



Lutheran Bible
Translators

Consulting for Christ

Enabling Bible Translation in Africa

September 5, 2024

60 YEARS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS!

In May 1964, Messengers for Christ, Lutheran Bible Translators, Inc. was formed in California by a small group of Lutherans who had the vision of helping people to get God's Word in their language. This year, Lutheran Bible Translators is celebrating our 60th anniversary. God has blessed the work, with 49 New Testaments or Bibles being dedicated during that time. If you are interested in finding out more about the history of Lutheran Bible Translators, there is a special 60th anniversary edition of the Messenger available on our web site (<https://lbt.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/LBTM24Q2-Master.pdf>). There is also a special video that has been prepared that also can be viewed on our web site (<https://lbt.org/lutheran-bible-translators-60th-anniversary/>).

In July, Lutheran Bible Translators held our first-ever all-staff meeting. Missionaries from around the world and the staff at the office all gathered at a camp in Missouri. The theme was "Faithful in All (Psalm 33:4). Time was spent looking back at what God has accomplished and thinking about the future. It was a rare chance to interact with many of our fellow workers and their families.



During the meeting, Susan was honored by the presentation of a clock in recognition of her 45 years of service with Lutheran Bible Translators.



MENDE CHECKING

We are thankful for continued progress with the Mende translation. I met with the Mende team online in May and September. The meetings generally went well, in spite of the time difference (4 to 5 hours). We were able to finish 2 Kings and the first four chapters of 1 Chronicles. Our next meetings will be October 21-25, and November 11-15. Pray for good internet connections, good communication, good health, wisdom, and God's leading.

TRANSLATION NOTES

"But we want our people to easily understand the verse. If we use a foreign word, the meaning may not be clear to them." The Mende translation team and I were looking at their translation of 2 Kings 4:41. Elisha asks for some flour, it is brought to him, and he puts it into the pot. It is not a difficult verse, but the problem came from the word that was used to translate "flour". The team had chosen to use a word that specifically meant "rice flour". That is the traditional type of flour that is used in the area, since people there grow rice. Wheat is not grown there, and flour made from wheat must be imported into the country.

How do you translate something that is unknown in an area? Is it acceptable to substitute something similar that is locally available? These are common questions that translation teams must answer.

TRANSLATION NOTES (cont'd)

Dr. Katy Barnwell, a leading educator in Bible translation, lists five possible ways to translate unknown ideas: 1) Use a descriptive phrase. 2) Substitute something similar that is known to the receptor language speakers. 3) Use a word that is more general in meaning. 4) Use a word that is more specific in meaning. 5) Use a foreign word from another language, with explanatory information.

In this case, the Mende team had used method 2, substituting something that is known for something that is unknown. The problem in this verse is that this method is not recommended when translating a historical event. Elisha was a real person, who put actual flour into the pot. If the team changes the facts to something that could not have not have happened (rice was not in Israel at that time), it can call into question the accuracy of the translation.

To solve the problem in this verse, the team decided to use the borrowed word for wheat flour, *flawa*. It has been available in their area long enough that most people are familiar with what it is, even though it originally was a foreign word.

REPORTING IN

We have done a lot of travelling over the past few months, and are thankful that we were able to see so many of you! A special thank you to all who generously hosted us. We are also thankful for the many safe miles of travel that God blessed us with.



Michelle Gillard (Program Assistant for Papua New Guinea) with Susan & Jim at LWML convention in Minnesota

This fall and spring, we will be focusing on visiting partners in Michigan. Here is our schedule for the next few months. Please contact us if you would like to have us come to your church or group:

Sept 15	Grace, Columbus, IN
Sept 16	St Lorenz LWML, Frankenmuth, MI
Oct 19	LWML Rally, Washington, MI
Oct 20	St Matthew, Westland, MI
Nov 24	Trinity, Oscoda, MI
Jan 12	St Peter, Macomb, MI
Jan 15	St Peter school, Macomb, MI

BIBLE TRANSLATION SUNDAY

Your church can also partner with Lutheran Bible Translators by hosting a Bible Translation Sunday. Information on how to participate can be found on the Lutheran Bible Translators web site:

<https://lbt.org/bible-translation-sundays/>

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for safe travels as we visit partners in Michigan.
- Pray for Jim and the Mende team as they prepare to work on 1 Chronicles in October and November.
- Pray for the checking meetings October 21-25, and November 11-15. 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).

Thanks for praying for our requests. If you would also like to pray for other prayer requests from Lutheran Bible Translators, you can sign up here to get the monthly prayer calendar:

<https://lbt.org/partner-with-us/pray/>

CONTACT

Jim.Kaiser@LBT.org

586-842-9876

Susan.Kaiser@LBT.org

586-913-3814

Give at [LBT.org/Kaiser](https://lbt.org/Kaiser)

Or by mail:

Lutheran Bible Translators

P.O. Box 789

Concordia, MO 64020-0789

Designate: Kaiser Ministry