



the messenger

Fall 2023

UWONBOR A GBONFON
LIKONL

The Komba Project

Tracking the Timeline of Translation —page 4

PRAY FOR GHANA

Father, we pray for our faithful **Komba brothers and sisters** entering a critical stage - the final strides to bring the Bible to their community in the language they understand best.

We pray that **God would help them** withstand and resist the accusations and assaults of the accuser. We pray they will call out to You for help to hold tightly to the Gospel as spiritual attacks come.

We pray for **good communication** from the translation team to the typesetter to the printer.

We pray in **anticipation for the printing and publication** that is to come. Lord, please open supply chains and transit avenues for the Komba Bible to be quickly printed and delivered to the community.

We praise **You, Heavenly Father**, for Your abundant faithfulness to us and for providing us the privilege of being a part of Your mission. **Amen.**

PRAY FOR...

1 Ethiopia

- Pray for the six languages in the Bible translation process in Southwest Ethiopia: Ale, Dhirayta, Hamer, Konso, Tsa'makko, and Zayse.

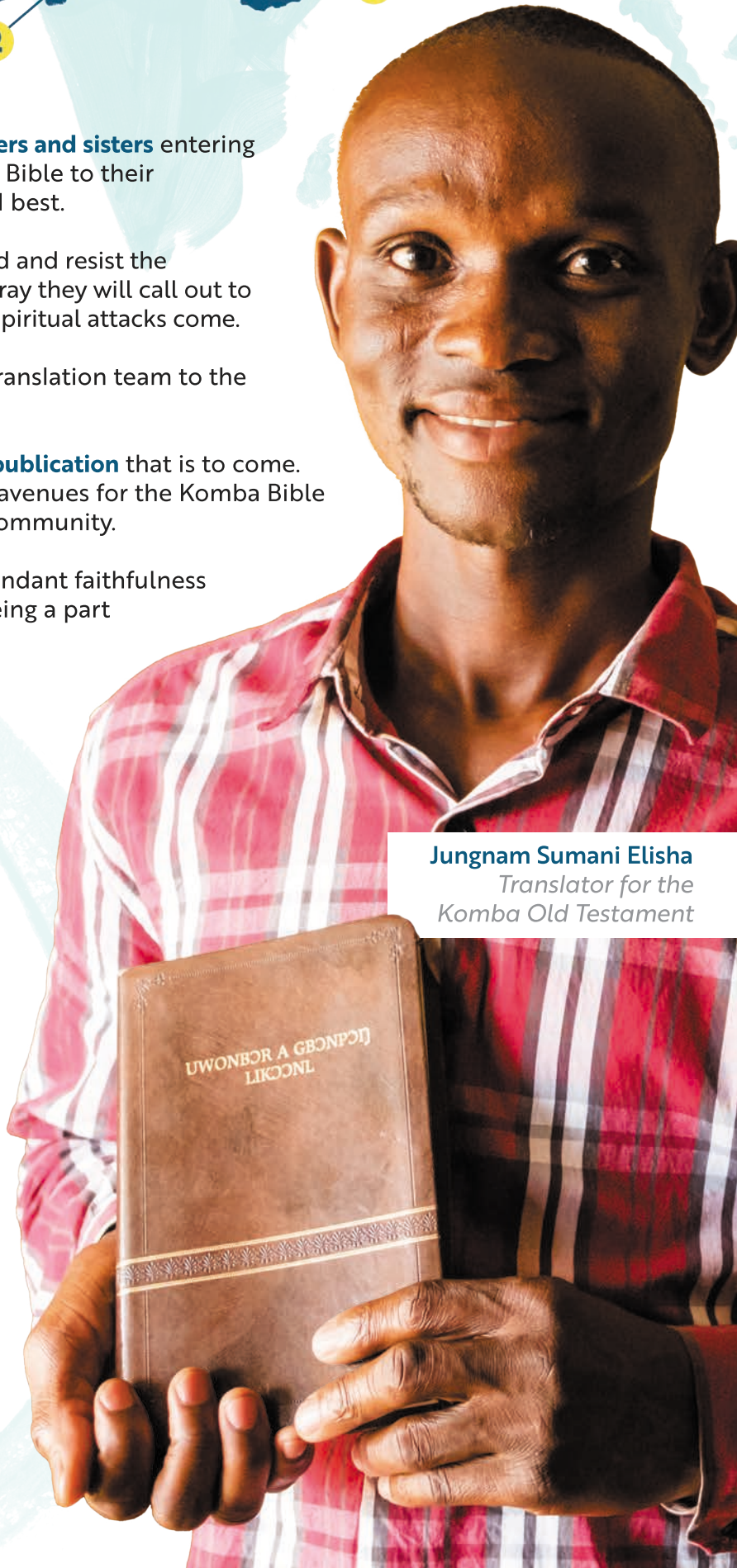
2 Nigeria

- Pray that students are engaged upcoming semester at the Linguistics and Bible Translation Department at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria.

