



Lutheran Bible
Translators

LOOKING *Back*
Cooking FORWARD

the messenger

Spring 2022



LUTHER'S NEW TESTAMENT

1522 - 2022



Lutheran Bible
Translators



Light

TO EVERYONE

[JOHN 1:9]

Be Refreshed

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FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Dear Reader:

There are an estimated 900 versions of the Bible in English. That is luxury. Many do not have even one version in their language. They are still waiting.

Five hundred years ago, the German people waited. The Reformation had begun five years earlier, but by 1521, Luther was declared an outlaw, a heretic, hidden in a castle by friends.

God used that moment for His purpose. Luther delved into translating. Those who spoke common German were like sheep without a shepherd unable to discover the truth of God's Word. **Luther's 1522 New Testament into common German was a game-changer. Scripture was available and understood.** History tells us the rest.

I have multiple English versions from which to understand God's message to me. Others do not. In this issue you will discover **the joy of others experiencing God's Word. You will see how you can be a part of that joy.**

Thank you for being a part of God's Word moving into the world as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the New Testament. The Bible in one's own language is a game-changer.

In Christ,

Dr. Mike Rodewald

CEO and Executive Director



DR MIKE RODEWALD
LBT Executive Director

On the cover, the 500th anniversary of Luther's New Testament translation is commemorated with a new logo.

BIBLE REFRESHED

The Living Water project – the first of its kind in English – premiered the Book of Matthew in January. Chapter by chapter, followers can experience the emotion of Scripture text (English Standard Version) as music.

“I was blown away. I cannot wait to hear more...”

“It truly touches all of me – my mind, heart, and spirit.”

“Every verse comes alive that made me feel the weight, drama and beauty of the Scriptures.”


Listeners are refreshed and uplifted as a new chapter is released each day. Church leaders can utilize chapters as a resource for Bible studies and services.

“People sometimes think the Bible is boring – even Christians. Engaging in God’s Word shouldn’t be a burden. Living Water is a powerful way to experience Scripture and be refreshed,” says Lutheran Bible Translators Chief Operating Officer Rev. Rich Rudowske.

Members of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Oviedo, Florida were some of the first to experience the impact. Grammy award-winning singer Khristian Dentley and pianist producer Peter Prochnow expressed Scripture readings live during services.

More Living Water chapters and live events are planned in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Luther’s New Testament translation. The Reformation continues through the joy of Scripture for all. You can experience that joy chapter by chapter in this new way – subscribe to Living Water on LivingWater.Bible

**“IT TRULY TOUCHES
ALL OF ME – MY
MIND, HEART, AND
SPIRIT.”**

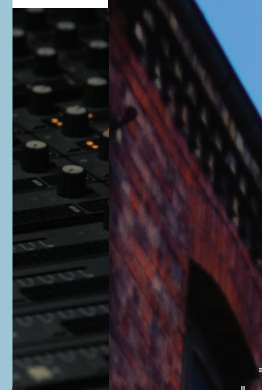
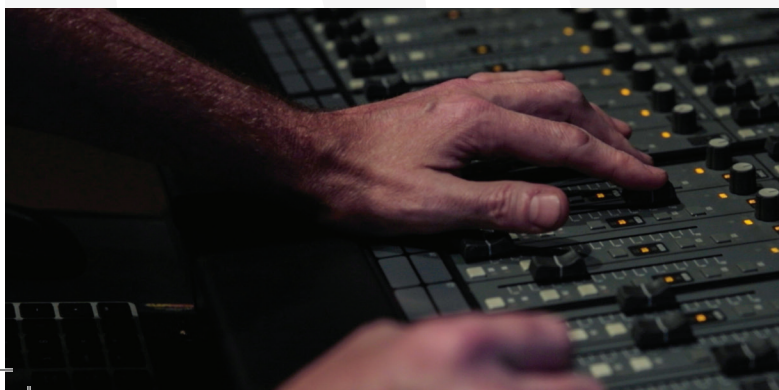
You will receive an email, which will give you access to the released chapters of Living Water. New chapters will be released Monday through Friday. 

