khoekhoegowab Bible.



REPORT

In Eager Anticipation

Ukerewe Island looks forward to the day they have the Word of God in their hands. *Continued on page 4...*





Above, community and church leaders gather to discuss the draft of the Gospel of Luke.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions . . . keep on praying for all the Lord’s people”
(Ephesians 6:18 NIV)

Your prayers and support make all the difference to 100,000 Kerewe language speakers in Tanzania! And did you know that as a fellow member of the Lutheran Bible Translators’ family, the Kerewe translators have been praying for you, too?!

Like a glow that is fanned to a flame, the Kerewe speaking church has been growing in anticipation for the day they can worship in their own language. **People are eager to receive God’s Word.**

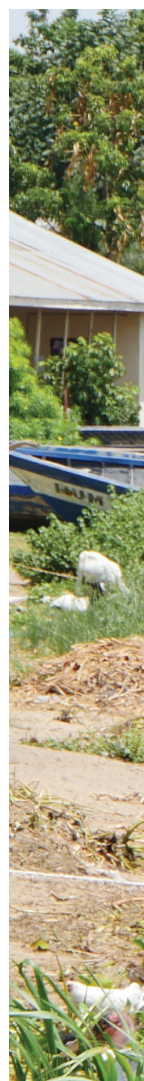
Despite disruption caused by the

Like a glow that is fanned to a flame, the Kerewe-speaking church has been growing in anticipation...

pandemic, the New Testament translation team has been making excellent progress through virtual meetings. They **estimate they are over 25% complete with their drafting of the New Testament!**

Dr. Michael Megahan and Rev. Andrew Olson recently visited Ukerewe Island and joined the Kerewe team for Bible translation software training and planning for 2021.

With your support, the team hopes to complete the Gospel of Luke and Acts this year! Once the books have been reviewed and finalized, they will be printed and distributed to Kerewe readers. **Good News will then be in the hands of people** rather than waiting for the entire New Testament’s completion.



Community networking is essential for publication distribution. **The Kerewe translators have been intentional in building relationships and sharing the exciting news of the translation program.** These connections facilitate the distribution of Scripture and prove invaluable to the translation process through community checking of drafts.

Together, we will keep on praying for all the Lord’s people on Ukerewe Island as they faithfully translate Scripture! Find out how you can put God’s Word in their hands at <https://lbt.org/kerewe.m>.



Above, local volunteers check the accuracy of the ongoing Kerewe New Testament translation.

Below, fishing boats getting ready for the day on Ukerewe Island.



Reading for the First Time

When did you first learn to read? Having a book in your language doesn't mean much if you can't read it. **In many places, like Sierra Leone in west Africa, fewer than half the people can read.** As people gain skills to read in their language, they comprehend God's Word better, and their faith is enhanced. Your investment in education helps support these literacy projects through Lutheran Bible Translators.

Giving Tuesday was an opportunity for social media followers of Lutheran Bible Translators to make a difference. **Every year this one-day event celebrates the generosity of charitable giving during the holiday spending season.**

"There is joy in giving!" One participant said. **At last count, gifts of \$32,449 were received** from supporters. As a result, nearly 1500 people in the Kissi, Kono, Krio, Loko, Limba, and Themne language communities will benefit from materials and trained teachers. Many of these newly literate people will become volunteer literacy teachers or translators.

"There is joy in giving!"

You saw the need and responded. Givers were blessed, as well as those participating in literacy projects in Sierra Leone. Prayers and financial support offered on Giving Tuesday help put God's Word in the hands of people who do not yet have it. **It's never too late to join the story!** You can still help people read. **[Go to lbt.org/giving-tuesday](https://lbt.org/giving-tuesday)**
m.





Left: A congregation member reads the Bible in his own language.

Bottom: Daniel Mbalunda, Hilja Tolu (seated), Rob Veith and Rev. Johannes Tolu of the Dhimba project.

Blessed are Those Who Hear

“**I**t’s so lovely to hear the Word of God in our own language!” says Rev. Tolu, a member of the Dhimba audio translation team. Less than half of the 25,000 Dhimba speakers in Namibia and Angola in western Africa can read their own language. **Even fewer read well enough to readily understand the Scripture.**

But the glow of faith is there. **“When they hear, they understand,”** says Rob Veith, Lutheran Bible Translators missionary who helped assemble a local team and the technical equipment to produce the Dhimba audio Scripture.

The team recorded the Bible in the Dhimba language, then reviewed the audio books. Minor errors could be fixed immediately. Other times, the team caught an entire passage or section that had to be rerecorded.



Rob recalled a time when the team began speaking among themselves in Dhimba. He assumed they were debating whether the error was big enough to require rerecording. Rev. Tolu assured him the passage was fine—they were just **marveling at the sound of Scripture in their own language!**

You can bring the good news of salvation – whether ultimately read or heard – to people who have never heard it in a language of their heart. Join the story at lbt.org/give/m.

