



## Getting Acquainted

The reason that we moved to Ethiopia was for Paul to provide guidance to the work that Lutheran Bible Translators is doing with partners here. A key first step has been learning as much as possible about Ethiopia and the work that has been going on. We shared in the past about language learning which we are still working on. That helps us learn more about Ethiopian culture as well.

Paul has also been learning about the plans for the future. We work with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), but we do that in collaboration with two entities within the church: the Department of Mission and Theology (Bible translation) and the Mekane Yesus Seminary (training

The group meetings in November consisted of presentations on plans, progress, and issues followed by discussion.

translators). At the end of November we had an off-site, two day meeting to review the ten year strategic plan for Bible translation in Ethiopia and beyond. Dr. Berhanu Ofgaa, who had been the previous General Secretary of EECMY as well as the LBT program director for Ethiopia for the last four years, walked us through the history of what has been done and the reasoning behind the strategic plan. In preparation for his retirement the next month, this was also a way for him to hand off the leadership of the process to Paul.

The next week Paul went to the city of Arba Minch in southwest Ethiopia. This is where LBT's initial involvement in Ethiopia started. Paul visited two of the projects that LBT sponsors to better understand the context and to encourage those who are working in the projects. The visit was short, but it was a good opportunity to meet people and put names to faces, ask some important questions, and enjoy some meals together (including some fresh caught fish).

## Director for Field Programs

Lutheran Bible Translators is going through some changes in leadership. Dr. Mike Rodewald retired at the end of 2022 after serving as the executive director for eight years. During that time the international offices moved from Aurora, IL to Concordia, MO. We have also had a significant increase in the number of languages that we work in. Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske is the new executive director, and he has appointed Paul to be the director for field programs, a role in which he provides leadership for the ministry work LBT is involved with around the world.



Paul was able to visit the Zayse project close to Arba Minch

It may feel like every few letters that we write, we mention a change of roles for Paul. We have now been with Lutheran Bible Translators for seventeen years! Experience and context are so important to what we do. Over the last few years Rich has been intentional about developing Paul as a leader through supporting educational endeavors, mentorship, and providing opportunities to grow. Each change has pushed Paul a little more out of his comfort zone. Many of you have been on this journey with us since we started out providing computer support in Ghana in 2007. We are planning to stay in Ethiopia for at least two years, and your prayer and financial support are still necessary and much appreciated.

# Paul & Ali FEDERWITZ

Hannah, Levi & Eden

## ABOUT US

Paul's role is two-fold: He provides strategic leadership internationally as LBT's Director for Field Programs while serving locally as Director of Programs in Ethiopia.

Ali is the Member Care Facilitator for LBT.

Paul and Ali's ministry is funded solely through donations from individuals and groups.

## CORRESPONDENCE

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

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Please make checks payable to Lutheran Bible Translators and designate *P/A Federwitz Ministry* or *P/A Federwitz Household Setup*

Online giving at  
<https://go.lbt.org/pafederwitz>

## Family Life

We have been truly blessed by the mission community here. Our kids ride to and from school each day with 9 others from the seminary campus where we live. This has been the favorite part of their day since school started. They enjoy being with those from different countries and learning about each other. They also like helping the younger ones carry extra books or heavy backpacks and making sure everyone is taken care of. The academic load is difficult and at times our kids feel overwhelmed, but the friendships formed and the fun had on the ride home helps to lessen the stress.

Thanksgiving isn't a holiday that is observed here, but we celebrated with our teammates on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. The carpenter had just delivered our buffet cabinet the day before and we were so happy to use it for our feast. We enjoyed pumpkin soup, roasted turkey, and ham as our main dishes along with some of the traditional sides. Pies and pumpkin bars rounded out the meal as we joined another group of Americans for coffee and desserts.

Because of the intensity of the academic load at school, we were all ready for a break at Christmas time! We were surprised that, despite how busy our lives seem to be on a daily basis, we really were able to have a relaxing and refreshing vacation. Not only did we enjoy playing games, watching movies, and eating special treats but this year we had plenty of people to join in these activities with us. Although we celebrated on December 25 as normal, Ethiopians didn't celebrate Genna (Christmas) until January 7. They follow the Orthodox calendar for holidays such as Christmas and Easter so we get to observe them doubly!



The Ethiopian New Year was back in September, so although Ethiopians recognize the rest of the world celebrates on the eve of December 31, there weren't wider celebrations on this day. We did still celebrate, though. Together with some of our LBT co-workers, we visited Friendship Park. We walked through the beautifully landscaped grounds, saw several wedding parties taking photos, ate dinner overlooking a pond with the cityscape in the background, and got a hot beverage while waiting for dark to fall. Once the sun was tucked away for the night, there was a fountain and lights show set to music! We enjoyed this little bit of entertainment as a special way to ring in the new year. The show was over by 7:30pm which allowed the adults to be in bed at a reasonable hour while the kids stayed up to watch movies and see the clock strike 12 (they didn't make it though!).

### Check out this NEW look for Lutheran Bible Translators!

Millions of people remain in the dark as to what God's Word actually says. Hope is found in the light of Scripture when it is accessed in a language that they understand best. Lutheran Bible Translators' new logo shows that movement from darkness to light, through the Word and into the world.

