

New Relationships in Papua New Guinea

In January I was able to spend a little over a week in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with Sarah Esala (LBT Regional Director) and Michelle Gillard (Program Assistant). Sarah has been working on developing the relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) along with other Bible translation agencies. While there, we spent time with leaders from SIL-PNG, Bible Translation Association (BTA) (*top right*), and Seed Company. We were also able to meet with leaders from the Zaka circuit of the ELC-PNG where we are partnering on three translations (*right*). The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea is the second-largest church in the country. I was given the opportunity to address their synod which meets once every other year (*below*). The synod voted to affirm the church council's decision to make Bible translation an official policy of the church. I am excited to see what comes of this collaboration between Bible translation organizations and the church where LBT has been asked to take a leading role.



Marketing and Development Team Visits Ethiopia

In February Seth Hinz (Director for Brand and Marketing, *bottom left* interviewing the *president of the church*) and Alyssa Petty (Director for Development, *right*) were able to visit Ethiopia, along with a videographer and a pastor of a supporting church. This was an opportunity for them to get more first-hand experience with the work that LBT is involved in with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). I was able to introduce them to church leaders and program staff. A highlight of the trip was being able to attend the Konso Full Bible dedication (<http://lbt.org/konsobible>).



Paul & Ali
FEDERWITZ
 Hannah, Levi & Eden

ABOUT US

Paul's role is two-fold: He provides strategic leadership internationally as LBT's Director for Field Programs while serving locally as Director of Programs in Ethiopia.

Ali is the Member Care Facilitator for LBT.

Paul and Ali's ministry is funded solely through donations from individuals and groups.

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Please make checks payable to Lutheran Bible Translators and designate *P/A Federwitz Ministry*

Online giving at
<https://go.lbt.org/pafederwitz>

Field Leadership Team Meetings

Taking advantage of one day of overlap with Alyssa and Seth, regional and country directors arrived in Ethiopia for field leadership team meetings. This allowed us to have conversations about how we share information from the field with the rest of the organization. The week continued with great discussions on how to start new programs with a co-creative process, making sure that the language community is making the decisions, how to help our partners improve their reporting and project management, and how we work with and value partners at the international, national, and local levels.

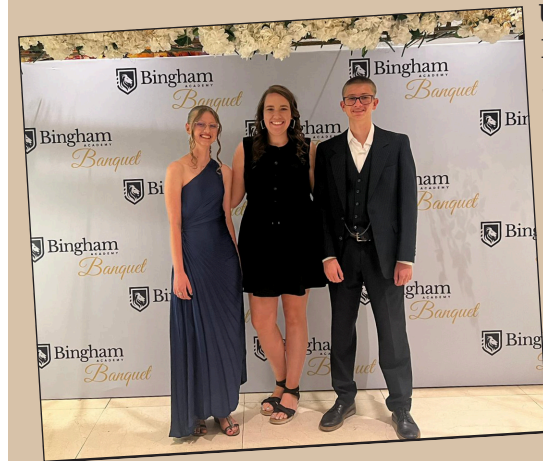


Ethiopia Bible Translation Conference



In March LBT and the church held our annual Bible translation conference in Ethiopia. This was the first time that it was in the Helge Center for Scripture Engagement, the building where I work and which LBT funded to generate income for the Bible translation training program for the seminary. This year's conference was extra special as the church is celebrating 2024 as the Year of the Bible. The first day, Dr. Chris Pluger (left) and colleagues from EECMY led the group in a discussion on the real purpose of Bible translation...people fully engaging with scripture. On the second day we did a mini workshop on Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills, which Ali helped with, to help teams work better together.

Family Updates: Hannah and Levi attended their high school's banquet. This is Hannah's senior year and Levi's sophomore year. LBT missionary Deanne Gochanour is one of Levi's teachers and was the MC for the occasion.



Unfortunately Paul has succumbed to the family tradition of evaluating local medical care. He fell down a hill while taking family vacation during spring break and ended up with a fracture in his fibula.

