



Carl and Kelsey **GRULKE**

MaryJane, Audrey, Judah, Gideon & Isaac

We all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done! - Acts 2:11



December 2023 Update



Shekgalagari New Testament Launch Delayed



Members of the advisory committee were thrilled to hold an advance copy of the New Testament sent by the printer.

The launch of the Shekgalagari New Testament has unfortunately been delayed. It was scheduled for November 25th but has now been moved to **March 9th, 2024!** This will allow more time for the copies to arrive from the printer. It also gives the community more time to raise awareness and funds to give this New Testament a big launch. They are hopeful that it will receive national attention, including being featured on TV and attended by high-level government officials. Join us in praying for God's word to be in the hands and hearts of all Bakgalagari people at the right time and in the right format.



Wayeyi Community Checking Workshops

The Wayeyi project is progressing well. When we released the gospels of Mark and Matthew, we also released an audio version and a smartphone app. Now, the translation team is out in the community checking the book of John, and they are finding many people who can read the translation, thanks to the practice they got from listening to and reading along with Mark and Matthew.

In earlier community checking, the translators were the only ones comfortable reading in Shiyeyi. Though most people learn to read in school, they learn to read only English or Setswana. Our audio and text combination of the Gospels has given many people the transfer literacy skills necessary to read Shiyeyi.

When the team is in a community now, they find many people ready to read the new translation for themselves! A literacy workshop is planned to help even more people become comfortable reading in their mother tongue.

Shekgalagari Audio Recordings

One advantage of delaying the New Testament launch is that it gives us more time to produce other ways for Bakgalagari people to absorb scripture. We are currently recording the New Testament in audio format, with the help of Faith Comes by Hearing.



Two technicians flew in from Kenya, made a makeshift studio at a house in the village of Kang, auditioned voices, and began recording at the beginning of November. We expect the editing process to be completed early next year, at which time we will begin producing micro-SD cards, so people can listen to their New Testament right on their phones. We will also create a smartphone app, so that those with smartphones can hear and read along with the New Testament. Single-book apps that we have already distributed have been very well received. We are excited to see what God does with the whole New Testament on people's phones!

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Lutheran Bible
Translators



MaryJane's New School

In August, MaryJane began her freshman year at Denver South High School. She is living with Kelsey's family in Denver and having a great time. Her class of 400 is quite the change from her class of 10 at Matshwane Secondary School! She is enjoying the wide variety of options available to her both at school and within Denver. MaryJane recently took part in her high school play, Marian: The True Story of Robin Hood. She is doing well academically and making new friends. We are so thankful for this opportunity for her and for our families, who are supporting her in so many ways.

How you can help

PRAY

We need people praying for our family, the projects, the translators and more. Look right for more specifics!

GIVE We need the financial support of partners like you to make this work and ministry possible. Give online at lbt.org/grulke or by mailing a check to LBT. Regular gifts make a big difference!

TELL We need people to support us in raising awareness for our ministry. You can share the mission of Bible translation with your church or friends!

Advent thoughts

In Botswana, as in America, the meaning of Christmas can get easily lost. Many businesses in Maun paint their windows with a Christmas scene each year. Usually, they are filled with Santas and reindeer and presents and snow (even though it's usually 90 degrees on Christmas). Last year, I observed the one pictured here amidst the flood of Santas. This window brought me peace and joy amidst the commercial Christmas chaos. It got me thinking. What if more people observed Advent? Lighting a candle each week to represent hope, love, joy, and peace. What if we deliberately slowed down before Christmas, even if it means cutting out important holiday activities, to make room in our hearts for the coming Messiah?



We have far fewer holiday commitments and options in Botswana, but its easy to overfill our schedules and our hearts, if we are not careful. Even if our schedules remain full, we can prioritize finding moments of peace and love and hope and joy. We can notice the small glimpses of God's kingdom that are all around. We can provide those moments for others. Whether you're in America or around the world, this Advent and Christmas, prioritize peace, love, hope, and joy as we make room for Jesus in our hearts and in the world.

What's coming next?

- December 8** - Last day of the school year at Matshwane
- December 12** - Happy birthday Judah!
- December 16** - MaryJane comes home for the holidays!
- December 25** - Merry Christmas!
- January 1** - Happy New Year and MaryJane goes back to US
- January 6** - Happy anniversary Carl and Kelsey (17 years)!
- January 8-12** - Bible Society staff training workshop
- January 15** - New school year starts at Matshwane

 This workshop is going to be a big effort in capacity building for the staff here, teaching them skills they need to accomplish tasks on their own, instead of depending on us. Pray for it!

Prayer requests for our family

- For the Shekgalagari team as they prepare for the New Testament dedication on March 9, 2024, and continue in their recording work, that God would bless their efforts and planning.
- For the Wayeyi team, as they continue to work on their translation, that God would continue to renew the passion for the Shiyeyi language among the people.
- For MaryJane and the blessings of her new school, that she would continue to grow and thrive.
- For us as we think how God is leading and guiding us in Botswana and what our future here holds.
- For the gifts of the Advent and Christmas season, that God would use them to enrich all our lives.



As 2023 draws to a close, we want you to know that your gifts make this ministry possible in Botswana. **100% of the gifts that you give go toward Bible translation.** We are so thankful for all of your support!

