



Ethiopia Project Visits

In the last month I had the opportunity to visit each of the projects in Ethiopia that LBT supports directly. I use the word “directly” because LBT supports work in over 20 languages in various ways. We work with the Department of Mission and Theology (DMT) which manages active translation projects as well as the Mekane Yesus Seminary which is training future translators for more language projects. The projects I visited are ones for which we provide funding.

I first made a trip to Arba Minch in the southwest part of the country with Rev. Dr. Lalissa, the DMT Director, and Solomon, the head of the Bible Translation division. Janine Pluger, an LBT missionary who serves as the Ethiopia Data Coordinator, also accompanied us. In Arba Minch we were joined by Rev. Getachew, the translation coordinator for the region.

We visited the Dhirytia project in Gidole. The New Testament was completed not long ago by another organization, and LBT started sponsoring the OT a couple years ago. There are three translators, but unfortunately two of them were not able to be there due to medical issues. We were able to meet the language committee and some of the reviewers. The local churches have been working to take ownership of the project, but the language community has recently been experiencing internal conflict which is making it difficult for them to support the work they way they would like.

We also visited the Zayse project. Similar to Dhirytia, the New Testament was recently completed by another organization and LBT is sponsoring the Old Testament. We were able to spend time with the three translators, the language committee and some of the reviewers. It was encouraging to hear the impact that scripture has already had on the community. One of the reviewers is a pastor who had received his theological training in a language of wider communication, not his heart language. He talked about how he had always preached and even prayed in that language. Older members of the congregation would ask him after church what he had said. When he became a reviewer he received training on how to read Zayse. Now he only preaches and prays in Zayse and no longer has to explain his sermon again after church.

A couple of weeks later I traveled to Assosa with Solomon, Janine and Rebuma (a manager for several translation projects). This time we went to visit the South Gumuz project. The New Testament has been available for several decades, but the Old Testament translation project was started a little over a year ago. Due to unrest in the area, the translators are not able to live and work in their home area, but are in another city. The security issues complicate many normal parts of the translation work, especially engaging the community. It also adds to the cost as the long and difficult transportation has to be included for each interaction. It was both sad to hear about the difficulties that were being faced and encouraging to see the translators still excited about the work.

Member Care Skill Building

As part of her role in member care, Ali has received a variety of training in lay counseling, workshop facilitation, debriefing, trauma, and more. These have all served her well over the years. With our move to Ethiopia last year, and the realization we should have more free time with the kids being in school all day instead of homeschooling, Ali was looking

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.

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

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

Podcast: Let's Talk Trauma When we were in the US during the summer, Ali led two sessions about trauma at our Concordia Mission Institute conference. After the conference, Rich and Emily interviewed Ali about the content of her sessions and trauma in general. This episode gives a good foundation for understanding the impact of trauma on our own lives and the lives of the people around us. Listen to Episode 90 at www.LBT.org/podcast.



for a professional development opportunity to complement her role. Now that everyone is more settled into our second year of life here, Ali joined a life coach training program in September.

Her weekly intensive classes have been both challenging and interesting. She gets to put into practice what she learns each week while meeting with her clients, pro bono of course. Ali will need to acquire 100 hours of coaching clients before she can pursue accreditation as a coach. Thankfully she will be able to use the coaching approach with LBT missionaries and staff to work towards this goal. Thinking through the reoccurring themes of missionary life, Ali is interested in the potential of becoming a transitions coach and help with life and ministry transitions that are so common in cross cultural work.

The kids

Kids have a propensity to grow and ours are now all taller than Ali. Ali is happy to use this to her advantage whenever she needs something that is just slightly out of reach. A shout of "hey, random tall person needed" is not an uncommon refrain coming from the kitchen.

Our kids are sometimes difficult to share updates about because they are not unlike American teens when you ask how is school or how they are doing. The response is always "fine" or "good." The truth is, though, that they really are fine and good. Hannah is enjoying playing volleyball this year and is honored to be the captain of her team. Levi is in what is possibly the most intensive year of high school in the Cambridge system. The first two years of high school in this system are equivalent to a full US high school diploma. He is doing well but it is definitely a challenge for him. Eden is content to be at school and content to be at home. She's our newest teenager, turning 13 at the beginning of September, and fits right into whatever group she is with. We have really enjoyed this stage of life with our teens. They are such capable people. Yes, it can be tricky to navigate at times, but it is overall enjoyable.

