



Lutheran Bible
Translators

Proclaim to Every Nation

The Plugers in Ethiopia

November 2022

WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST FIELD

Four years ago, Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa introduced a new concentration to their Bachelor of Theology program — Bible Translation (BT). The goal was to train Ethiopian students to be Bible translators and translation advisors in Ethiopia and beyond.

Some students are mother-tongue speakers of languages that still need translation work. Others come highly recommended as gifted in the area of languages and mission zeal.



Courses in the BT track included Applied Linguistics, Principles of Bible Translation, Semantics and Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, Lexicography, and a Practicum course with field experience. Students also took all of the regular Bachelor's courses in Theology, Biblical languages, Church History, Lutheran Confessions, and others.

Teaching and developing courses for the BT track is a major part of Chris' work in Ethiopia.

In June 2022, the first cohort of fourteen BT students graduated from the program at MYS. These students are now serving as interns in BT projects throughout Ethiopia, gaining practical experience and mentoring from project workers.

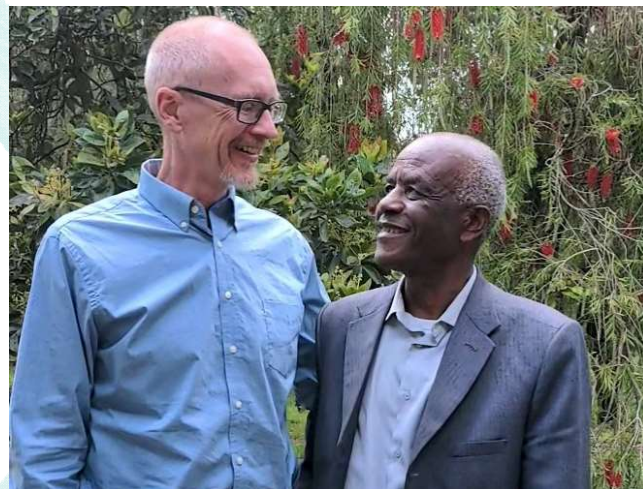
In December, top students will be assigned as full-time workers in translation, project advising, and Scripture engagement roles.



Praise God for these newest workers in the harvest field!

FAITHFUL SERVANT

This man's name is Belete Loriso. He has been a Hadiyya Bible Translator for 27 years — the entire life of the project from beginning to end. The Hadiyya dedicated their complete Bible (Old and New Testament) in June. Now Belete has enrolled at Mekane Yesus Seminary (where he was Chris' student this past summer) to learn strategies for getting the published Hadiyya Bible into people's hands and hearts through strategies referred to as "Scripture Engagement."



NEW NEIGHBORS

One of the big differences between our life now in Ethiopia and our former work in Zambia is our living situation. In Zambia, we lived in a small rural town of probably less than 20,000 people. Although we had very good relationships with our neighbors and co-workers, everyone in town (and for miles and miles in every direction) was from our host culture. The closest other foreigners lived about 2 hours away.

It's totally different in Ethiopia. For one thing, we live in the capital city and have over five million neighbors. Taxis are abundant; we don't own a car or have Ethiopian licenses. Even though we live in the middle of the city, our house is on a gated, park-like compound with plenty of trees, green space, and wildlife. There are tons of shopping and restaurant options and lots to see and do — especially when company comes to visit (hint, hint)!



But the best part of life in Ethiopia is our close-knit community. There are two other missionary families from Lutheran Bible Translators living on our compound (one is our downstairs neighbor). “Staff meetings” are usually pretty informal! An LCMS missionary family is also close by, always ready to lend a hand, a book, a cup of sugar, or a listening ear. Two new Lutheran families from Brazil and one from Kenya give our fellowship meals an interesting twist and give a cool international perspective on things we take for granted. There are plenty of other folks nearby from different “passport cultures” — USA, Canada, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Germany... The list goes on.

We are blessed by so many people with a shared passion for service in God's mission, who know what it's like to be away from family and friends, and who work so hard to be family for one another on good days and bad. We couldn't do what we do without them!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for peace and stability in Ethiopia, which continues to struggle with internal conflict
- Pray for our family, as Sean develops his independence and mom and dad develop their ability to appreciate that, while trusting God to keep Sean faithful to Jesus and remind him to call his parents once in a while. It's hard to parent from 7,000 miles away!

CONTACT

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The Plugers

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*Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to **proclaim** to those who live on the earth—to **every nation, tribe, language and people.***

—Revelation 14:6