

Consulting for Christ

Enabling Bible Translation in Ethiopia

March 7, 2022

Checking Updates

From February 1-15, I worked with the Karama* team checking over their translation of Genesis 19-50. They are now in the process of making an audio recording of Genesis so that they can distribute that to their people.

The Karama team is adapting their translation from a closely related language. During our time together, we tried some new software that uses artificial intelligence to help the team adapt the translation in the other language to their language. It gave some promising results, so they will be trying it out as they work on drafting Exodus.

I am now preparing for my next checking session which will be with the Tsamakko team May 9-27. We will check over their translation of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians (and possibly James, 1 Peter, and 2 Peter as well). The team has just finished making an audio recording of 1 and 2 Corinthians, and now will be looking to get it out to the Tsamakko community so that they can begin to use it.

Pray for the Karama team as they record Genesis and begin work on Exodus. Pray for the Tsamakko team as they distribute their recording, pray for me as I prepare for the checking.

**Karama is a pseudonym used because this is a sensitive project.*



Jim with the Karama translation team—Lalissa, Bulga, and Kumbi

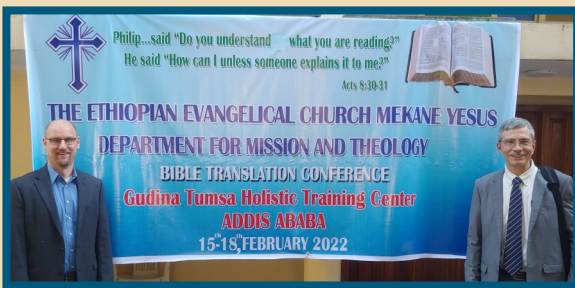


Seminary Update

Progress continues to be made on the new building that will support the Bible translation training program at the Mekane Yesus Seminary. The contractors are now concentrating on finishing the lower floors first so that they can begin to be rented to tenants. The dedication of the building is being planned for June. Please pray that the construction will be completed smoothly on time.

The first class of students who have been trained in Bible translation will also be graduating in June. These fourteen students will receive Bachelor of Theology degrees in Bible

translation from the seminary. Plans are underway to involve them in an internship program in order to give them some guided experience in working with a translation team. Please pray that we will find good mentors for them to work with.



Jim with the Tsamakko translation team, most in traditional dress



Solomon Haile, Paul Federwitz, Jim, Dr. Lalissa Gemechis, Dr. Chris Pluger, Dr. Berhanu Ofgaa

From February 16-18, LBT personnel Berhanu Ofgaa, Paul Federwitz, Chris Pluger, and Jim, took part in the third annual National Bible Translators Conference of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in Addis Ababa. Translators from almost 20 active translation projects were able to attend. In addition to training and strategic planning, the translators were able to share stories and updates from their projects, including the amazing blessings and challenges they face to bring God's Word into their languages.

In one project area, younger children read Scripture to elders (who are not able to read). This builds community ties, gives the children practice in their new literacy skills, and brings the Word of God to the older generation who has never heard it in their language before. The translators shared a story of one woman who became a Christian after hearing a child read the story of the Prodigal Son to her.

A highlight of the conference was presentations of traditional clothing, music and dance from the various project areas. Another huge blessing was the dedication of the first Borana Old Testament Scripture portions, Exodus, Ruth, and Psalms. Instead of traditional printed books, they are being distributed in audio format on SD cards for use on mobile phones by everyone — literate or not.

Please continue to pray for all of the Bible Translation efforts in Ethiopia!

Pray...

- ➔ Pray for wisdom for the country's leaders, and for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the northern part of the country.
- ➔ Pray that the construction of the building at Mekane Yesus Seminary will continue to progress smoothly.
- ➔ 3 teams are nearing the finish line for their translations (Dirayta, Konso, and Zayse). Pray for wisdom, health, unity, and endurance.



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