



Lutheran Bible
Translators

the messenger

Fall 2021

Experience
Scripture

Fan the Flame

[2 Tim 1:6]

Glow | Ember | Spark | Blaze



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FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Dear Reader:

I grew up in the US learning through observation. I learned that my handshake had a meaning. A firm handshake symbolized strength. It exhibited assuredness and respect.

Then I went to Africa. They had not learned the same rules.

They shook hands by grasping hands and snapping each other's middle finger. Snap, snap, snap. It took coordination.

They managed it well. I didn't.

My firm handshake meant nothing. It accomplished nothing but funny looks.



DR MIKE RODEWALD
LBT Executive Director

Words and actions are not always understood the same from culture to culture. They are not universal. My method of shaking hands did not communicate as I intended. On the other hand, **it was only after I experienced their handshake many times** that I could understand the relationship and respect indicated through multiple snaps.

God's story of salvation is told with full impact through symbols we understand – the Word coming without barrier. God's story of salvation is for me, you and everyone, no matter what language we use. The result? "...A great multitude, ...from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages standing before the Lamb (Rev 7:9)."

Thank you for playing your part in God's story of salvation and putting God's Word in the world's hands.

In Christ,

Dr. Mike Rodewald

CEO and Executive Director

On the cover, a singer records verses from the New Testament for the Living Water project.

Photo credit: Caleb Rodewald



Above: Wartburg Castle where Luther translated the New Testament

Continue the Reformation

Martin Luther sparked the Reformation with 95 theses on the Wittenberg door. Lutherans across the globe celebrated the 500th anniversary of that event in 2017.

But the Reformation may not have continued. Luther tacked those theses to the door in 1517 but an understandable Bible was not available to most. "Luther knew that a new, vernacular translation of the Bible was absolutely essential at this time. A return to the true teachings of Scripture required a meaningful rendering in the language of the people," notes Bible translation scholar Ernst Wendland. Five years later, Luther translated the New Testament into the vernacular. The Bible was understood.

A new, vernacular translation of the Bible was absolutely essential...



The Reformation thrived. People engaged with Scripture. Lives were transformed. Their world changed.

Let's celebrate the impact of Luther's New Testament translation. Lutheran Bible Translators will provide opportunities for you to celebrate and participate in the Bible translation movement through 500th anniversary events.

There are still millions of people without God's Word in a language they understand. They are hungry for Scripture in their mother tongue just as the Germans of 1522.

You can partner with those language communities in Africa, Asia and Papua New Guinea through your prayer and your gifts. God's Word becomes accessible through a language they understand. Their world changes. **m.**

Continue the Reformation. Put God's Word in their hands at lbt.org/give.



REPORT

Experiencing Scripture

The Word brought to life through music.
Continued on page 4...

The fast-paced North American lifestyle conflicts with taking time to enjoy God's Word. Life could be so different if you could just spend more time engaging and experiencing Scripture.

Well, you can! Many international language communities put Scripture to song. Lutheran Bible Translators is bringing that experience to you as a part of the 500th anniversary celebration of Luther's New Testament.

For the first time, you will hear the whole New Testament to music. A group of highly talented vocalists sing the words of Scripture. A musical film score style captures the range of feeling and emotion of God's Word.

The Living Water project is the first of its kind. Before, only portions of Scripture had been performed in English. To undertake the entire New Testament is a challenge. A life engaged in the Word makes it worth it.

“

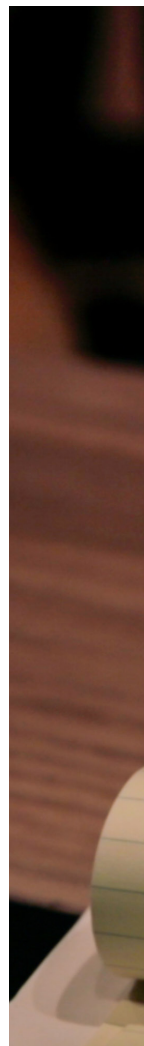
I grew up with the Bible. But with Living Water, the words hit me in a whole new way.

