



Far Trekkin'

Lutheran Bible
Translators

News from Rob and Eshinee Veith

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Are we normal yet?

By Rob

Everything is not back to normal, but it feels a bit closer recently. After more than two years of working from home, Eshinee and I have attended three in-person events.

LBT International Program Team (March). LBT's International Program Team is a group of directors and coordinators who meet online monthly to discuss various issues related to how LBT does ministry. Lately that has often meant working on documents and policies. We also meet for a week in person each year, joined by executives and the development team. Unfortunately we haven't met in person since early 2020. We had four days of meetings. But of course the best times were just hanging out, something we haven't been able to do in a long time.

Forum of Bible Agencies International (April). The next month, Eshinee and I represented LBT in our respective coordination roles at the annual FOBAI meeting which was hosted by The American Bible Society in Philadelphia. FOBAI brings together leaders and coordinators from many different missions and ministries who work in the disciplines of Bible translation, Scripture engagement, media development, and Deaf ministries. It is also a place where the executives from these ministries meet with each other. Eshinee joined the translation group, while I joined the scripture engagement group. Mike Rodewald, our executive director, met with the other executives. While FOBAI met during the pandemic, the virtual meetings just didn't feel... real. As the moderator of the SE group said in his opening remarks, "We don't come together to solve one big problem; rather, we come together to have a forum... a conversation... maybe even an argument." Zoom events lend themselves to

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Recent trips. Above: at the Forum of Bible Agencies International, hosted by American Bible Society, we're posing at a sign. (photo by Mike Rodewald).



Upper Left: Can you even call it a meeting if it doesn't result in ideas on sticky notes stuck to a window? Eshinee looks at the insights from FOBAI.

Lower left: with (left to right) Nathan Esala, Paul Federwitz, and David Federwitz in St. Louis for LBT International Program Team meetings. It wasn't all work. Here we are riding the tram to see The Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

NORMAL?

Continued

presentations... infomercials... bulleted lists in a PowerPoint. FOBAI is about sitting around a table sharing insights, telling stories, offering encouragement.

EMDC (May). This would be my third time at this annual event, Eshinee's second. EMDC is an interesting—and exhausting—mix of training, infomercials, and networking. Eshinee was there in her capacity as Training Coordinator, while I was in my capacity of Scripture Engagement Coordinator. We were joined by Regional Director David Federwitz (who is also on the steering committee). This event puts people working on the ground in various contexts around the world together with those who develop ministry tools together with visionary idea people. The theme this year was how we did things differently during the pandemic. Eshinee and I also played in the worship band. So, each day we would grab a quick breakfast, then get a half hour of band practice before the event would start. There would be a two hour plenary session, then a coffee break. At the coffee break, participants would often meet in “affinity groups”—people of the same vocational focus or geographical region. Then we



had breakout sessions focused on particular products and processes for the rest of the day; Eshinee and I divided up the presentations so we wouldn't miss anything. After dinner, we had an opportunity to view new evangelical and discipling films which had been completed in the previous year. Then from 9:30 to 10:30 each day, we would gather as LBT—Eshinee, David, and I—and discuss what we had learned and discovered during the day.

What's next? In July, we are heading to the Concordia Mission Institute, an LBT event Eshinee helps to organize each year. And Lord willing, I will be on my way to East Africa for a recording project in August.

So, are things normal yet? Not entirely. At each event, we've had sicknesses and snafus, but we've had our health and a host of blessings



throughout. Please keep us in your prayers in the coming months as we continue to ease back into something closer to our pre-pandemic way of doing ministry.

Top: Eshinee discusses training at Moorlands College with professor David Gray at EMDC.

Above: Rehearsing with the EMDC worship team.

Photos by David Federwitz.

ABOUT US

Rob serves as LBT's Scripture Engagement Coordinator and a specialist in EthnoArts and Vernacular Media.

Eshinee is LBT's Training Coordinator, identifying and implementing training for missionaries, international partners, and office staff.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

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