

# Consulting for Christ

## Enabling Bible Translation in Ethiopia

June 26, 2022

### First Class of BT Students Graduate

Wow! What a week! Three historical events all packed into a few days!

First of all, Mekane Yesus Seminary (MYS) held their annual graduation ceremony on June 18. As part of that, the first group of fourteen students in the Bible Translation program graduated with Bachelor of Theology degrees. It was an exciting day!

It is planned that a new class of about twenty students will be graduating every two years. We pray that God will use these graduates to make a difference in Bible translation in Ethiopia and beyond.



### Dedication of Seminary Building

Secondly, on June 19, the Heleges Center for Scripture Engagement was dedicated. Leaders from the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) and Lutheran Bible Translators formally cut the ribbon and dedicated the building to the glory of God. The center itself was named in honor of generous donors who made the building possible. Sections of the building were also named in honor of various other people.

This building will provide office and training space for the work of Bible translation, and will generate income to support the Bible translation program at MYS in the future. The income will also support general development at the seminary.







*Rev. Dr. Lalissa Gemechis, Dr. Mike Rodewald, Dr. Tilahun Mendedo,  
Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske*

## Bible for All

To top it all off, EECMY celebrated their first-ever national Bible week June 20-26. This was a special time set aside by the church to encourage the use of scripture and to raise prayer and financial support for Bible translation. All of the congregations and members of EECMY were asked to observe this special time throughout the country.

The theme of the week was "Bible for All". The date for this week was chosen by the church because June 21 is Onesimus Nesib day. Onesimus was a former slave who was instrumental in translating the Bible into the Oromo language here in Ethiopia. This translation was published in 1898 and was a crucial

factor in the church taking root among the Oromo people. As it has been said here, "Bible translation is in the DNA of the Mekane Yesus church."

## Tsamakko Checking

We were blessed with very productive meetings with the Tsamakko translation team in May. During our three weeks together, we were able to go over their translations of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. These are four difficult books, and we are thankful that we could complete them.

Dr Chris Pluger joined us as part of his training to be a translation consultant. His insights added much to our session.



I am planning to work with the Tsamakko team again in August. Please pray for wisdom and insight as I prepare 1-2 Peter, James, Jude, Titus and Philemon.

## Pray...

- ➔ Pray for wisdom for the country's leaders, and for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the northern part of the country.
- ➔ Praise God for dedication of the Heleges Center for Scripture Engagement at Mekane Yesus Seminary.
- ➔ Pray for Jim as he prepares to check over 1-2 Peter, James, Jude, Titus and Philemon with the Tsamakko translation team in August.



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