



Defining the Goal

Lutheran Bible Translators is part of an alliance of eleven Bible translation organizations called Every Tribe Every Nation (ETEN). These organizations have agreed on an ambitious goal in making God's Word available. By 2033, the goal is that everyone in the world would have some Scripture in their language. Specifically,

- 95% of the global population will have access to a Full Bible.
- 99.96% of the global population will have access to a New Testament.
- 100% of the world's population will have access to at least some portion of Scripture.
- The world's most strategic 100 written languages will have access to a second translation.

There are about 3,500 languages that will be affected by this goal. Pray with us that this goal may be reached!

Mende Checking

I met with the Mende team online twice in March and April. The meetings generally went well, in spite of the time difference (4 to 5 hours). We were able to finish the balance of 2 Samuel, all of 1 Kings, and start 2 Kings. Our next meetings will be May 27-31, and June 12-18. Pray for good internet connections, good communication, wisdom, and God's leading.

As the Mende team and I worked through the book of 1 Kings, there were a variety of revisions that were made. Here are a few of them.

1 Kings 7:33 - The translation said, "He made all those smaller wheels from bronze." The text mentions axles, rims, spokes, and hubs. The

translation was not accurate, but Mende did not have words for all of these detailed parts of a wheel. It would be very difficult to try and describe them with phrases and it would make the passage long and confusing. The translation was revised to "He made all the parts of the wheels from bronze."

1 Kings 13:1 - The translation said, "As Jeroboam was standing near the altar to offer incense, the Lord sent a prophet from the land of Judah to go to the town of Bethel." The relative timing of the events in the translation was wrong. God did not send the prophet while Jeroboam was standing at the altar, but had sent him at some earlier time. He arrived while Jeroboam was standing by the altar. The translation was revised to show this.

1 Kings 16:2 - The translation said, "From the time I took you out of the dust and made you leader over my people of Israel..." The figure of speech "took you out of the dust" was misunderstood as referring to creation. The translation was revised to say, "From the time when you were nobody..."

1 Kings 20:12 - The translation said, "The one who puts on the weapons clothes should not brag like the one who takes it off." This proverb was not understood by the translators. It was revised to, "One who has not made a farm should not brag about the harvest."

1 Kings 22:20 - The translation said, "...so that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?" The word "fall" here is a euphemism for "die, be killed". But in Mende, "fall" does not have that meaning. It only has the literal meaning of "fall down". The translation was revised to "die"

Pray for wisdom and the leading of the Holy Spirit as the team continues to do their work.

A Mistranslation

Mistranslations in the Bible can have big effects. One well-known mistranslation is the King James Version of Exodus 20:13, "Thou shalt not kill." Over the years, many sincere Christians understood this to mean that God prohibited capital punishment and serving in the military.

But in Hebrew, a different word is used here than the normal word for "kill". It is better translated as "unlawful killing, murder". Most modern English translations translate this word as "murder," which is more accurate than the general word, "kill". But this does give us a very different understanding and application of this verse.

Seeing You!

We are thankful for the safe travel and kind hosts that we had during April as we visited partners and churches in Wisconsin. It was great to see so many old friends again, and to meet new friends!



Susan with some helpful models from Prince of Peace WOW, Racine, WI

In order to make travel efficient, we are grouping our speaking by state. We spoke in Wisconsin during April, and we will be speaking in Minnesota during May and June. We plan to be speaking in Michigan this fall. Please contact us if you would like us to come.

Here is our Minnesota schedule for the last part of May and June:

May 14	St John, Buffalo
May 15	St Peter, Swanville
May 16	St John, Villard
May 18	St Peter, Afton
May 19	King of Kings, Roseville
May 20	King of Kings school, Roseville
May 22	Woodbury, Oak Hill campus
May 26	Trinity, Fairfield
June 2	St John, Vergas
June 3-5	MN North LWML conv., Brainerd
June 6	Living Savior, Lake Shore
June 9	Zion, Brainerd
June 12	Zion, Morris
June 16	Bethlehem, Annandale
June 17	St John, Wheaton
June 19	Good Shepherd, Alexandria
June 20-22	MN South LWML conv., Mankato
June 23	Gloria Dei, Virginia

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for safe travels as we visit partners in Minnesota.
- Pray for Jim as he prepares to work on 2 Kings and 1 Chronicles with the Mende team.
- Pray for the checking meetings May 27-31 and June 12-18. Pray for God's wisdom, good internet connections, and clear minds (because of the time difference, Jim will be starting at 4 am each day).
- Pray for the necessary workers and resources to meet the goal of providing access to 3,500 languages by 2033.

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