



Lutheran Bible
Translators

the messenger

Spring 2021

Sharing
the
Greatest
Story

A close-up photograph of two hands holding a rolled-up piece of light brown paper. The hand on the left is wearing a green and yellow wristband. The hand on the right has a tattoo on the forearm. The background is blurred, showing purple and yellow colors. Overlaid on the image is the text "#Fan the Flame" in a white, stylized font, with "[2 Tim 1:6]" below it.

#Fan the Flame

[2 Tim 1:6]

Glow | Ember | Spark | Blaze

Onward!

page 2

REPORT Sharing the Greatest Story

page 3

Faith & Heritage

page 6

Standing with Fellow Believers

page 7

Member Information

page 8

Prayers & Birthdays

page 9

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Dear Reader:

I chatted with a visiting professor in Africa. He told me his experience teaching seminary students.

"I spent two weeks teaching through English. We had a great time. Students interacted and nodded their heads. Then I gave a final test. The results? **They did not understand the concepts I was teaching.**"



DR MIKE RODEWALD
LBT Executive Director

Language from one culture does not always transfer knowledge within another culture. Distortion occurs.

Ninety-five percent of printed Bibles are in one or another version of English. It is awesome to have so much choice – for English speakers! **But the reality is that millions smile and nod their heads to God's story of salvation told through a language they cannot fully comprehend.**

Translating God's Word is urgent! When the Word comes through our own language, **the Word comes right where we are.** There is nothing we must do, no other language we must learn to fully know the gift of Jesus.

For many, the ember of faith is offered through other languages. But God offers more. **Help them to know the full impact of Jesus.** Put God's Word in their hands!

In Christ,

Dr. Mike Rodewald

CEO and Executive Director

On the cover, a young girl discovers the story of Bible Translation during Bible Translation Sunday.
Photo credit: Caleb Rodewald



Above, Rev. Rich Rudowske and Dr. Bruk Ayele look on over the building progress of the Mekane Yesus Seminary.

Onward!

Onward! It is a word that the world has been seeking to embody amidst a dragging pandemic. So much halted: trade, social events, even church functions.

But thanks be to God – progress moves onward for the partnership between Lutheran Bible Translators and the Mekane Yesus Seminary (MYS) projects in Ethiopia – despite challenges brought on by COVID and cement shortages.

Your prayers and gifts are a blessing for each phase of the MYS Bible Translation Training program and the income-generating MYS building project. You walk alongside MYS students and faculty to equip the next generation of ministry leaders and Bible translators in Ethiopia. The MYS building will provide income for scholarships and space to receive training. More skilled, local translators will assist Bible translation projects in the eighty-five languages of Ethiopia.

**Jesus called his disciples
to share the Gospel
beyond their own
communities to the ends
of the Earth.**

Jesus called his disciples to share the Gospel beyond their own communities to the ends of the Earth. So, too, MYS students are called. This program will bless communities who do not yet have God's Word in their own language. Local leaders trained in

the ministry of Bible translation will provide leadership and build sustainable partnerships and programs.

Lutheran Bible Translators has been immeasurably

blessed and joyous to witness the vision for the future of Bible translation through the MYS Bible Translation Training program and MYS building project.

By God's mercy and your support, we move onward! **m.**

To find out how you can support the Mekane Yesus Seminary Bible Translation Training program, visit lbt.org/myseminary.

REPORT

Sharing the Greatest Story

People and churches gather to tell the story of Bible translation on **Bible Translation Sunday**. *Continued on page 4...*





Above, a young girl interacts with Bible Translation Sunday lesson materials.

God is always at work in and through His people to spread the Good News of His sacrificial

love. God's story is the greatest ever told. That is worth celebrating!

Christians rejoice each Sunday in hearing Scripture in their own language. Yet thousands of languages around the world are still without it.

Bible Translation Sunday (BTS) is a celebration held by congregations throughout the country to share about the need for Bible translation work.

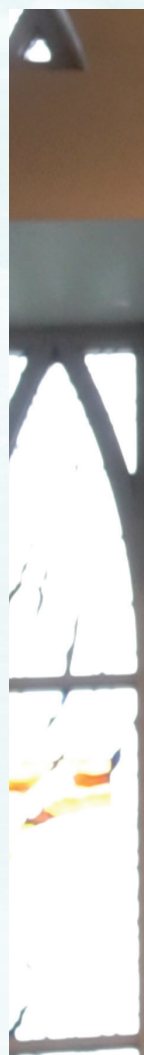
At Lutheran Bible Translators, we are excited to provide materials for pastors and church workers to share about

Bible translation ministry with their congregations. This year, the website will feature:

“Many people were very surprised ... how many areas still are without God's Word in their own language.”