—Dr. Mike Rodewald
CEO Lutheran Bible Translators

”

Book by book, chapter by chapter – starting in January 2022 – the ESV New Testament will be released to commemorate the year during which Luther translated and published the New Testament 500 years ago.

From the genealogy of Jesus, his preaching, crucifixion, and resurrection, you will experience Scripture. “I grew up with the Bible. But with Living Water, the words hit me in a whole new way,” says Dr. Mike Rodewald, Lutheran Bible Translators CEO. Be encouraged as you engage with Scripture through music. Everyone who listens will be exposed to the beauty of God's Word with all its depth and emotion. [m.](#)



Lutheran Bible Translators will release the Living Water tracks one chapter per day starting January 2022. Listen and experience Scripture at lbt.org/livingwater/.



LIVING WATER

EXPERIENCE SCRIPTURE

Still Waiting

God is at work among the Kambata people in southern Ethiopia. The New Testament translation is finished. They were close to having the full Bible for the first time. Then the pandemic struck. The project's previous source of overseas funding dried up. The translation came to a halt.

Those who speak Kambata form an oral society. At least that was their way before the New Testament. **Now pastors and church leaders are attending literacy workshops to engage with Scripture through their own language.** It is part of their plan to inspire and lead their members to participate in literacy and enable them to read their Bibles too.

They were close to having the full Bible for the first time

Lutheran Bible Translators responded this year to a request for partnership from church leaders and the Kambata community. The plan is to finish, print and distribute the full Bible in three years. Pray for the Kambata translation team. They are moving into the quality control checking process within the community to ensure the Word is accurate, beautiful, and clear to those who speak Kambata. **m.**

Your partnership makes this goal a reality. Put God's Word in the hands of the Kambata people. Visit lbt.org/kambata.



Thank You LWML

“But she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”
(Luke 21:4 ESV).

They give generously. Their combined efforts accomplish great things. The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) uses the story of the widow’s mite as their inspiration. Praise God, LWML’ers raised over \$2.2 million with their “mite boxes” and awarded Lutheran Bible Translators a \$70,000 grant for ministry vehicles.

Bible translation and literacy programs are often in difficult to reach places, where road conditions are unpredictable. The LWML grant will fund the purchases of vehicles for the Bible Translation Office of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and The Institute of Sierra Leonean Languages.

Below: LBT Missionary Alvina Federwitz (right) talks with an LWML convention attendee (left).

“

Regional Director Jim Laesch shared about one of his visits to Sierra Leone,

We squeezed 9 passengers in a 7-passenger vehicle (plus 2 children on laps). Plastic jugs of gasoline were strapped atop the vehicle along with boxes, luggage, and more. We praised God after arriving at our destination 3.5 hours later.

I saw our partners had to take the extra mile and risk travelling to programs. Safe, reliable vehicles for program support and monitoring are not a luxury. They are a vital part of providing the tools to do the work month after month. Year after year.

”

The generosity of the LWML equips language communities in Sierra Leone and Ethiopia with vehicles they need. LWML’s partnership puts God’s Word in their hands. **m.**

You, too, can equip Bible translation programs with ministry vehicles. Visit lbt.org/vehiclefund.





Lutheran Bible
Translators

ESSENTIALLY TRANSLATABLE

with Rich & Emily

Listen to Lutheran Bible Translators' podcast,
Essentially Translatable,
with Rev. Rich Rudowske and Emily Wilson.

