

...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

CONSTRUCTIVE WORD

The Esala Prayer Letter—Fall 2021

...attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13

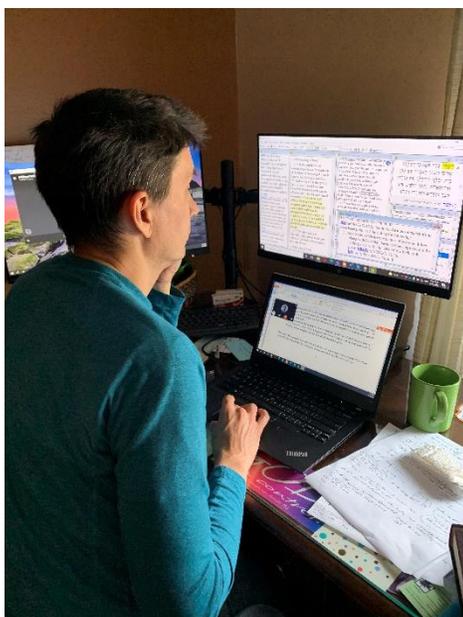


GREETINGS IN CHRIST!

A lot has been happening with the Esala family and with our Lutheran Bible Translators work.

CONSULTANT CHECKING

In July Nathan joined the Komba team virtually to consultant check. He was up around 4:15 a.m to better align with their day. Amazingly, it worked quite well. They were able to figure out a system to work through passages from 1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chronicles. There are still many portions to work through, and Nathan is still learning the nuances of consulting. Pray for wisdom for him and the team as they try to navigate more of this virtually.



CMI

In July our entire family participated in Concordia Mission Institute. This is the annual event that LBT holds with Mission of Christ Network in Concordia, Missouri. Karissa joined the sessions for adults and the 4 younger kids were involved in the kids' program either as participants or helpers. In the evenings the kids had great fun hanging out with David and Valerie Federwitz's kids, our colleagues who worked with us in the Komba project in Ghana.

AUGUST HAPPENINGS

In August Nathan and I celebrated 25 years of marriage! It was also the beginning of a new school year, sports for the kids (cross country and soccer), and Nathan's debut for teaching a religion class at a nearby college (he has loved integrating Contextual Bible Study and other translation features). I faced budget & grant season for the first time on the receiving end. Let's just say that I hope to set up things differently for next year. 😊

BT CONFERENCE 2021

The biennial BT Conference 2021 took place in October. This conference gathers Bible translation practitioners from around the world to present papers so "iron can sharpen iron." Because this conference is so international and the international travel landscape poses many challenges, it was held virtually this year. The exciting



Isaac had lots of fun with his cousin who was also attending CMI.

part was that some people who would have never participated otherwise were able to join. Nearly 1,000 people registered. Nathan and several other LBT-ers presented at the conference on a variety of matters pertinent to the multi-faceted work of Bible translation.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY TRAINING

I just completed a multi-day training covering topics intended to help me travel more safely, work with missionaries to mitigate risky situations, and manage more serious incidents. It included a combination of classroom learning and immersive experiences. Some of the experiences like kidnapping are VERY rare, yet it was helpful to gain tools for assessing and responding to situations like this. As we worked through extreme situations, we were reminded that most missionaries who die on the field are killed in automobile accidents so wearing seatbelts or helmets (when on a moto) is not to be neglected. The next step for me will be to work with missionaries to update their contingency & crisis plans and to continue to help them with best practices for day-to-day safety.

JOIN US IN PRAISING GOD FOR...

- All that has been accomplished the last few months.
- For the many ways our family gets to enjoy life together despite busy schedules.
- The incredible missionaries I get to work with on a regular basis. Many are facing changes of one kind or another, and God is helping them through this.

JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR...

- Preparations and travel by Sarah to Tanzania Nov. 29-Dec 12. Pray that her meetings there would be fruitful and there would be good understanding despite cultural and language differences. Pray that she listens well and has wisdom.
- Nathan's work with the Komba team on consultant checking.
- Pray for new projects that are in the early stages of development in Botswana, Tanzania, and Papua New Guinea. The Lord seems to be opening doors. 2022 will be an important year for exploring more about the language situations of these places and what work God is calling LBT to partner in.

We are grateful for the ways you continue to support us in this work through your prayers and financial gifts. As you near the end of the year, please consider a special gift to our ministry.

JOY IN THE JOURNEY – *Sarah for the Esalas*

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I'm wearing a thick hood here to experience what it might be like if I ever found myself put in this situation (highly unlikely!) and to learn how to orient myself to the senses I still have available to me.



**Lutheran Bible
Translators**