



Lutheran Bible
Translators

Proclaim to Every Nation

The Plugers in Ethiopia

August 2023

New Role for Janine

Join us in celebrating Janine's new role as Ethiopia Program Data Coordinator!

Lutheran Bible Translators is working with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) to help coordinate Bible translation in almost 20 different languages. Some of these projects are operated jointly with other partner organizations. Other projects are directly managed by the EECMY central office in Addis.



A major part of this coordinating and managing work is annual planning by the individual translation teams. During “budget season,” Janine is available to answer questions about the grant proposal process and to assist teams in filling out the forms. She will also work with office staff to make sure they have the data they need to make decisions and plans for the future.

With her growing ability in Amharic and her on-the-ground knowledge about the Ethiopian context, Janine will be an excellent “translator” between local teams and US-based staff. She will be able to help with long-range planning and communication between people with a heart for

supporting Bible Translation work and those who are actively carrying it out.

Please pray for Janine in her new role, and for all of the Bible translation projects that will benefit as a result of her work!

Officially a Translation Consultant

On April 30th, Chris was officially appointed as a Translation Consultant (TC) by Lutheran Bible Translators. His appointment as TC is also recognized by the United Bible Societies, making him extra-official.



This is a major step for Chris. After almost three years of training, mentoring, and language study — all building on his five years of experience with the Nsenga project in Zambia — he is now fully authorized to work with projects to check translations for clarity and faithfulness to the original Biblical source texts.

The Consultant Check is the final step in a Bible translation project before publication is approved and a vital part of a quality process.

Please pray for Chris and his careful work with translation teams.

Checking Romans in Hamer

By the time this newsletter arrives, Chris will be putting his new Translation Consultant skills to the test with his first solo consultant check as an official TC.

Chris is working with the Hamer Bible Translation team to take an in-depth verse-by-verse check of the books of Romans and Jude.

He has already been studying the Hamer draft by means of a “back translation” — a word-for-word interlinear version of the text, in which each Hamer word defined with an Amharic equivalent. Some verses can be verified from the back translation, but not all.



The Hamer translation team with LBT visitors

So now Chris is sitting with the Hamer team in a quiet office in the town of Arba Minch. He asks questions about verses that were not clear from the back translation, exploring the words chosen for biblical key terms (like “sin,” “grace,” “law,” etc.), and making sure that the meaning of the

original Greek has not been changed, added to, or subtracted from in the translation.

As is often the case in Ethiopia, the Hamer team doesn’t speak English, and Chris doesn’t know any Hamer. So all the nuances of the translation need to be discussed in the Amharic language (in which Chris is still far from fluent)! It is a difficult, demanding, and incredibly important task.

The consultant check is scheduled to last for about three weeks.

New School Year

The new school year at Mekane Yesus Seminary started at the end of August. This semester Chris is teaching a course in Semantics to the fourth-year Bible Translation students, exploring the ways that meaning is expressed in language — particularly in the translation process, where meaning must be preserved between languages!



The class meets once a week for most of the semester, except when Chris is away for consultant checking.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the consultant check of Romans with the Hamer team and good communication
- Pray for Janine in her new role working with translation projects
- Pray for Sean and his new job in South Dakota

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*Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to **proclaim** to those who live on the earth—
to every nation, tribe, language and people.*

—Revelation 14:6