Join Lutheran Bible Translators in prayer:

Pray that Scripture through the Living Water project spreads, uplifts and strengthens listeners.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead people to share His Word around the world.

Pray God’s Word will be in the hands of all people in the language they best understand.



REPORT

LOOKING Back Looking FORWARD



500 YEARS SINCE
LUTHER'S NEW TESTAMENT
TRANSLATION

Back in 2017, Christians worldwide celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Protestant reformation.

Luther's 95 theses began a movement to restore the Bible to its central role in the formation of faith and life of the church. But it was *Luther's translation of the New Testament* into the common language of his people that solidified the Reformation in Germany. It served as a model for local language translation all over Europe. The first version of the Luther New Testament was published in 1522, and it profoundly changed the world.

Lutheran Bible Translators invites you to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Luther's New Testament with events and experiences planned throughout 2022. Rejoice with Christians around the globe – the Lord is working through Bible translation.

We kicked off a year of recognizing and celebrating this milestone with the New Testament 500 Conference. The event was held September 28, 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, home of the largest Lutheran church body in the world. The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) credits its phenomenal growth in part to the church's focus on Gospel proclamation in the local language. "Bible translation is the center of the Church's mission!" exclaimed EECMY President Rev. Yonas Yigezu as he opened the conference.

Lutheran Bible Translators has released a musical rendition of the Scripture called *Living Water* as part of the 500th anniversary celebration. *Living Water* recreates for English speakers an experience of hearing God's Word in their heart language for the first time. Executive Director Dr. Mike Rodewald reflects, "One of the cool things we get to experience in Lutheran Bible Translators is when someone hears God's Word in their language for the first time. The joy that they feel and express comes out, and we want to share the joy of that experience with the English-speaking world."

"We've got a lot of events planned this year to connect with the church," says Public Relations Coordinator Emily Wilson. "We have the opportunity to celebrate Luther's

contribution to the church through Bible translation and to share the vision of the ongoing Bible translation ministry happening all over the world right now!"

Events kick off in March with *Living Water* previews at the Lutheran Education Association conference and the LCMS Veterans of the Cross event in Orlando, Florida. A concert in nearby Oviedo features Grammy Award-winning artist, Khristian Dentley, of the gospel group *Take Six* and pianist/producer Pete Prochnow. Christian singer/songwriter Hope Darst will be the headliner for the concert. "We're really looking forward to celebrating the Lord and the beauty of His Word in this fantastic night of music!" says Executive Development Officer Dr. Brent Smith. "It's an experience you don't want to miss."

"BIBLE TRANSLATION IS THE CENTER OF THE Church's Mission"

REV. YONAS
YIGEZU



Other musical and dinner events are being planned for the summer and the fall. A full listing of events as they develop is available at go.LBT.org/500.

"You really can't overstate the impact of Luther's work in Bible translation on today's Christian church," states Chief Operating Officer Rev. Rich Rudowske. "Sermons based in Scripture became centralized in Christian worship. It's in personal and small group Bible study. Even the prominence of Biblical study in theological education is something we take for granted today. These all came about as a direct result of Luther's translation."

Left, a woman in Sierra Leone learns to read and write using Scripture.





The Reformation continues! Lutheran Bible Translators serves right now in over 100 languages to help lower barriers to understanding God's Word. Executive Development Officer Dr. Tilahun Mendedo grew up in Ethiopia and can personally testify to the impact of Scripture in his own language. He is passionate about Bible translation. "If I could have my wish, everyone reading this article would go pick up their Bible. They'd open it to their favorite Gospel passage or Psalm, give thanks to God that He is speaking to them clearly through His Word, and be moved to give to help others who have never had that opportunity."

