



## Dear friends,

Many of you have already been praying for Charles, one of the Maan translators. In a series of unfortunate events last October, a gun he was carrying discharged hitting him in the foot. In subsequent weeks his foot became infected to the point that the medical recommendation was to amputate. At the last moment, Charles decided against the surgery, refused medical care, and left the hospital. Finally, New Year's Eve he realized his error. He and a colleague shared some sorrowful moments as they realized the gravity of his situation. In addition to the pain and infection, the rest of his health had now deteriorated from both infection and poor nutrition. They knew he did not have much time left.

It is only **a miracle**, or a series of them, that accounts for his being alive today. We praise God for his healing power. First, Charles realized he needed care and his family agreed. After a week's delay on account of a holiday weekend and need to find a new doctor, Charles was finally readmitted to the hospital where he had signed a refusal of care. Our colleague, Tamba, literally followed the original doctor around begging him to take Charles back. The doctor finally agreed pending blood work to determine any organ damage from the infection that would prevent the surgery. After another week of drips and food intake, the necessary amputation was done January 11. Again, more miracles as the original plan to amputate below the knee was still possible. Who would have thought that after nearly a two months' delay that nothing

more was lost than originally thought necessary! Charles came out of surgery hungry! A good sign from a man who doesn't normally eat much and had eaten even less during the weeks prior.

Charles is staying in Monrovia to be closer to medical care so his wound can be dressed properly, and any signs of infection can be dealt with swiftly. He is eating better. In February, his computer that was lost in the hubbub of the shooting incident was replaced by the Bible Society, so he could continue his translation work.

In March he returned to the Bible Society office to meet with his teammates and the other consultant Don to check the book of 1 Chronicles.

He has to take several taxis to get to the office. Because he is handicapped, drivers fear he will not pay or just beg for money and so they pass him by. Sometimes he has to wait a long time before he can find a car that will take him.

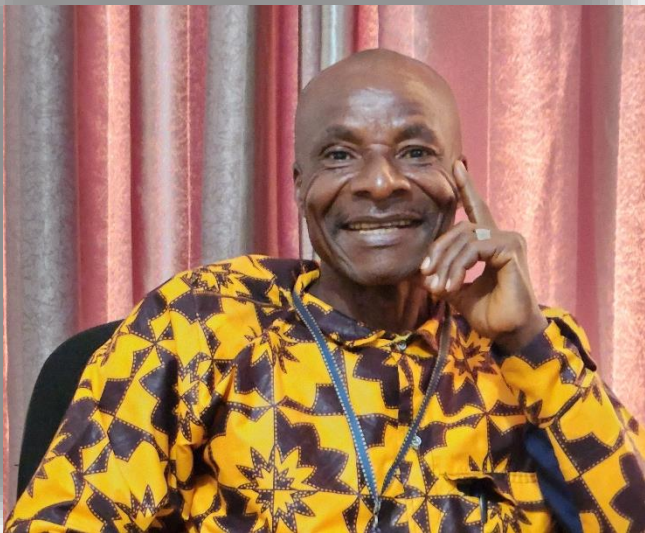


**He and the rest of the Maan team are determined and hope to finish their Bible this year.** Later in the year, Charles hopes to receive a prosthesis so he can walk again. Join me in praising God for all these miracles.



*Charles, Mary Donkeh, and Don Slager checking in March 2023*

Two new translators have been added to the Bandi team on the recommendation of the translation committee located in Lofa county. **Clarence Sepoe** is not new to translation as he worked on the NT translation team some 20+ years ago. He became a Christian when war was ravaging Liberia. He had no



*Clarence Sepoe, Bandi translator*

hope until a missionary took him in. He was baptized April 14, 1991. He is a literacy teacher among the Bandi and graduated seven teachers last December. He knows that Bible Translation is very important. He says, "...if I teach and preach in my language there will be no need for dictionary or somebody going to ask. More so the Bible says **God's Word will reach to the unreached.**"

**Rev. William Korpu** comes from a long line of tradition related to the Bandi. He is from the Episcopal church which was instrumental in developing the first Bandi writing system and schools for teaching reading and writing Bandi. He grew up in the church. Despite early plans to be a medical doctor, Rev. Korpu responded to God's calling to become a priest.

About the importance of having God's word in Bandi, he says, "...providing the Bandi Bible enables many Bandi people to be able to read the Gospel of Christ in their mother tongue not just to look at the literary expression in English, but **the Bible being written in Bandi will provide them a deeper knowledge, a deeper understanding of what they are reading** because it is their mother-based

*Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "PUT GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship.*

tongue." He is also grateful for God's work and call in his life. "I'm not worthy [more] than any other person, but the fact that he chose me and made me his, and I can see visibly his handiwork being used as a tool. And that just makes it so wonderful for me."



*Rev. William Korpu, Bandi translator*

These are exciting times as we partner together. May you realize the wonder,

*Becky*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for these two men as they join the team, working to make the Bandi Bible accessible to all their people.
- Praise for the January checking sessions and for smooth travel home.
- Pray for the Maan and Dan teams striving to complete their Bibles.
- Pray for continued healing for Charles.
- Pray for a peaceful election year in Liberia.

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