Join conversations with missionaries, partners & church leaders from
around the world. Discover 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

September

Eden Federwitz*
Kelsey Grulke
Caleb Rodewald
Gideon Grulke*
Isaac Grulke*

October

Gloria Kuhn*
Brent Smith
Jim Laesch
Elizabeth Wagner*
Chikodi Derricks*
Martin Weber
Naomi Ersland
Rob Veith
Becky Grossmann
Linda Gari
Jubilee Kuhn*
Charlotte Brandt
Chuck Tessaro

November

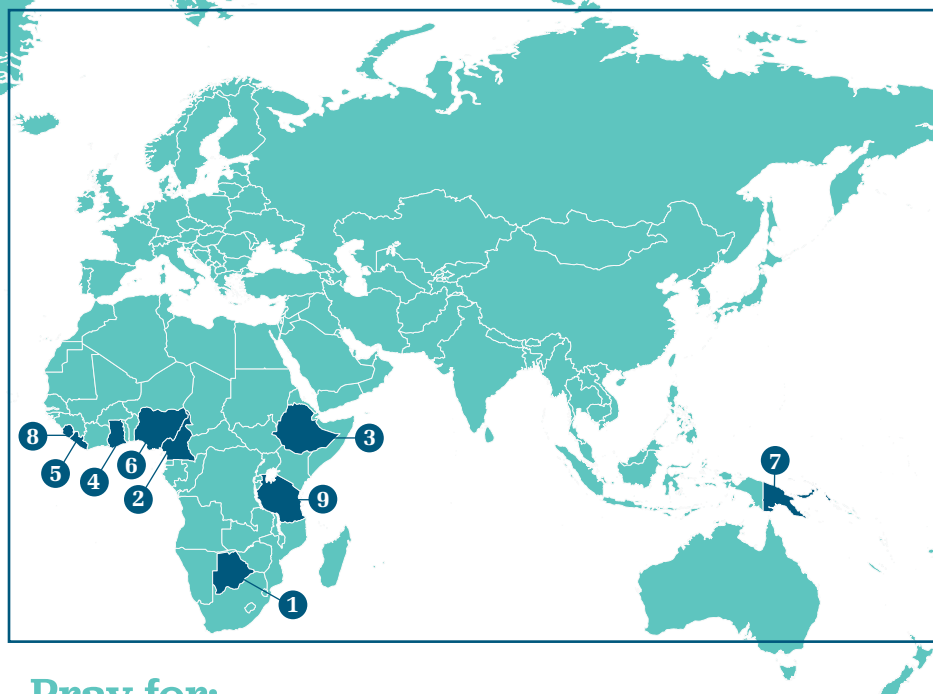
Michaela Federwitz
Rob Hilbert
Amy Formella
Andrew Olson
Sarah Esala

**missionary kid*

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.



Pray for:

1 Botswana

> Pray for the continued distribution of the **Wayeyi translation** of the Gospel of Mark.

2 Cameroon

> Pray for **Michaela Federwitz as she provides childcare** for Rev. Mike & Kara Kuhn's family.
> Praise God for the **selection of translators** for the Subula* Bible translation program.

3 Ethiopia

> Pray for **Dr. Chris & Janine Pluger** as they transition to their roles and new home in Ethiopia.
> Pray for the **continued partnership** between the Mekane Yesus Seminary and Lutheran Bible Translators.

4 Ghana

> Pray for wisdom and guidance for the **Komba Old Testament Bible translation** program.

5 Liberia

> Pray for the **Dan and Maan Bible translation** teams as they work through consultant checking.
> Pray for **continued literacy efforts** and community outreach.

6 Nigeria

> Pray for distribution of the **Yala New Testament** and Psalms.

7 Papua New Guinea

> Pray for continued wisdom and strength for **Ipili translators**.

8 Sierra Leone

> Pray for the continued support of the **Themne community** for the Bible translation and Scripture engagement programs.

9 Tanzania

> Pray for Rev. **Andrew & Alexis Olson** as they settle back into living on Ukerewe Island.

United States

> Pray for congregations as they participate in **Bible Translation Sunday this September** (lbt.org/bts).
> Pray for Sarah Esala as she takes on more roles and **responsibilities as a Regional Director**.

Worldwide

> Pray for Tiffany Smith as she continues her **pre-field training**.
> Pray for the planners and attendees of the **virtual Bible Translation Conference event**.

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

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

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do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. The LBT
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#GIVING
TUESDAY

دری تئیه دمَریا بایداثای
2021

NOV 30TH
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