500 years ago, the Lord led Martin Luther to unlock the Word of God and put it in the hands of the people. Together, we continue his vision that the Word would be in "the hands, eyes, ears, and hearts of all people" through Bible translation ministry.

Check out [LBT.org](https://lbt.org) to pick your program, start praying or giving, join the Bible translation movement, and put God's Word in their hands! [m.](https://lbt.org)

Below, LBT missionary, Dr. Chris Plugger, presents on the 500th anniversary in Addis



A Movement of the Spirit

Papua New Guinea (PNG) – communities separated by tropical forests, languages, and diverse cultures.

Experts estimate there are almost 850 languages in this Pacific Island country. Many are still waiting for Scripture in their language.

Pastor Pase Zamunu, president of the Zaka Lutheran Circuit, knows the problem,

“In English, we have love and respect, but it does not carry the picture of the Word. We need Bibles in our own languages that we understand best.”

Pastor Zamanu gathered church leaders. The conclusion: “Yes! We must start, but what are the next steps?”

The Circuit found help. The PNG Bible Translation Association sent Language Program Coordinator Steven Ttopoqogo to work alongside the Zaka Lutheran Circuit providing training, consulting, and checking. It was determined that a multi-language project would be sustainable. The Zia, Suena, Yekora, Paiawa, Numbami, and Qaire languages make up the Waria Multi-Language Project, named after the Waria River region.

**We need Bibles
in our own
languages**

“It’s a movement of the Spirit! It’s just the right time with the right people!” exclaimed Lutheran Bible Translators Regional Director Sarah Esala. **“It is a community-driven, community-owned project.”**

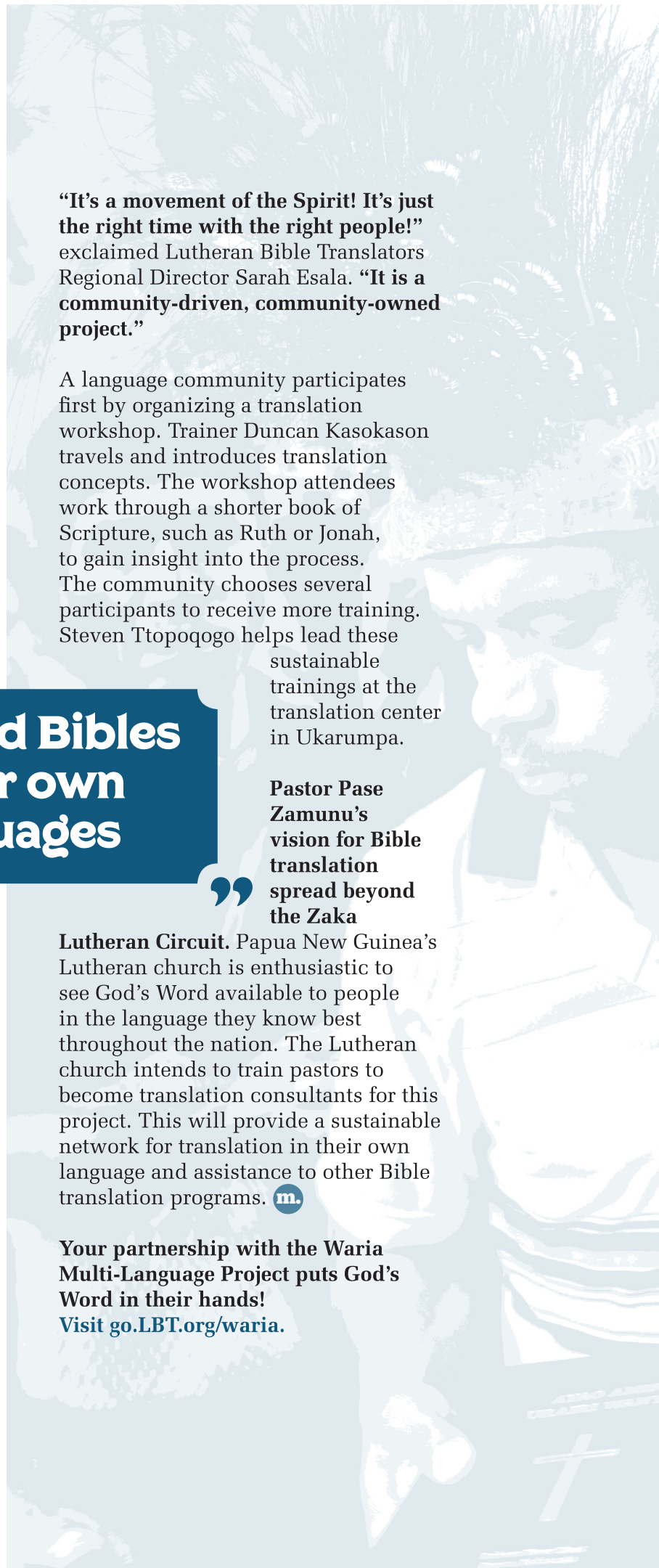
A language community participates first by organizing a translation workshop. Trainer Duncan Kasokason travels and introduces translation concepts. The workshop attendees work through a shorter book of Scripture, such as Ruth or Jonah, to gain insight into the process. The community chooses several participants to receive more training. Steven Ttopoqogo helps lead these sustainable trainings at the translation center in Ukarumpa.