- Praise God for the renewed excitement among the Gokana translation team. Pray for the work on Genesis and that a trial edition may be printed soon.

3 Southeast Asia

- Pray for the Bible translation team to complete a New Testament for publication within three years for a Bibleless people in a sensitive location.



Jungnam Sumani Elisha
Translator for the
Komba Old Testament

MORE THAN WORDS

Missiological Imperatives

page 3



Stages of Translation

page 4-6

Raising 1,000,000 Prayers on November 28th

page 7

Field Notes

page 8

Member Information

page 9

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Dear Friends:

MY EARLIEST CONNECTION with Lutheran Bible Translators was following the birth and growth of the Komba translation project in northern Ghana. It is amazing to see how the Lord worked through the missionaries, Church, and the Ghanaian communities to create a locally driven and sustained translation and literacy effort among this far-flung, dearly loved people of God. Now, just over 20 years in, **the community stands at the cusp of launching the full Komba language Bible!**



REV DR RICH RUDOWSKIE
Executive Director + CEO

Many factors went into the making of this moment, but above them all is prayer. Prayer asking God to act definitively in the lives of the Komba people to create a grassroots movement. As we look back on the Lord faithfully answering those prayers and guiding His people, **we also look forward, knowing wherever we serve, prayer is paramount.**

The More Than Words Comprehensive Campaign for Scripture Impact gathers His people and resources to remove barriers to God's Word. There is no shortage of plans, but **prayer is the strategy.** On the next page, we present the missiological imperatives that will guide translation ministry forward. We commit our plans to the Lord and ask Him to lead and guide us.

Knowing Scripture is much more than words; join us as we pray for God's Word to bring hope, life, and transformation to Ghanaians and beyond in this generation!

In Christ,

REV. DR. RICH RUDOWSKIE

Executive Director + CEO

On the cover, Jungnam Sumani Elisha holds his copy of the Komba New Testament.

Missiological Imperatives

For the Bible Translation Movement

Imagine a global community of Christians deeply rooted in God's Word and engaging fully in His mission. We want to see this vision accomplished in this generation!

In pursuit of this vision, **five missiological imperatives** guide Lutheran Bible Translators. Each imperative is a commitment to those we serve and to you – our prayer partners and donors. With God's provision and your support, Scripture can reach the remaining 3,750 languages.

1 Prayer

We commit to persistent, specific, faith-building, and unified prayer.

2 Data Informed Decisions

We commit to authentic dialogue informed by data to make decisions in resource mobilization and mission implementation strategy.

3 Mission Driven Funding

We commit to developing and cultivating a resource mobilization strategy that is focused on ministry outcomes.

4 Radically Broaden Involvement

We commit to identifying opportunities for growth and removing unnecessary barriers to mission participation in Bible translation ministry.

5 Alignment with the Church

We commit to fostering interdependent mission partnership domestically and internationally by understanding and valuing the mission objectives of our partners.

Achieving the Vision

Rich Rudowske, executive director + CEO, shares the missiological imperatives of Lutheran Bible Translators. Listen in at lbt.org/ep81-imperatives.



STAGES OF TRANSLATION

THE STORY OF THE KOMBA BIBLE

Every project has its own unique challenges, but the stages of translation remain consistent. As the full Komba Bible nears completion, the timeline reveals God at work through local leaders and Lutheran Bible Translators' missionaries. A more detailed timeline is available online at: LBT.ORG/KOMBATIMELINE.

BEFORE LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS SEEDS PLANTED



1950s—

1970s God was at work through various church bodies sharing the Good News with Komba speakers.

1980s Rev. Tim and Beth Heiney moved to Gbintiri and began Lutheran work in the Konkomba area.

1984 The Konkomba NT* was adapted for Komba via audio cassette recording by Mr. Thomas Akar. (Konkomba is a macro ethno-linguistic designation. Komba is a subset of Konkomba, but it is its own language.)

1997 The Konkomba Bible was dedicated in Saboba, Ghana.



THE INVITATION

1999 Rev. Samuel Konlaan wrote a request to Lutheran Bible Translators' office to help as the Konkomba Bible was not sufficient for the needs of the churches.

