



Lutheran Bible Translators

Formella 411

Sierra Leone West Africa - Mende & Themne

May 2024

CONNECTING WITH YOU

In my previous newsletters, I focused on the Mende and Themne projects and my continuing education. In this letter I will be focusing on YOU! While I have a lot of room for improvement, an important aspect of my job is interacting with you - my supporters - and the church in general. While there are times I wish I didn't have to fundraise in order to work in Bible Translation, my time connecting with you has been invaluable. How many other occupations give you the opportunity to be literally supported by people across the United States – people who donate, prayer warriors, encouragers, and people who advocate for me with their churches and groups.

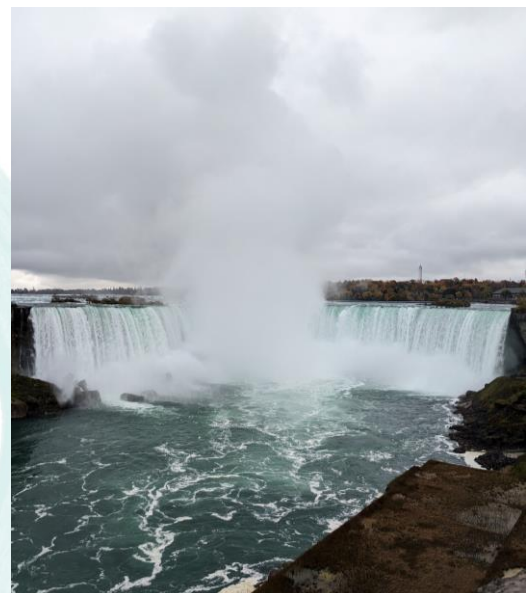
US ASSIGNMENT

Last year I was assigned to be in the US for 6 months to connect with donors. At the beginning of the 6 months, I attended an in-person training in Italy to begin a two-year program helping me become better qualified in my role supporting Bible translation projects. Once I got to the US, I visited 17 states (22 including states I drove through). I attended 3 conferences, spoke at many Bible studies and LWML meetings, and participated in an online translation training.



I visited many churches and small groups. Each visit represents a time when people decided to continue to show support to me, someone reached out to their

church leaders on my behalf, or a church leader allowed a new person into their midst to share about Bible Translation in Sierra Leone. Many of these times I was also offered a safe and caring place to stay with home-cooked meals (making sure I ate some vegetables!), while others offered me time to myself to rest and recover from the road. I have been encouraged, fed, prayed for, given small gifts to bring back to Sierra Leone, allowed space to focus on school, and given tours of hometowns. Over the six months of travel, I was admittedly exhausted at times and was not a fan living out of suitcases. But I am grateful for the opportunity to visit friends across the country, to see people I had met during previous visits, and to meet some of you for the first time. I also was able to visit Joshua Tree National Park and Niagara Falls!



One of the best things about being assigned to the U.S. for six months to update and share about the work I'm apart of in Sierra Leone is the extra time with family. I was able to attend my twin nephews' 4th birthday party, enjoy the 4th of July in my hometown with family and one of my best friends, and I was able to attend the party for my aunt and uncle's 55th anniversary. And even better than the big events, I was able to spend more normal days with my family, going for walks with the dogs, hiking, and eating great food!



Since my home base is my mom's house and working from home is not my best skill, I inquired at a local church if I might be able to work in an extra space they had, and they let me use their spare office (Shout out to Bethany Lutheran in Kaukauna, WI). I was just hoping for a quiet place to concentrate better on my work, but I found new friends, another church home, and a happy and welcoming place to work close to home.

There is so much more to say about my time in the U.S., but I am mostly grateful for all of you being there for me in so many ways.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for a successful time in the US and for your continued prayers and support.
- Mende – A new translation consultant is working with us which helps us make more progress in checking the Old Testament.
- Themne – Another new translation consultant helped finish checking Genesis and start Exodus. The translators have started drafting the NT.
- Masters in NT – I submitted my final assignments for my second-to-last class before I complete my MA in New Testament.
- Training – I completed my 4th session of training with United Bible Societies which focused on linguistics. Each session helps me sharpen more skills for my work.

Please see the links or QR Codes below to see a recording of my presentation for those I was not able to visit. There is also a link to an online form if your small group or bible study or gathering is interest in a live update/presentation on Zoom or another platform.

Zoom Presentation Form:



forms.gle/sSPhvC2ahCsW6ugk6

Recorded Presentation:



amyformella.wixsite.com/amyonthefield/videos

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