



# they will See and Understand

ISAIAH 52:15; ROMANS 15:21

SPRING 2022

Though it's the start of Spring, the ground is still covered with snow here in Northfield, Minnesota. We've had about 80 inches of snow this winter... and ice. I fell on the ice shortly before my trip to Tanzania and got a concussion. It was unpleasant dealing with headaches and tailbone pain for the weeks of my trip and following, but it did not detract from having a phenomenal time in Tanzania. Let me tell you about it.



## "TRAVELING THE HEAD" IN MURITI, TANZANIA

Processing effort = travel the head. I learned that in Kikerewe, the language with which I have been working these several months, the phrase "processing effort" is translated with an idiom that means "travel the head." So, I think it's appropriate to say that I traveled to Tanzania and certainly did a lot of *traveling the head* with the Kerewe translation team.

*Kikerewe is a language spoken on Ukerewe Island on Lake Victoria on the northwestern border of Tanzania. There are over 300,000 speakers of the language.*

For the past ten months, I have been working remotely with the Kerewe translation team, teaching them content I have prepared in a course called Relevant Bible Translations. The Bible is relevant in itself, but how do we translate it so that it is relevant to the intended audience? So that people perceive it as relevant? We are working through translation principles and methods, using various books and articles. We are also training in the translation software ParaText. I have been teaching most of this course via YouTube videos and Zoom. We discuss the material, and I receive their assignments over a chat platform called WhatsApp. It's remarkable that I can be involved this way. The translators are growing in strides as they *travel their heads*.

Over the end of February and early March, I traveled to meet the team in person! What a joyful reunion. It felt as if we had already met given

**LOGO UPDATE:** Millions of people remain in the dark as to what God's Word actually says. Hope is found in the light of Scripture when it is accessed in a language that they understand best. Lutheran Bible Translators' new logo shows that movement from darkness to light, through the Word and into the world. >>>

### WHO WE ARE



The Wagner Family first served with Lutheran Bible Translators in Sierra Leone alongside the Themne people in Translation & Scripture Use. Now Ruthie serves as Archive Curator and Exegete for the Kerewe Bible Translation Project in Tanzania.

*Making God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. (LBT's Mission)*

### TIMELINE

- FEB- MAR Ruthie takes trip to Tanzania for workshops, training translators
- APR- JUNE Ruthie works as Archive Curator and Exegete for Tanzania, particularly the Kerewe Translation Project
- JUNE Elijah's 11<sup>th</sup> on the 21<sup>st</sup>
- JULY Isaiah's 9<sup>th</sup> on the 9<sup>th</sup>; Concordia Mission Institute July 9-15<sup>th</sup> in Concordia, Missouri
- AUG Ruthie's 37<sup>th</sup> on the 6<sup>th</sup>

### TAKE ACTION

**JOIN** our "Wagner Updates" group on Facebook! This is where we update most frequently.

[facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)

**GIVE** to "Wagner Ministry" online or by mailing a check. Please contact us or LBT if you'd like to set up automatic giving.

**PRaise** for a great trip to Tanzania for Ruthie and for the completion of the book of *John* in Kikerewe.

**PRAY** for the Kerewe Translation Team as they work on the translation while also taking Ruthie's course on Relevant Bible Translations.

### CONTACT/SUPPORT

✉ [Josh-Ruthie.Wagner@LBT.org](mailto:Josh-Ruthie.Wagner@LBT.org)

[facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)

📞 612-433-1199 (call or text)

🏠 LBT will forward "Wagner" mail to us.



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PO Box 789

Concordia, MO 64020

800.532.4253

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Are you new to Wagner Updates? Please introduce yourself and contact us if you have any questions about our ministry.

RECURRING SUPPORT

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

100%



how long we've been working together. I spent a week teaching them in the afternoons, after the translation consultants (Dr. Tim Beckendorf and Dr. Michael Megahan) spent the mornings checking the book of *John*. *John* was in great condition, translated well, and is soon ready for printing and distribution among the Kerewe communities. In the afternoons, we continued what we've been doing remotely. As you can imagine, in-person discussion was much nicer than virtual. The laughter confirmed to me that nothing can replace face-to-face meetings. In addition to a lot of review, we studied 8 new chapters from two different books and worked on software training everyday. I got to install Logos on their computers so they have access to even more resources! Training them in how to use Logos with ParaText is now on my to-do list.

### THREE-LANGUAGE WORKSHOP IN SHINYANGA

Prior to the training with the Kerewe, I attended another workshop being facilitated by my colleague and friend Eshinee Veith, LBT's Training Coordinator. She spent a week introducing translation to representatives of three language groups in Tanzania. These language groups don't have the Bible and want it in their own languages. What a sight to see these groups interact and get excited about the process of translation! I had the pleasure of facilitating the sessions on Back-translation and Orthography.

The plan is that later this year, some of each group will come together again for more training and further discussions about who might become the translators for these projects.

### ON THE HOME FRONT

You're probably wondering how Josh and the kids and our pup Tucker managed without me for two and a half weeks. They did great! The nine-hour time difference was very difficult,

especially since the times I could talk were when they were at work and school or sleeping. Josh received a lot of help, especially with Lizzie since she's only half days at preschool. We are so thankful for friends and family nearby.

### WHAT NEXT?

Since the remote learning will continue, and we don't have the pleasure of meeting face-to-face frequently, we brainstormed how we can make it even better. They expressed that they want extra review during Zoom sessions so we can discuss the material. I think we can manage that. They also want me to come back to Tanzania. Discussions have already begun for a trip later this year.

My health is still improving bit by bit, thanks be to God. I have increased stamina for work, so I thank you so much for your prayers for me.

The kids finished winter soccer and are still in choir. **Elijah** is proudly in three different choirs! He's enjoying band and percussion lessons. **Isaiah** is taking organ lessons from a friend from church, and **Josiah** has started piano with me. **Lizzie** likes to sing her heart out at each opportunity. The big boys are gearing up for Spring traveling soccer.

**Josh** recently started a photography business: taking photos, selling his art, and doing film digitization. [www.wagpics.com](http://www.wagpics.com)

"Overall, the week went very well. Ruthie's training on Bible translation principles and Paratext was very well received. When an occasional item regarding Paratext or translation principles emerged in the consultant-checking session, we discussed whether it would be appropriate to incorporate it in her training session. She is a very patient and methodical teacher. If possible, it would be nice to have her use her skills with other translation programs. From what I observed, I think that site-specific training as she has been doing remotely and then in person is much more effective than sending translators abroad for basic training." – Dr. Tim Beckendorf, Translation Consultant (pictured below)

*Thank you for praying for my mom, Margaret Lee, who is recovering from lung cancer. Praise God, her scans were clear and she is cancer free!*

♥ Ruthie & Josh Wagner

Elijah (10.5), Isaiah (8.5),  
Josiah (7), & Elizabeth (5.5)

*Missionaries with Lutheran  
Bible Translators*



Three-language Workshop



Consultant-checking & Training