2000-2001 Rev. Walter DeMoss conducted feasibility studies for Lutheran Bible Translators.

2002 Rev. Dr. Paul K. Fynn issued an invitation to Lutheran Bible Translators to send missionaries among the Konkomba people in Gbintiri and Nasuan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2003 The Esala and Federwitz families arrived in Ghana, started language learning and relationship building.

2004 In December, KOLIBITRAP (Komba Literacy and Bible Translation Project) was formed. Mr. Samson Nadee was the first chairman.

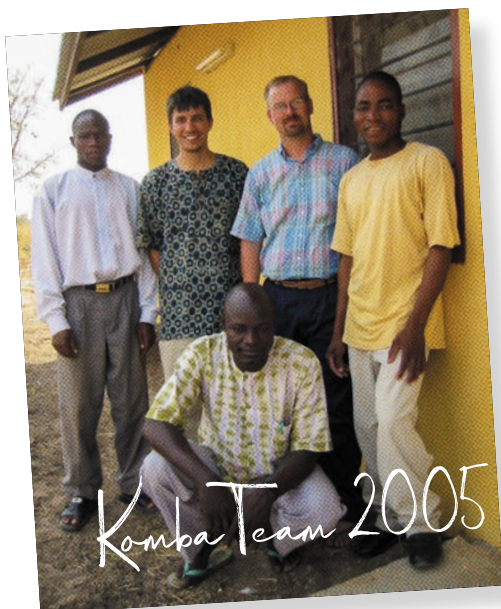
*NT = New Testament
OT = Old Testament



STAGE 1 DRAFTING

One translator makes the first translation draft using the principles laid out in the translation brief and other translation skills acquired from previous translation experience.

The translator utilizes software that provides translation assistance and has word processing functionality.



2005 Komba NT translation began, utilizing English and the existing Bimoba and Konkomba Bible as references.

STAGE 2 INTERNAL REVIEW

"TEAM CHECKING"

The translation team and the exegete sit together and go over the draft translation produced by the translator in Stage 1. The team members read through verse by verse, ensuring everyone agrees the draft represents the team's best work.



STAGE 3 EXTERNAL REVIEW PART 1

Draft copies of the text are printed and sent to the translation reviewers. This team includes church representatives from different geographical regions. These trained reviewers read through and check the translation for areas of concern. The reviewers send comments or suggestions back to the translation team. The translation team then takes the reviewers' comments and makes editorial changes.

**2005–
2011**

The Komba translation brief was drafted, reworked, and finalized over a six-year period.

"CONSULTANT CHECK" PART 2

A consultant meets with the translation team, and they read through the translation together. The consultant provides clarity to the team as they work through difficult orthographical, exegetical, translation, or preliminary publishing issues.

2012 In October, consultant checking was finished on the entire NT.

STAGE 4 PUBLISHING

The team meets with a publishing expert to run a few more detailed publishing checks, such as word breaks, paragraph alignment, etc. The team inserts desired illustrations and maps. The text goes to typesetting, where text moves from digital to print.

2013 In March, the NT manuscript check was finished. In December, typesetting of the NT was finished in South Korea and was ready for printing.

2014 The NT was printed, bound, and shipped to Ghana.



NOVEMBER 1 DEDICATION

2014 The Komba community and many other friends around the world celebrated the NT dedication in Gbintiri, Ghana.



OLD TESTAMENT PROJECT

2015-PRESENT

The excitement for the NT was palpable and provided the momentum needed to begin the OT translation in 2015. This translation work has followed the same translation stages as the NT.

2015 Mr. Elijah Matibin, in his role as KOLIBITRAP Coordinator, guided the OT project as it began.

2016—

2017 Michael Ersland arrived and began language and culture learning, and soon began in an exegetical advisory role to assist the translation team.

2021 Michael and Naomi Ersland, newly married, continued work alongside the Komba translation team.

PRESENT The OT is in the Consultant Check stage of the last few books.

COMING SOON A full read through of the Bible as OT and NT are joined.



FULL DETAILED TIMELINE AT:
LBT.ORG/KOMBATIMELINE

RAISING

1,000,000 PRAYERS

ON NOVEMBER 28TH

GivingTuesday has become the day ALL nonprofits do a fundraising push. **This year, we want to raise more than just money by raising something different: prayer.**

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

3,750 language communities do not have access to Scripture, many of which have yet to start translation.* That's alarming! It's time to change that.