- A sermon written by Dr. Reed Lessing
- Worship elements
- Children's activities
- Bible study resources
- A PowerPoint presentation
- Videos

One pastor shared the impact upon his congregation after celebrating BTS. “Many people were very surprised at the information shared – not realizing the tremendous task of translation and how many areas still are without God's Word in their own language.”



God works in and through you to share His Word. This September, share the global need for the greatest story ever told! **m.**

Find out how you can join the celebration at **lbt.org/bts**.

of **LAST SUNDAY**
SEPTEMBER
EVERY YEAR


Lutheran Bible
Translators
BIBLE TRANSLATION
Sunday

Below, Rev. Rich Rudowske preaches on the importance of Bible Translation.



Faith & Heritage

Before Jesus ascended, He proclaimed to His disciples that by the power of the Holy Spirit, they would be His “witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). They were called to the ends of the earth but also to their own neighborhoods.

Aramaic was Jesus’ first language and the heart language of many Christians in the early Church. Over the centuries, descendants continued to use Aramaic. They preserved faith and heritage by speaking Aramaic even after Islam and Arabic became dominant in the region.



Above, Aramaic speakers discuss the importance of using Scripture in their own languages.

Aramaic Christians have suffered genocide and persecution over the last two millennia. They have been displaced over the globe. Aramaic community languages have evolved into unique vernaculars. Older versions of Scripture are no longer intelligible to modern speakers. Nonetheless, they hold to their heritage. They are still hungry for God’s Word in their own language!

They are still hungry for God’s Word in their own language!

With your support, five Aramaic language communities have received the New Testament in the past five years. Each has now initiated a translation of the Old Testament and projects to develop children’s Bibles. [m.](https://m.lbt.org/aramaic)

Aramaic Christians have hope founded in Scripture. Put God’s Word in their hands. Give them hope! Visit lbt.org/aramaic.



Don't miss the Essentially Translatable interview with Aramaic Bible Translation's CEO Rob Hilbert.
lbt.org/podcast

Standing with Fellow Believers

New partnerships and opportunities are underway! Lutheran Bible Translators is honored to partner with two minority language communities in Asia, largely unreached with the Gospel.

Christians in the region face persecution and threats. Yet, small groups of believers are hungry for the Word. They seek ways to share their faith.

Neither language has a writing system. Project leaders have placed a high priority on studying the language to develop an orthography. The team will adapt Scripture engagement materials, like Christian songs or oral Bible stories, to build excitement in the community.

The Holy Spirit has been at work! Minority language communities throughout Asia are being transformed by God's Word, literacy programs and Sunday school materials. Our prayer is that He will work in and through these two new partnerships in the same way!

In Hebrews 10, God commends His Church for standing with those who are suffering for the sake of the Gospel. In your prayers, you stand with believers in Asia. In your gifts, you support new Christ-followers. In your desire to put God's Word in their hands, you join with the great multitude praising God for His goodness. **m.**

Join the story of God's salvation through these new partnerships by visiting lbt.org/nola.





Lutheran Bible
Translators

ESSENTIALLY TRANSLATABLE

with **Rich & Emily**

Listen to Lutheran Bible Translators' podcast,
Essentially Translatable,

with Rev. Rich Rudowske and Emily Wilson!

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:



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 lbt.org/members.

Here you will also find:

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

Thank you for participating in mission through your membership.

