



Hilbert Updates



This summer has been a very busy time for us! We have been making up for lost time visiting family and doing lots of activities with the kids. We have gone camping to a few different places in Missouri and especially liked visiting the Onondaga Caves and the Annie and Abel Van Meter State Park. The Hilbert kids are looking forward to school (kind of). Carsten is headed to 6th grade, Annabelle is going into 4th, and Josephine is entering 2nd.

Ministry Updates

Rob continues to serve as executive director for the Aramiac Bible Translation

project (ABT). Rob visited the Assyrian Complete Bible translation project in California in August. The trip was Rob's first chance to visit the teams in person since they visited during the board meeting in Chicago in September 2019. Rob spent a lot of time with head translator, Dennis*, and met many of the project's partners. Rob had a wonderful time meeting the project's supporters in person for the first time and tasting lots of wonderful Assyrian food. Rob spoke at services for the Assyrian Presbetarian Church and Assyrian Evangelical church, both in San Jose, CA. Both churches hold services exclusively in Assyrian and have many projects going on in producing Scripture Engagement materials. Rob attended a Bible study on Pilgrim's Progress in Assyrian and ABT is helping the Assyrian community translate their hymns into the updated Assyrian language. Assyrian has gone through a significant language shift over the past 150 years. An example of language shift is the shift from Hebrew to Aramaic in and around Jerusalem during the time of Classical Antiquity. Another example is during the Middle Ages, when shifting from Aramaic to Arabic through the advent of Islam. Our team is helping the modern Assyrian speakers read



Assyrian in their heart language, as their older translations are no longer easy to understand.

Rob saw first hand how important ABT's translation is. The head translator of the project, Dennis, was helping one of the congregants prepare a sermon, he was filling in for the pastor, and was trying to use the old Assyrian Bible translation from the 19th century. A native Assyrian speaker himself, he had a difficult time understanding what it said. He had to ask Dennis for help before the service to translate the old Bible into the Assyrian that people actually speak. Although the services are in Assyrian, they have a very difficult time using the 19th century translation. It will be a great blessing for them once the Complete Bible is finished. Already the New Testament ABT published has been an amazing help. See the picture below showing Dennis helping with the translation before the service.



Project Updates

The Oreeta* project is going well. The translation team has been able to make excellent progress over the past few months. The team is currently checking the book of Nehemia and finishing drafting 2nd Kings. The Sabelto* projects are continuing to work and overcome many obstacles. The head translator was recently able to visit the projects in the Middle East this summer for the first time in two years. It was wonderful for him to see our partners there and to do lots of community testing in person. The translators in the Middle East often have to work around internet outages and a lack of electricity to connect with our advisors based in the US. We are thankful for the technology that exists so that their work is possible! The projects are still searching for a translation consultant, but we are hopeful that we will soon have one in place.

Prayer Requests

Please pray that ABT is able to partner with a translation consultant and other needed project advisors. We will continue to pray for you and your families. Please let us know of any prayer requests by sending us emails to rob.hilbert@lbt.org.

Blessings,

Rob, Mical, Carsten (11), Annabelle (10!), and Josephine (?!).

*the names of projects/individuals in this letter are pseudonyms to protect the identities of the translators



Contact us!

ADDRESS:
924 DIVERSEY DR.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63126
EMAIL:
RMHILBERT@LBT.ORG

**ARAMAIC BIBLE
TRANSLATION**



PROVIDING GOD'S WORD IN
ALL ARAMAIC DIALECTS