



GATHERING TOGETHER

LBT values relationships. We value all our partners. Partners like you who pray and support the various ministries, partners that carry on the work in various locations around the world, and partners that work remotely as missionaries or staff.

This year is a special year for LBT. We celebrate 60 years of ministry, 60 years of putting God's word into languages that did/do not have it. Doing this has looked like translating and producing the Word of God in print form, teaching people to read and write, recording oral versions of the written word, dubbing Bible videos, assisting people to write local liturgy and song forms, training pastors and language teams in translation and literacy materials, developing apps to help distribute translations via phone, and more. The latest edition of our magazine *The Messenger* has a timeline of our past 60 years. You can download it here if you did not receive a print copy. [Messenger | Lutheran Bible Translators \(lbt.org\)](https://lbt.org/Messenger/) or copy or type this into your browser: <https://lbt.org/Messenger/> You can also watch a 60th anniversary video here: <https://www.facebook.com/LutheranBibleTranslators/videos/1153726265632562>

Every July LBT gathers its missionary partners and staff together. We share current trends in mission practice, current needs, and current programs going on all over the world. We encourage one another with progress and ideas. We examine current work practices and best practices. This time is not just about work though. We also spend time renewing relationships and growing in all aspects of our ministry and personal life situations.

Because this is a special anniversary year, we had a special gathering in July at a retreat center in Missouri instead of on the LBT campus. We discussed various topics, evaluated how we are doing in these areas and elicited concerns and ideas as we go forward beyond our 60 years. Topics shared included how we align with the church here and abroad, how we foster ownership with language communities, what ministry staffing needs we have, along with strategies and timelines projected by our administrative visionaries.

Our time together was not just meetings. We had some free time to grow personal relationships. I am thankful for a relatively small organization where we have the opportunity to get to know all



our staff and many of the ministry partners. Mealtimes, devotions, campfires, recreational activities including a ropes course, swimming, slip and slide, hiking, and mini golf provided venues for interaction. I am thankful that LBT values each person and looks out for our well-being.

Last time I wrote I told you about a meeting with various entities working in Bible translation in Liberia. This meeting ran for two days and gave opportunity for each of the nine groups represented to introduce themselves and what they are doing in Liberia. One group conducts listening groups so people can meet and hear the recording of their Bible. Another group is working in seven language

groups: five Old Testament projects and two whole Bibles. Their approach is quite different from what we use, so it will be interesting to see how well received the final product is. Hopefully, they do some testing early in the process so necessary adjustments can be made before they get too far along. They are also in need of consultant help. We may be able to learn things from each other and share resources. Another group is working with oral Bible translation. They are also doing a video recording of the Bible in Liberian sign language. All the groups agreed that literacy is a high need throughout the country. The meeting ended before any official cooperative agreement could be developed. Pray that this will still be done.



TRANSLATION TIDBITS

The Dan people have a few words that are very similar and came to light during our checking of Leviticus.

Zónézèhè: when water is clear

Sónésèhè: spiritual, holy, no blemish, nothing defiles it or makes it defiled

Pu: clean

Púú sónésèhè: very pure and holy

Blónéblèhè: a boil that is shiny

Yónyéyèhè: sound of someone's voice that is understood clearly.

Pénépèhè healthy

Unified in faith and purpose, we press on (Philippians 3:14),

Becky

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise for the sweet fellowship at our 60th anniversary gathering.
- Pray that there will be a wise use of resources and division of tasks among the various mission agencies.
- Pray for the Bible Society officer that has been trying to help with computer technology as he is being spread very thin between his regular job with the Bible Society projects that I am working with and these many other projects.

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