

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

News from Mike and Cindy



“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”
(which means, God with us).

– Matthew 1:23

Greetings in this season of Advent. What a joy it has been for us to serve in God’s mission through Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT), these many years - seeing God move and work through his Word in the heart language of people so they have this same hope of **God with us**.

Thankful in transition

It began in 1977. God called Mike through a Bible translation film where he learned how important it was for others to have the Bible in their own language so they too could know the saving love of Jesus. Training followed and in 1980 Mike found himself in the remote Bandi town of Taninahun, where he spent the next 6 years learning language and culture, building relationships and a writing system, involved in translation and literacy programs. All this towards the goal of the remote Bandi language community having God’s Word in their own language.

Back in the US in 1988, Cindy was also preparing to serve in Bible translation ministry. We met and were married in 1990 and returned to Liberia the following year. Later we served in Botswana and then South Africa. A lot of stories to tell. Stories of; a civil war, God’s provision and protection, relationships made, lessons learned, adventures had, three sons raised, cultures navigated, challenges overcome, multiple language systems explored, writing systems and materials formed, projects accomplished, and most important - experiencing God at work throughout! We are thankful to have been a part of many Scripture dedications in remote language communities, but extra special to us were the two in which we lived to partner in major development roles - the New Testament for the Bandi and the full Bible for the Kalanga of Botswana. What a joy to know that future generations will know the story of their salvation too.

This journey has been a privilege. Especially these past eight and a half years for Mike as CEO of Lutheran Bible Translators where new partnerships and programs began. He continued to experience God at work through His Word around the world through relationships formed to tell the story of God’s salvation to us through Jesus!

Our official relationship with Lutheran Bible Translators ends December 31st. Our family continues to be passionate about others knowing Jesus through their own languages. We ask you to continue to support this vision through your gifts and prayers. The Bandi people in northern Liberia are seeking support to complete the Old Testament so they have the full Bible. They recently began the translation process. Your partnership towards that goal is much appreciated by us.

What is ahead?

Mike has many opportunities to choose from in retirement but enjoying some down time is first priority! One thing is for sure, he will continue being part of God's mission where ever He leads. **Cindy** continues in ministry with Mission of Christ Network (MCN) as director of member care (you can learn more about her ministry at missionofchrist.org). One thing we will continue to do together is enjoy our family.

Caleb continues working at Lutheran Bible Translators as the creative lead for building Lutheran Bible Translator's branding and media marketing. **Jacob** serves in the Air Force and is stationed in Florida. **Seth** and his wife **Vanessa** live in southern Missouri. Seth works as an engineer for the Independent Stave Co, an international cooperage, and Vanessa works in recruitment for Seth's Alma mater, the University of Missouri Science and Technology.



Privilege of Partnership

Thank you for your support through these forty plus years! We are grateful to serve as your representatives for overseas ministry. We know that your support and prayers all these years have been integral in all that God has done in and through us. You encouraged and blessed us.

We would love to stay in touch, even as this is our last official LBT newsletter. Reach out and send us an email. We will stay connected. If you travel near Concordia, MO please stop in and see us! We would love to get a chance to thank you and tell all our old missionary stories! ☺

It has been a privilege to partner with you and represent you in language communities who do not have God's Word through their own languages. Many still remain.

In thankfulness,

Mike and Cindy Rodewald

309 S Orange St
Concordia MO 64020

mike.rodewald@gmail.com

cynthiarodewald@gmail.com



Lutheran Bible Translators

PO Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020

God's Word for Every Language