



A new experience for me was needing to make a speech everywhere that I went.

Cameroon Field Visit

In March I was able to go to Cameroon for two weeks. This was my first country visit in my new role as Director for Field Programs, and was a very different experience from what I am used to. For most of my trips in the past, I was the “IT guy” who came to fix computer problems. This time I was interacting with the heads of partner agencies to discuss the relationship between us. Partnership is extremely important to Lutheran Bible Translators and it was amazing to see all of the different people with whom we are connected.

There were a number of LBT missionaries that I interacted with on this trip. David Federwitz, the regional director for West Africa, traveled to

Cameroon with Tim and Erin Schulte, new missionaries preparing to serve in Cameroon. Mike and Kara Kuhn are LBT Canada missionaries who live in Cameroon and served as our hosts. Retired missionaries, Martin and Joan Weber, are helping with some projects on a short-term basis until the Schultes move to Cameroon. I was able to gain valuable insights from the long-term experience of David, Kuhns and Webers, while at the same time getting to see things through the eyes of the Schultes as they experienced many things for the first time.

Ethiopia Bible Translation Conference

Upon returning from Cameroon, I attended a Bible translation conference right here in Addis Ababa. Mekene Yesus, the Lutheran church we partner with in Ethiopia, has translation projects in twenty-one language groups. The translators from each of these projects came together for three days to collaborate, learn, and fellowship. Bible translation can be a lonely job because there are very few people around who understand the work involved. It is even harder in language communities where security concerns keep the translators from being able to tell others about the exciting work they are involved in.

I was asked to lead two sessions at the conference. The first one was on helping teams work together. I used resources from my master's thesis which focused on leading multi-cultural teams. The second one was on reporting. Each project has to turn in quarterly reports, and in my new role, I am one of the people who now reads those reports. Instead of talking to the translators generically about what a report should contain, I was able to give them a firsthand perspective on what agencies like Lutheran Bible Translators are looking for in a report.



The Zayse team when they found their language in the park.

In the middle of the week, we visited Friendship Park located in the center of Addis Ababa. Most of the translators live in remote areas of the country and only come to the capital city for this conference. Last year they requested the opportunity to tour some of the city. A unique feature of the park is an amphitheater with the names of the languages of Ethiopia inscribed. Each group excitedly searched for their language name and took pictures near the inscription.

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.

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

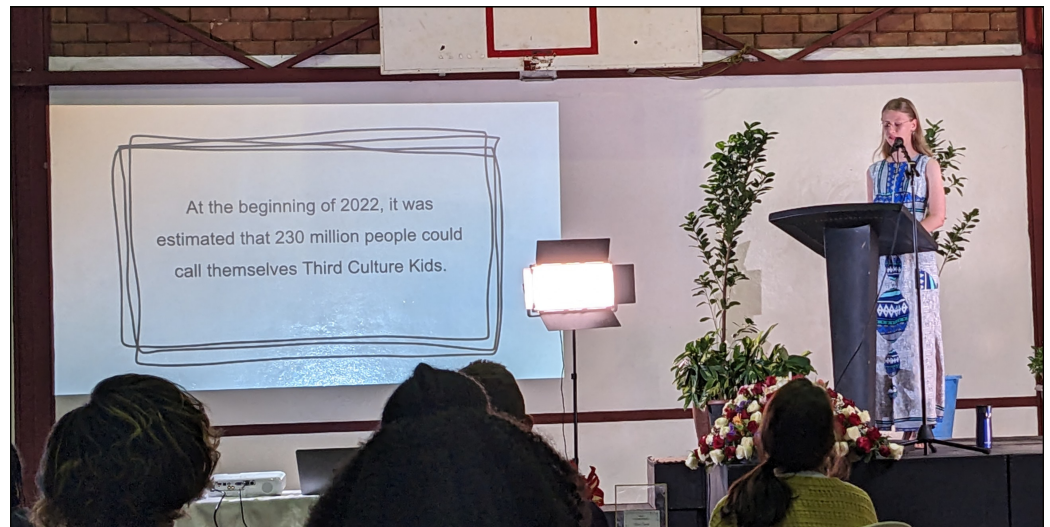
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FOBAI Meeting in Greece

At the end of April, Ali and I were able to go to Greece for the Forum of Bible Agencies International (FOBAI) meeting. This provided an opportunity to connect with other Bible translation agencies along with those who work in scripture engagement and Bible distribution. It is important to have good partnerships with other organizations, but those are often built on the personal relationships of leaders. So along with sessions covering important topics, there was time for attendees to have discussions on the side.

Since we were in a location with important Biblical significance, there were also some outings planned as part of the conference schedule. This was my first time to visit a place where an event in the Bible happened. It was quite an experience to hear Acts 17 read while standing where the Areopagus in Athens would have been. The following day, we listened to Acts 18 being read while standing in Corinth where Paul would have been brought before the tribunal. I have gone back and read those passages several times since then thinking about all that I learned on the tours.

Those visits also gave me a new perspective about some things that we were talking about in the conference sessions. A key theme for FOBAI the last few years has been to include more global voices. In this meeting in particular, many discussions revolved around the needs and barriers to work in the Global South. As I stood in Corinth and contemplated Paul preaching the Gospel there for the first time two thousand years ago, I was also thinking about how the center of Christianity has moved over the centuries. Over the last several decades it has moved to the global south. There are now more Christians in Africa than in North America.



Synthesis

As part of a graduation requirement, 11th graders at Bingham Academy take a yearlong class called Synthesis in which they choose a topic and spend the year researching it. The final result is a 10-page research paper, a power point and a presentation in front of an audience. The students then present their topic to a panel of 3 judges who have the opportunity to question them. Students are graded on the written portion as well as the presentation and their responses to the judges' questions. It is quite an intense process.

We were so pleased to attend Hannah's Synthesis presentation at the end of April. The topic she explored was "Whether Parents Should Pursue Third Culture Living for their Children?" She spoke eloquently and was poised during the questioning phase. Afterwards, Hannah had several adults engaging her in conversation about her topic, including the secondary principal whose master's thesis aligns with some of Hannah's research and he was interested in what more she would have to say. Of course, in the end, we are also happy that Hannah finds her third culture kid life to be one that is positive and to be encouraged.