Dedications 2020 - 2021

LIBERIA

Gola New Testament

CAMEROON

Kwanja Lectionary

Vuté Lectionary

ETHIOPIA

Konso Complete Bible

NAMIBIA

Khoekhoegowab

complete Bible & New Testament

BOTSWANA

Shekgalagari New Testament

Khwedam Old Testament/

New Testament Story Set

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).

To see if you are eligible to be a voting member please visit

<https://lbt.org/members/>

Here you will also find:

- Information about the 2021 election for the Lutheran Bible Translators Board of Directors
- Details on how to request nomination and voting information for the 2021 election
- Information about the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Thank you for participating in mission through your membership.

Birthdays

March

Lisa Beckendorf
Levi Federwitz*
Maila Davies
Lydia Derricks*
Tilahun Mendedo
Selah Olson*
Hannah Federwitz*
Danny DeLoach
MaryJane Grulke*
Janine Pluger

April

Tim Beckendorf
Annaka Esala*
Elliot Derricks
Tom Holman
Nancy Burmeister

May

Carl Grulke
Berhanu Ofgaa
Mike Rodewald
Tobias Kuhn*
Nathan Federwitz*
Julia Federwitz*
Janet Borchard
Michelle Miller
Emily Wilson
Ali Federwitz
Wesley DeLoach*
Angela Tayloe
Mike Kuhn
Ken Bunge

*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

Oct 1—
Dec 31, 2020

Unaudited
4th Quarter

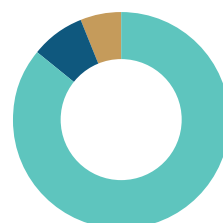
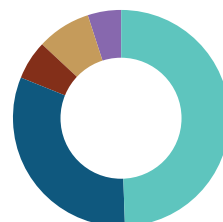
Unaudited
Year-to-Date

INCOME

■ Designated	\$	1,196,246	3,117,770
■ General (Undesignated)		755,301	1,477,950
■ Restricted Funds		(138,119)	(163,985)
■ Bequests		178,232	500,633
■ Endowments		122,296	166,577
TOTAL INCOME	\$	2,390,194	5,426,915

EXPENSES

■ Program	\$	1,219,759	5,471,899
■ Administration		119,147	501,323
■ Endowments		84,388	280,054
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	1,423,293	6,253,276



Pray for:

Botswana

➤ Pray for the **Khwedam Bible translation team** completing necessary revisions and preparing the manuscript for publication.
➤ Pray for the **Shekgalagari translation team** in proofreading and final revision of the New Testament manuscript.
➤ Pray that God will make the work of the **Botswana translation teams** productive.

Ethiopia

➤ Pray for the **Konso translation team** collaborating with different denominations in support of the Bible among their churches.
➤ Pray for **Chris and Janine Pluger** as they visit churches in the US and seek support for their ministry in Ethiopia.
➤ Continue to pray for the **Mekane Yesus Seminary building committee** as they work toward completion of the building near the end of 2021.

Liberia

➤ Pray for the **Bandi translation team** learning to be a team while training together and beginning translation work.
➤ Pray that the **LIBTRALO administration** continues to create awareness in the surrounding communities and make the translated Scripture accessible in the language of the people.

Cameroon

➤ Pray for the **Subula* language committee** seeking to find a suitable piece of land to build a center for translation and literacy work.
➤ Pray that **Mike and Kara Kuhn** settle in to their third term of service translation and literacy work.

**Note: Specific details were intentionally omitted or changed to protect the affected language community.*

Ghana

➤ Pray for **Michael and Naomi Ersland** as they transition to life in Ghana.
➤ Pray for progress in drafting the **Old Testament into Komba**.

Tanzania

➤ Pray for the **Kerewe translation team** finishing the translation of the book of Acts and learning the Bible translation software.

Nigeria

➤ Pray for ongoing community involvement and participation among the **Bokyi language community**.
➤ Pray for the **Mbe translation team** showing the Jesus Film throughout the language community.

Sierra Leone

➤ Pray that the **Kono literacy teacher training** workshops allow for the establishment of new literacy classes.
➤ Pray for the **Krio literacy team** developing and printing materials for use in literacy classes.

Dr. Mike Rodewald & Amy Gerdtz, Editor(s)

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Caleb Rodewald, Layout & Design

Sarah Lyons, Layout Assistant

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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
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Executive Director: Dr. Mike Rodewald



**Lutheran Bible
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FORUM OF BIBLE
AGENCIES
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Translators**

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with **Rev Rich Rudowske**

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Join us twice a month with new guests
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