Pastor Pase Zamunu’s vision for Bible translation spread beyond the Zaka

Lutheran Circuit. Papua New Guinea’s Lutheran church is enthusiastic to see God’s Word available to people in the language they know best throughout the nation. The Lutheran church intends to train pastors to become translation consultants for this project. This will provide a sustainable network for translation in their own language and assistance to other Bible translation programs. **m.**

Your partnership with the Waria Multi-Language Project puts God’s Word in their hands!

Visit go.LBT.org/waria.



the light will shine in our life

Good News in Yala

Yala speakers in Nigeria have partnered with Lutheran Bible Translators for decades. They received the New Testament in their language in 1979. What an amazing experience for Christ the King Parish to host another dedication in 2021.

All three church services were lively to celebrate the dedication of Psalms and the revised New Testament. Young children sat in the laps of their elders to create enough room for everyone to have a seat in the long, sunlit sanctuary. Their pastor exhorted them to value their language as a gift from God. **"The Word of God, which is light and life, is now available to us in the best language that we can understand! It is our responsibility to soak ourselves in it, so that the light will shine in our life,"** preached Rev. Matthew Otuji.

Passages from Psalm 119 were recited to the amazement of the parishioners. They were not used to hearing the Psalms in Yala. The speaker used to read Psalms in English and then try to translate "on the spot". Before there were so many barriers to

understanding the Word of God. Now the Psalms' poetry and depth could be understood without barriers.

"This is the best gift for the year. Thank you!" said one church member.

"I will share with others, so they can hear the Good News clearly in Yala," another said.

Print, audio and SD card versions of the Yala New Testament with Psalms became available after the service. Yala speakers crowded to get copies. Some purchased for their families. Others purchased as gifts for those who could not buy their own.

"Thanks to all who worked on this, so that we can hear and read the Word of God clearly."

The Yala translation team continues to work on the Old Testament for the complete Bible. God's Word in the hands of the Yala speakers transforms them as they understand the light of His truth. **m.**

You can partner with the Yala Bible translation team through your gift at go.LBT.org/yala.





Lutheran Bible
Translators

ESSENTIALLY TRANSLATABLE

with Rich & Emily

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

Explore conversations from global leaders
in the Bible translation community.

Find us at [LBT.org/podcast](https://lbt.org/podcast) | also available on:



[LBT.org/podcast](https://lbt.org/podcast)

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 2022 election for the Lutheran Bible Translators' Board of Directors
- Details on how to request nomination and voting information for the 2022 election
- Information about the Annual General Meeting

Thank you for participating in mission through your membership.