Lutheran Bible Translators is currently partnered in over 130 language communities (up from 72 in 2019), actively working with local leaders to translate God's Word.

With your support, the capacity to take on more projects can expand faster.

**ON GIVING TUESDAY, WILL
YOU COMMIT TO RAISING
PRAYER?**

**ADD YOUR VOICE AS AN
OFFICIAL PRAYER PARTNER**

1. Sign up as a Prayer Partner online
2. Receive the prayer calendar monthly
3. Pray daily with the global community

LBT.ORG/PRAY

Raising our prayer partner community to **2,740 MEMBERS*** means Bible translation will be prayed for over **1,000,000 TIMES** every year by faithful people just like you.

Field Notes

NEWS AND EVENTS IMPACTING THE BIBLE
TRANSLATION MOVEMENT



1 27 PARTICIPANTS ATTEND NIGERIAN LITERACY WORKSHOP

Rev. Linus Otronyi (above) reports from Nigeria, “In March, a literacy training workshop was held to train transfer primer teachers in Bokyi, Kukele and Yala. We had planned for six participants from each language but had 27 participants! During the training, they had the opportunity to learn theory and practice teaching their language using the transfer primers.”

2 DROUGHT IN SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA

When communities suffer, translators suffer. Progress slows as time and energy shift to dealing with the impact of drought on families and livelihoods (e.g. cattle farming). Scripture translation work itself can be a source of comfort and hope for these communities in difficult times.



3 LIBERIAN COMMUNITY SAYS “THANK YOU” WITH LOCAL CUSTOM

David Federwitz, LBT regional director, was “gowned” alongside the head of the Bible Society of Liberia (BSL) by Bandi language community (northern Liberia). This gesture of appreciation recognized the financial and technical support provided by LBT and the BSL.



4 PROGRESS & PARTNERSHIP IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Sarah Esala, LBT regional director, met with leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG), The Seed Company, Faith Comes by Hearing, Global Partnerships, Bible Translation Association, Battle Inc., and the ELCPNG Zaka Circuit.



MORE THAN
WORDS

77.3%

32 MIL
as of 8/1/23

THE CAMPAIGN HAS REACHED 77.3% AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

Please contact development@lbt.org if you would like to learn more about the details of the campaign and how you have a direct impact.

ZOOM PRAYER GATHERING

Each month, join us to hear stories from current translation programs and pray for local leaders.

Upcoming: September 28, October 26, November 30 @ 7 PM CT

Email development@lbt.org for the login details.

Member Information

Lutheran Bible Translators bylaws define who may vote and **give you a chance to participate in nominating and electing the Board of Directors** as well as participate in changes to the Lutheran Bible Translators bylaws (charter document).

To see if you are eligible to be a voting member please visit LBT.org/members. Here you will also find:

- **Information about the 2023 election for the Board of Directors**
- **Details on how to request nomination and voting information for the 2023 election**
- **Information about the Annual General Meeting**

Thank you for participating in mission through your membership.

Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Lutheran Bible Translators has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Lutheran Bible Translators will attempt to honor gifts preferenced to support particular workers, but the final decision on the use of all funds rests with the organization.

Lutheran Bible Translators is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization and your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

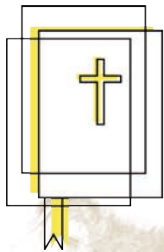
To view Lutheran Bible Translators' financial reports, visit lbt.org/financial-accountability.

ESSENTIALLY TRANSLATABLE

LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS' PODCAST



Available on [LBT.org/podcast](https://lbt.org/podcast) and wherever you listen to podcasts.



BIBLE TRANSLATION SUNDAY

HOST BIBLE TRANSLATION SUNDAY

Cast a vision for your congregation's involvement in global missions by hosting a Bible Translation Sunday.



DOWNLOAD THE EVENT TOOLKIT



CHOOSE YOUR SUNDAY



CELEBRATE

Get the toolkit at lbt.org/bts



Seth Hinz & Alyssa Petty, Editors
Caleb Rodewald, Creative Direction
Sarah Rudowske, Layout Designer
Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske

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FORUM of Bible Translators INTERNATIONAL



THIS GIVING TUESDAY

commit to pray daily starting November 28th

2,740 prayer partners over **365** days
Raises **1,000,000** prayers



Sign up at
LBT.org/pray



Receive the monthly
prayer calendar



Pray daily for Bible
Translation

Give the gift of your time by becoming a
Lutheran Bible Translators Prayer Partner.

LBT.ORG/PRAY