



# PUT GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS

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## God provides the answers.



CSL Call Day (2022)



Erin's SLU graduation  
(2022)

And so, I had let the question sit, quietly simmering in the background, as Erin and I began the business of getting to know one another. It wasn't long before I started to ask myself if perhaps God might be calling me, and not Erin, to a different future than the one I had planned.

And then Erin asked me that simple little question. Simple, yes, but freighted with the weight of unspoken meaning. An open heart to a future together, in ministry, in Africa, no matter the costs.

Erin and I like this story because it isn't just the moment we began to learn how LBT works to share Scripture with nearly 2,000 language groups, communities representing millions of people who don't have the full text of Scripture or any Scripture in their own language. To shine the light of truth in the darkness of despair (1 Jn. 1:5-7). To fulfill the work of the Reformation that Scripture "alone would live in the hands, eyes, ears, and hearts of all people." (Martin Luther)

It's also the moment when we realized that we were being called by God, together, to answer the most fundamental question asked of any Christian. A question that God posed to us a few days later over a slice of pizza and a glass of coke. Will you go? Will you share? Will you serve? To which Erin and I responded together, "Here am I, send we."

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# The Word Endures

The Schultes Story in Scripture

August 2022

## Pray

- Pray for humble hearts, attentive minds, and willing spirits.
- Thanksgiving for the blessing of our upcoming marriage and companionship on August 27th.
- Pray for bold advances in LBT's global efforts to remove barriers to the gospel.

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## We're Official!

We're officially members of Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT)! After three years of seeking, hoping, studying, and praying, Erin and I have finally completed our coursework with Saint Louis University (SLU) and Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis (CSL). In the last few months, we have been installed as LBT's first deaconess intern and newest pre-field missionary. These installation services were a joyful and exhilarating culmination, transition, and initiation of the next step in our journey of service to the Lord and His call to share the good news of the Kingdom of God (Lk. 4:43).

In these inaugural moments of both our Calls into Bible translation ministry, both Erin and I have been contemplating the future and reflecting on the past. To wit, we thought it fitting to dedicate this first correspondence with our brothers and sisters in the faith, our Support Team, to sharing the story of our path to LBT.

## Questions, questions, questions.

"Hey, do you want to go to a pizza party with LBT this Thursday?"

I stared blankly at Erin as my subconscious slowly ground from trying to memorize Hebrew vocabulary to trying to understand the question I'd just been asked.

"What's LBT," I finally replied.

Although this might not seem like the most auspicious of moments to begin our story of joining the mission of LBT, to put God's word in the hands of every person, this little question stands out quite large in both Erin and I's memory.

You see it hadn't been that long ago that Erin and I had first met, and I had my own question for her. I told her that after spending over 18 years living and working on the continent of Africa I knew, without a shadow of a doubt, that Africa was where God wanted me. My question? Could she see herself in Africa someday? Erin wasn't so sure.

The decision to move to an unfamiliar place, far from home, and radically different from the culture, climate, and context of everything she had ever known was a big ask to make of anyone, let alone a person you'd only just met.

In the weeks and months that followed, Erin had agonized over the idea of leaving her family, as well as her goals and dreams, to forge a very different future with, well, me. That's an even bigger ask, quite frankly.



Tim's ordination into the Office of Holy Ministry (2022). Ordaining, installing, and preaching ministers from left to right: Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan, Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske, and Rev. Gary Schulte



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