Birthdays

March

Lisa Beckendorf
Levi Federwitz*
Calvin Inman
Lydia Derricks*
Tilahun Mendedo
Eliana Olson*
Selah Olson*
Hannah Federwitz*
MaryJane Grulke*
Janine Pluger

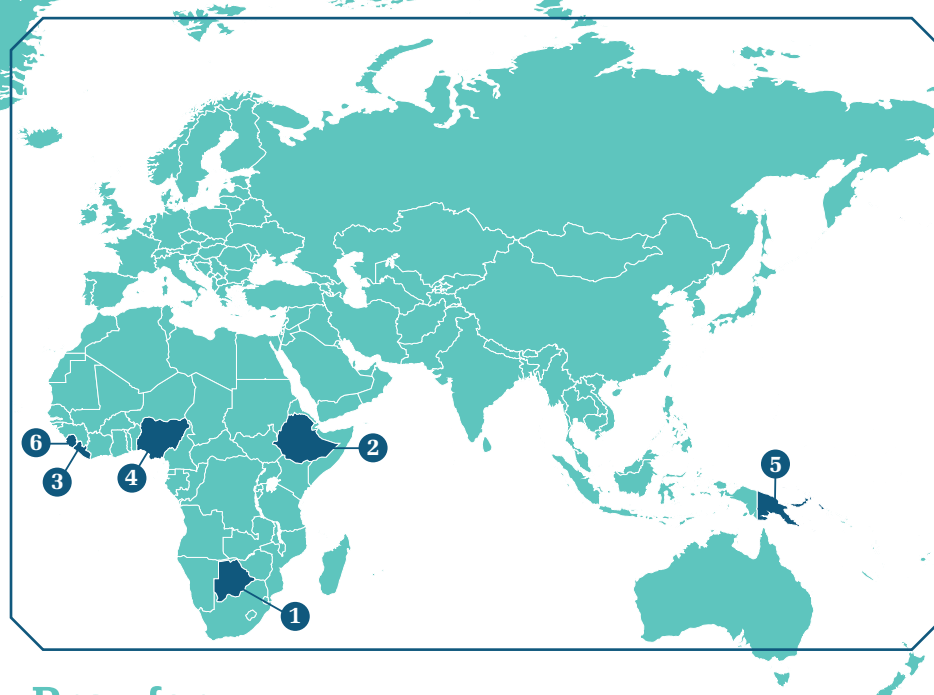
April

Tim Beckendorf
Annaka Esala*
Elliot Derricks

May

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

**missionary kid*



Pray for:

1 Botswana

> Pray for the publication and use of the Panoramic Bible in the **Khwedam language community**.

2 Ethiopia

> Pray for the **ongoing training of Bible translation students** at Mekane Yesus Seminary.

3 Liberia

> Pray for the **Dan translation team** as they continue to work towards their goal of 90% project completion by the end of 2022.
> Pray for the Bible Society of Liberia as they **visit the Grebo speaking communities** to conduct a comprehensive survey that will suggest the appropriate translation need.

4 Nigeria

> Pray for the Bokyi Language Committee as they continue to **encourage more community involvement** and participation in the translation work.
> Pray for the **Yala Translation team** as they work to typeset and print a trial edition of the book of Isaiah.

5 Papua New Guinea

> Pray for the growing **participation in the Waria Multi-Language Project** as they hold workshops and training.

6 Sierra Leone

> Pray for ongoing training to **empower literacy coordinators** for effective service.

United States

> Pray for the **International Programs Team** as they gather for strategic planning and fellowship.

Worldwide

> Praise God for the **500th anniversary celebration** of Martin Luther's New Testament translation into German.
> Pray for the **Assyrian Bible Translation Program** as they continue drafting and consultant checking the Old Testament.

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.

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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
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