



Lutheran Bible  
Translators

# Consulting for Christ

Enabling Bible Translation in Africa

February 23, 2024

## The Lord Has Done Great Things!

Sunday, February 11, was a very special day. Konso Christians gathered at the Mekane Yesus church in the central town of Karat and celebrated the dedication of the first complete Bible in their language! On the welcome banner at the Bible Inauguration celebration was written Psalm 126:3, “The LORD has done great things for us and we are filled with great joy.”

Here in the US, we are also filled with great joy. The Konso Old Testament translation was the first project that I worked with in Ethiopia. I worked with the team from 2012-2019 (as well as other projects during that time).



*Konso people enjoying the new Bible*



*Jim with the Konso team in 2012*

It is great to see the finished Bible getting into the hands of the Konso people. Pray that it will also get into their hearts.

Thanks to all of you who partnered with us to make this happen!





## Sierra Leone Trip

After more than fifteen years, I travelled back to Sierra Leone January 23 – February 5. It was good to see some old friends, and to make some new ones. Many things had changed since my last visit, but I was surprised at how many things were still the same.

I was part of a team of three consultants from Lutheran Bible Translators who travelled to Sierra Leone to work with projects there. Dr. Tim Beckendorf and Dr. Becky Grossmann came to work with the Themne Old Testament translation project, and I came to work with the Mende Old Testament translation project. During our first few days, we met with the leadership of the Bible Society of Sierra Leone (BSSL) and the United Bible Societies' consultant, Dr. Brigitte Rabarijaona. We discussed the projects and how we might best help. Then we separated and travelled to work with our individual teams.



*BSSL leadership with LBT visitors (Front: Victor Bright, Becky Grossmann, Amy Formella, Christiana Jones (General Secretary), Brigitte Rabarijaona. Rear: Omega Sesay, Jim, Tim Beckendorf, Samuel Dumbuya, David Federwitz)*

We worked on the team's translation of 2 Samuel, and were able to finish the first twenty chapters.



*Team working on Mende (Kamanda, Amy, Paul, Tommy, Joseph, Jim, Eunice, & Omega)*

During the week of March 18, I will work with the Mende team again to finish 2 Samuel and begin 1 Kings. But I will not be travelling to Sierra Leone for

that. We will meet together online and do the checking virtually.

## We Want to See You!

Over the next few months, part of our time will be spent working with the Mende team. The rest of our time will be used to visit you, our partners. If you would like us to speak at your church or group, please let us know. Or even if you would just like to visit over a cup of coffee, we would enjoy that.

In order to make travel efficient, we are grouping our speaking by state. Tentatively, we are planning to speak in the Michigan area during February and March, in Wisconsin during April, and in Minnesota during May and June. If those dates do not work for you, or if you are located somewhere else, please contact us for possible dates this fall.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the Tsamakko translation team as they do the many tedious checks that must be done before their translation can be published.
- Pray for Jim as he prepares to work on 2 Samuel and 1 Kings with the Mende team March 18-22.
- Pray for the checking meetings March 18-22. Pray for God's wisdom, good internet connections, and clear minds (because of the time difference, Jim will be starting at 5 am each day).
- Pray that God's Word will be fruitful among the Konso people.

## CONTACT

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