



Lutheran Bible
Translators

Consulting for Christ

Enabling Bible Translation in Ethiopia

July 7, 2023

A Season For Everything

At different points of our lives, we have evaluated where we are and what we are doing. Over the last few years, we had become more certain that 'sometime in the future' we would relocate to the US. After dialog with our LBT administrators, we ultimately decided to make that move to the United States this September for this season of our lives. Leaving our life in Ethiopia will be a significant change, and we will not be making it lightly. But we are comfortable in saying that this is the right change for us at this time.

No doubt this news causes questions to begin forming in your mind about what this means for our ministry with Lutheran Bible Translators. We would like to address some of those here.

Will you still be missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators?

Yes, we will continue to serve as missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators. Though our home base will change, our ministry will not. We still love the mission and vision of this organization we joined years ago (40 for Jim, 45 for Susan), and we look forward to continuing to serve as missionaries for more years to come.

Why will you be relocating from Ethiopia to the United States?

There are several reasons that we are choosing to relocate from Ethiopia to the United States. While our commitment to making God's Word available to those who do not have it is hugely important to us, we recognize that God has also blessed us with a family. We feel it is important to be a part of our children's and grandchildren's lives, and we feel this is the right time to do this. Another significant consideration is that we are growing older and our need for medical care is increasing. We will be able to have easier regular access to this in the US.

Who is going to do the work you were doing in Ethiopia?

Jim will continue to serve as a translation consultant with teams in Ethiopia. He will also work with teams in other parts of the world as needed. One of those areas will be Sierra Leone, where we first started out as missionaries. Some of this work will involve travelling to visit the teams, and some will be done using video chat through the internet. Dr. Chris Pluger, who Jim helped to train as a consultant, will continue to work on site in Ethiopia.

Will you still need prayer and financial support?

Absolutely! We value and need your partnership! We have seen time and time again the value of prayer in accomplishing the work God has given us in His mission. Further, we will continue to need financial support, even as we carry out the same tasks from a different location. We will continue to use this newsletter and email to keep you updated on what is happening in our ministry with Lutheran Bible Translators.

Where will you live in the United States?

We plan to live in southeastern Michigan, near where we have previously lived. Six of our grandchildren live in that area, and it has been where we call home. Pray that our transition will go smoothly, and that our house hunting will be successful.



Translation Checking

From May 15-26, I (Jim) worked with the Tsamakko translation team and checked over their translations of 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation. When I am checking with a team, one of things I always try to look at is how they have translated the genitives in a text. Grammatically, a genitive is when two nouns are placed next to each other using a particular form. A genitive relationship is often used to show possession, but can also show many other meanings. In English, we often show a genitive relationship by using “of” or an apostrophe s. For example, “dog of John” or “John’s dog” usually means the dog that belongs to John. But when some nouns are put together, there can be a number of possible meanings. For example, “love of God” could mean the love God has for someone, the love someone has for God, or the love for others that comes from God.

When I was looking over Revelation 3:5 with the Tsamakko team, I saw they had kept the genitive form “book of life” in their translation. So I asked them what this would mean in Tsamakko. They said it would most likely mean “the book that gives life”. This was not the correct meaning here, so they revised it to “the book about those who have been given life”.

From June 19-30, I worked with the Karama team to check over their translation of Exodus. We were able to finish the first 21 chapters, and we will work on the remaining 19 chapters from July 10-28.

From September 4-15, I will be working with the Tsamakko team to check over their final book in the New Testament – the book of Romans. Please pray for wisdom and good health during that time.



Jim working with the Karama translation team

Odds ‘n Ends

From July 5 - August 16, I (Jim) am teaching an introductory Bible translation course at Mekane Yesus Seminary. This course is for a group of about twenty students who are working on their Bachelor of Theology degrees during the summers. We are meeting for one very full morning each week.

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) celebrated their second annual Bible for All week June 19-25. It was a time to encourage the use of the Bible throughout Ethiopia, and to promote support for translating the Bible into local languages.

Has your church scheduled Bible Translation Sunday yet? You can hold it whenever it fits your schedule. Lutheran Bible Translators has created an event toolkit that equips you with simple, effective resources to organize and host an event that inspires and energizes your church. Celebrate your partnership in God’s mission! Get it at lbt.org/bts

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the checking of the Karama translation of Exodus 22-40 from July 10-28 (4 days/week).
- Pray for Jim as he teaches the introductory Bible translation course at MYS July 5-August 16 (1 day/week).
- Pray for the checking of the final book of the Tsamakko New Testament (Romans) from September 4-15.
- Pray for Jim and Susan as we sell personal items here and pack for our departure on September 26. Pray for our transition back to the US.
- Praise God for the growing interest in Bible translation in the EECMY.

CONTACT

Jim.Kaiser@LBT.org
Susan.Kaiser@LBT.org

Give at LBT.org/kaiser

OR by mail:

Lutheran Bible Translators
P.O. Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020-0789
Designate: Kaiser Ministry