

Living Letters

2 Corinthians 3

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Dear Family and Friends,

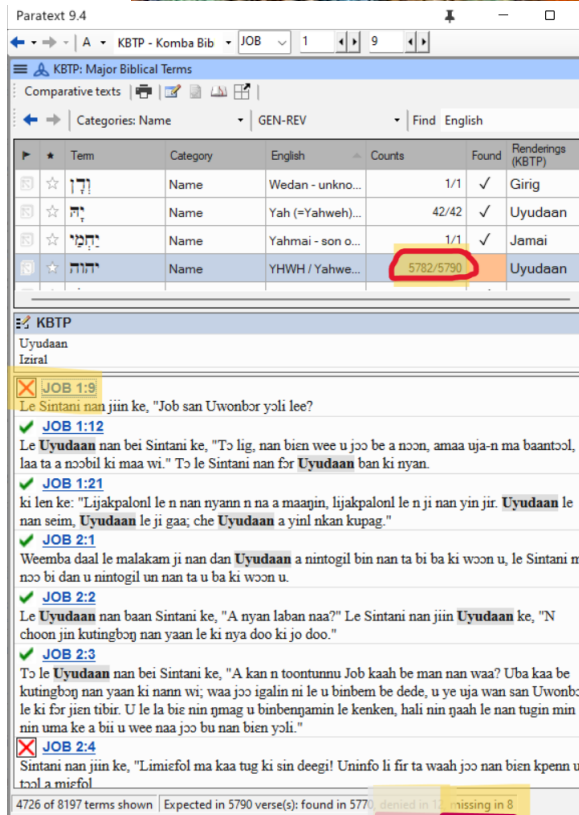
We have finished updating the New Testament and consultant checking the remaining books of the Old Testament! In December, we did a select read-through of about 1/10th of the chapters of the Old Testament with various church leaders as a gauge for changes to make and to receive feedback on the translation. It went very well.

We are now in the process of preparing how texts look on a page in relation to illustrations and the whitespace on the page. It includes a lot of editing and running checks to make sure everything is correct before something is printed. We spend a lot of time trying to make everything consistent to the rules we set – from spelling to how we mark the way a text should appear on the printed page.

For those of you who use a word processing program like Microsoft Word, you know that everything has a style. This includes font, indentation, spacing between lines, etc. You can select different styles for your document to make sure you are consistent. For example, all your paragraphs follow the same indentation.

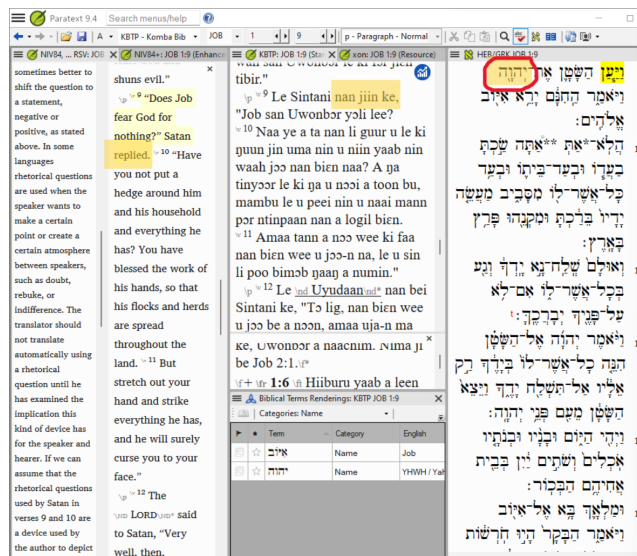
As we have been translating the text, we have been marking every detail along the way for how the text should look. If it needs to be a new paragraph, we use a code in our software to do this. If we want to indent stanzas in poetry, we use codes to mark each stanza appropriately so it would print and appear a certain way. If we want to make section headings bold, we make sure to use codes to do this. If we chose to have the first letter of every word in section headings capitalized, we need to check every section heading.

I looked through a list of names used in the Old Testament and the New Testament. I wanted to make sure we are spelling people's names the same way in both places. The software can link Komba spellings for names with a list of Greek and Hebrew names. The software expects those names in the verse whenever they would appear in Greek or Hebrew. It lets us know which verses do not have that specific word. We then need to look at those verses and see if we misspelled the word, used a different word, forgot the word, or intentionally left the word out of the text. For example, I noticed that the Komba word for YHWH [LORD] was missing in 8 verses. I could see how the word was used in Hebrew in Job 1:9. Neither the English nor the Komba included the name. Due to how Komba and English speakers track participants in narratives, there isn't a need to use the word here. It sounds unnatural and redundant, whereas it was needed in the Hebrew. I marked this reference as OK, and I moved on to the other references.



(Above) I could see we were missing the Komba spelling for YHWH in Job 1:9 and in 7 other places.

(Below) I could see YHWH in the Hebrew, but in the wider narrative context it didn't need to be translated in English or Komba.





Baby Ersland
Coming July 2024
To God be the Glory!

(Left) Michael co-taught (with LBT colleague Eshinee Veith) an introduction to linguistics class in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January at Mekane Yesus Seminary. It was for students engaging with Bible Translation. The whole family appreciated our time there with friends and the new experience of teaching. It was a successful class.
(Right) We are expecting a child this summer!

We accidentally used a different name for YHWH in a couple verses and forgot to put a space after the name, so those errors are now fixed.

The current work is extremely detailed and tedious, yet it is very important to do for making a high-quality product that is easy for readers to follow and use. We are nearing completion of the Komba Bible. We are planning to meet with a representative from the Bible Society of Ghana who will rerun checks to see what needs to be adjusted and what is OK for how the printed text will look. Then, it will be sent to the printers. They will run checks with the same software and ask us questions. We will need to correct errors and also provide details for how the Bible should look (font, size, cover, paper, binding, quantity and quality of ribbon bookmarks, etc.).

This is all exciting news; we are in the final stretch. As one who loves to run, I feel like we are in the final mile of the marathon or the last leg of the 4x100 relay. We can't see the end quite yet, but we know that it is so close and we are running on our last bit of energy to finish well.

Also, we are looking forward to adding another member to our family this summer. Mom and baby are doing well. Our little guy is also doing well. He is keeping us active as he runs around, climbs up everything, dances to every beat, and enjoys telling us good stories and his experiences. We are thankful for him to have another playmate soon. May God be with you and your family!

Confident in Christ,
Michael and Naomi Ersland

Prayer Requests

- Praise God that we are in the final stages of getting the Bible ready for printing! May He continue to guide the process as we hope to have the dedication with physical Bibles soon.
- Pray for God's continual presence as friends in the community are suffering from illnesses and people ration their food until the planting season begins in 3-5 months and harvests start in 6-7 months.
- Pray for our family as we prepare to add another member.
- How may we pray for you? Please let us know so that we may be praying for you!

Contributions:
Lutheran Bible Translators
PO Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020

Checks written to Lutheran Bible Translators with *Ersland Ministry* on the memo line. You can also give online at LBT.org

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