

FEDERWITZ UPDATE

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Easter

No matter where I live, Easter is my favorite season of the year. This year I had the privilege of reflecting on what Christ suffered in my behalf through my personal devotions, Lent services, and a glorious Easter service at my church, All Saints, in Charlotte, NC. I enjoyed dinner with two of my children, Jonathan and Becca, and their families. The dress I wore was a gift from the former Minister of Education that I worked with during my time in Liberia. Knowing that 15 people groups in Liberia have at least the New Testament in their language brings joy to my heart knowing that they too can celebrate the Joy of Easter. Old Testament Bible translation work is in various stages with the Bandi, Dan and Maan people in Liberia.

A Present Day Miracle

Thanks to donors like you who support National Bible translation and Scripture Use by sending funds to the **International Development Fund**, the Maan people of Liberia hopefully will have the whole Bible in their language by the end of this year. However, that became doubtful as the Maan translator, Charles Luogan, through a series of unfortunate events, accidentally shot himself in the foot in October. His foot became seriously infected to the point that medical recommendations were to amputate his leg. Wanting to prevent the amputation as he is a hard to soil farmer, he chose to have someone regularly dress it. By New Year's Eve he realized his error as it was so seriously infected that it seemed doubtful that his life could be saved. In fact, no doctor wanted to risk amputating his foot at that point.



Rev Don Slager, Charles and Mary checking Maan translation

However, **miraculously** Charles responded to medication given to him and his health was restored to a point that a surgeon was willing to risk doing the amputation surgery. **Miraculously**, Charles survived the surgery along with a **miraculous** recovery.

The second Maan translator, Mary Donkeh, who deals with severe back pain, came to Monrovia for translation checking with Rev. Don Slager. She traveled in a country taxi over very rough roads. When Rev. Slager told me that Charles had to wait as much as 6 hours standing on the road before a taxi would stop and take him to the place he spent the night, I suggested that perhaps the LIBTRALO driver, if given money for gas, could bring Charles for translation checking. This turned out to be a blessing for both Charles and Mary. Because Charles is handicapped, taxi drivers fear he will not pay or will just beg for money, so they passed him by.

Dr. Becky Grossmann, the other Bible translation consultant, told me "that Charles and Mary, along with the Maan people 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." Charles is not taking life for granted and is working hard to complete the translation. Both life and walking are **miracles** we too often take for granted.



Charles Luogan

Donors are Vital

A role that I am involved in is calling people who are new donors to the work of LBT. It gives me a chance to tell new donors that their prayers and gifts are vital to making God's Word available to people in their heart language. It's the fuel that provides for missionaries to serve on the front-line, training and equipping nationals to make God's Word available for people who have not had the Gospel message in a language that they understand. Because there are so many people who still don't have God's Word in their language, a lot of the work is done by local people who know the language better than a missionary will ever learn it and we can work along side them with the skills needed to get God's Word to a people who still do not have it. Donations also provide tools such as computers to get the work done.

LWML National Convention

June 22nd to 25th will find me at the LWML National Convention. I plan to be at the LBT Exhibit. If you are going, please stop by to greet me and pick up a small gift from Africa.



Alvina on Easter in a dress
gifted from a Liberian friend

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