



Lutheran Bible
Translators

Proclaim to Every Nation

The Plugers in Ethiopia

May 2023

Summer Visit

We are excited to announce that we will be in the US this summer for a short visit! We will leave Ethiopia on Memorial Day weekend and return on August 2nd.

Our main activity will be visiting family, friends, and ministry supporters. We land in Atlanta for a chance to see Chris' brother. Then we'll drive to Dayton for some time with family and a chance to see two supporting churches. After that we'll travel through Wisconsin and Minnesota on our way to South Dakota to visit Sean.

Just after the 4th of July, we'll head to Missouri for a missions conference at the Lutheran Bible Translators International Office, then out to Denver for a family reunion and a chance to visit a new congregation that is excited about Bible translation work, and finally back to Ohio the long way (via Dallas Texas!) All along the way we'll be meeting with friends and supporters, sharing news and stories from our last two years in Ethiopia over meals, coffee, and/or ice cream.



We'll also squeeze in doctor's visits and checkups, teeth cleaning, new glasses, and some online shopping for all the "essentials" we can't find in Ethiopia. (On the top of that list is probably dry cat food for our super-picky eaters!) There will hopefully be a few bacon cheeseburgers, too.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you all as possible. It truly is a blessing to know that so many people are praying for us, thinking about us, and contributing financially to make our work here possible. We can't wait to tell you in person all about what God is doing through Bible translation in Ethiopia! Send us an email if you'd like to try to meet up.

Hope to see you soon!

Revelation in Nyangatom

In April, I was privileged to lead the exegetical consultant check on the last chapter of the last book of the Nyangatom New Testament — Revelation 22. The Nyangatom team still has a lot of work to do, including key terms consistency, punctuation and spelling, and a parallel passages check. Nevertheless, the whole Church can rejoice with them over the accomplishment of this milestone. And even though I still have a lot of work to do to bring my Amharic up to where it needs to be, to say that I learned a lot working with this team and the mentor consultant would be an understatement! Thank you and congratulations to the team!!



Two Gods?

Usually, you read the first verses of an epistle quickly without much thought. “Paul, to the saints in... Grace, mercy, and peace...” But in the recent check of Timothy in the Ale language, the key term for “grace” caused a few issues and required some major re-structuring of the verse.

First of all, there’s the sense in the Ale language that if you mention a name twice in close proximity, you are talking about two different people with the same name. If you say, “James went to the store. James bought onions,” the assumption in Ale is that there are two people named James. A clear way to say that there is only one person would be, “Having gone to the store, James bought onions.”

Secondly, the key term for “grace” is a phrase. No one single word in Ale does the job completely, so in most contexts ἄρισ gets translated as a phrase meaning “Gift of God.”

Putting those two issues together, if you say at the beginning of an epistle: “May the gift of God [grace], mercy, and peace from God the Father

be with you...” you imply that there are **two Gods** — the one who gave the gift, and the one who is God the Father. The Ale translators were very uncomfortable with this.

Therefore, they decided to re-organize the greeting: “May peace, mercy, and gift-of-God Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.” They keep all of the content, but make it clear there is only one God, who gives His gift and is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In English, we have a similar problem in 2 Timothy 1:18. Some English translations say, “May the Lord grant that he find mercy from the Lord...” Christians understand what that means, because we already know what it says. It might sound a little strange at first glance, but we can figure it out without too much trouble.

But the Ale people don’t already know what the Bible says. They’re hearing the message of Scripture for the first time. So the translators need to be careful to be as clear as possible, so that “God’s sure foundation stands firm” (2 Tim 2:19) in their new Bible.



*Meskel Square,
the heart of
Addis Ababa*

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for safe travels, both in Ethiopia and the US, as we visit projects and supporters
- Pray for our time in the US, that it be refreshing and restful and a good chance to reconnect
- Pray for Sean 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