Birthdays

June

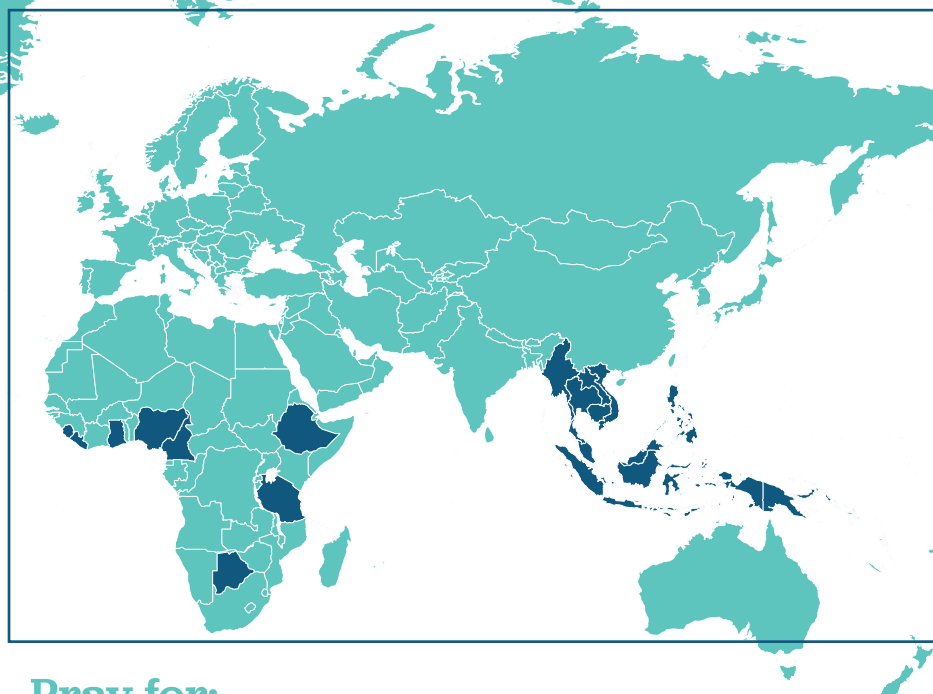
Eshinee Veith
Claude Houge
Audrey Grulke*
Jennifer Kunkel
Elijah Wagner*
Jo Ann Megahan
Chris Pluger

July

Aili Esala*
Jim Kaiser
Isaiah Wagner*
Josiah Federwitz*
Nathan Esala
Stephanie Luetjen
Andrew Beckendorf*

August

Valerie Federwitz
Tim Miller
Ruthie Wagner
Kara Kuhn
Rich Rudowski
Amy Gerdtz
Katie Hogan
Mariah Olson*
**missionary kid*



Pray for:

Botswana

➤ Pray for the **Khwedam translation team** as they prepare for the launch of a publication.

Cameroon

➤ Pray for the **Subula* language community** as they update and record and distribute a Subula songbook

Ethiopia

➤ Pray for the ongoing training of the **35 Bible translation students** at Mekane Yesus Seminary (MYS).
➤ Pray for God’s provision upon the **LBT-MYS building** project.
➤ Pray for the **Kambata translation team** as they review the books from Galatians to Revelation.

Ghana

➤ Pray for **Michael and Naomi Ersland** as they serve with the Komba Old Testament translation program.

Liberia

➤ Pray for the **Bandi translation team** as they review and check the books of Ruth, Jonah, and Genesis.
➤ Pray for the **Dan translation team** as they plan the printing and distribution of the book of Psalms.

Nigeria

➤ Pray for the training of **Bokyi literacy teachers**.

Papua New Guinea

➤ Pray for **Ipili translators** as they work towards Scripture engagement in their region.

Sierra Leone

➤ Pray for **Amy Formella** as she serves with the Mende Old Testament translation program.

Southeast Asia

➤ Pray for the **video dubbing and distribution** of the Gospel of John video.

Tanzania

➤ Pray for the **Kerewe translation team** as they host a large community checking seminar.

United States

➤ Pray for the involvement of congregations in **Bible Translation Sunday** this September.

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

Gift Designations

Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Lutheran Bible Translators has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Lutheran Bible Translators will attempt to honor gifts preferenced to support particular workers, but the final decision on the use of all funds rests with the organization.

Lutheran Bible Translators is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization and your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

To view Lutheran Bible Translators’ financial reports, visit lbt.org/financial-accountability.

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

Emily Wilson, Editorial Management

Caleb Rodewald, Layout & Design

Sarah Lyons, Layout Assistant

Printed at Mittera Chicago, Berkeley, IL

The Messenger is the official quarterly periodical of
Lutheran Bible Translators,
205 S. Main St, Bldg 5, PO Box 789, Concordia MO 64020.

1-660-225-0810 | www.lbt.org | info@LBT.org

Standard A Non-Profit postage paid at Aurora, Illinois.
Printed in the U.S.A.

Comments and inquiries are invited.

Correspondence may be directed to
The Messenger Editor.

©2021 Lutheran Bible Translators, Inc.

Permission is granted to excerpt from this publication.

Please send a copy of use of material to the editor.

Volunteers assisted with the assembly of this mailing!

A Canadian edition of this newspaper
is published by Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada,
137 Queen St. S., Kitchener, ON N2B 1W2.

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



**Lutheran Bible
Translators**

PO Box 789

Concordia, MO 64020

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Chicago, IL
Permit № 2237



**Lutheran Bible
Translators**

BIBLE TRANSLATION

Sunday

**LAST SUNDAY
of SEPTEMBER
EVERY YEAR**

lbt.org/bts