



Carl and Kelsey GRULKE

MaryJane, Audrey, Judah, Gideon & Isaac

*We all hear these people speaking in our own languages
about the wonderful things God has done! - Acts 2:11*



October 2024 Update

Summer travels around the US



We spent the summer back in the US, traveling around and speaking at churches about Bible translation in Botswana and what God is doing here. Kelsey's brother got married in Iowa, and we were able to celebrate that time with her family.



We also spent time in the Lake of the Ozarks for an all-organization gathering for Lutheran Bible Translators, where all LBT employees from around the world gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary of LBT! It was a wonderful time of fun and fellowship, and we had a chance to connect with our colleagues and hear more about the mission of LBT and what is coming for the organization as we think about the next 60 years of ministry.



We also were able to go on a family vacation to several national parks out west before we said goodbye to MaryJane in Denver for her sophomore year of high school. She has done so well adapting to her life there and is thriving in her school, which is a wonderful blessing to us all.

Our time in the US was a whirlwind, but we loved being able to see many of you at various churches, as well as connecting with family and friends. We are now back in Botswana and getting back into the swing of our lives here. Thank you for your prayers for us during this time of transition!

Back to work on translations



Now that we are back in Botswana, Carl has been getting back to work with the Wayeyi translation team on the New Testament. It has been great working through the epistles together. **Continued on back**

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Back to work continued

One moment stood out as a break-through kind of event. As we were working through Ephesians 2, the translators struggled a bit with following the flow of the chapter. So Carl took time to lay out the structure of the verses and the line of thought that Paul is following. After that, we worked our way through the last half of the chapter, making tweaks and changes along the way to the translation, making sure that all of the pieces and parts make sense in Shiyeyi, which is a big part of our work.

But when we got to the end, Motswasele, one of the translators, sat back and said, "It's like a new Bible!" What a wonderful testimony to the power of a good Bible translation! We even opened up our national language translation to compare, and the team was shocked at how much clearer our translation was. Praise God for the fruit of good Bible translation!

Shekgalagari distribution across Botswana



While we were in the US, the team here was busy with the distribution of the New Testaments across Botswana. They went to many villages where we are connected. The people are so excited to be receiving these Bibles, and we are encouraged to see how the people are already using the printed Bibles and the smartphone app with the audio Bible recording. This process is slow, but we are trusting that God will continue to work through it. The team will also be moving to the Maun office this month to start working with Carl here.



Looking towards the future



We have loved living here in Botswana for the last 6 years. It has been a wonderful place for our family, for ministry and a beautiful piece of God's creation to experience.

But with many of our Botswana projects transitioning to new phases and locals taking key roles—which is our goal!—we are looking at what might be next for us, including different ministry opportunities within LBT. LBT has asked us to consider moving to another country and working there in other Bible translation roles. This would be a huge change for our family, so it's a big decision. We'll provide more details when we can, but for now, pray for God's guidance and a clear path forward that will be life-giving for our whole family and for Bible translation ministry.

PRAY

We need people praying for our family, the projects, the translators and more. Look right for more specifics!

GIVE

We need the financial support of partners to make this ministry possible. Give online at lbt.org/grulke or by mailing a check to LBT. Regular gifts make a big difference!

TELL

We need people to help us raise awareness for our ministry. You can share the mission of Bible translation with your church or friends!

What's coming next?

- Oct 7** - Shekgalagari team start work in Maun office
- Oct 23-28** - Visit to possible new field assignment
- Oct 30-31** - National elections in Botswana
- Nov 3-6** - Local Resource Mobilization workshop
- Nov 10** - Wayeyi advisory committee meeting
- November** - Consultant checking for Wayeyi team
- Dec 6** - Last day of school term at Matshwane
- Dec 12** - Happy birthday Judah!



This will be a big event for Carl this year. He wrote a grant to explore how to help local organizations work to activate local funding sources, and it has gained a lot of attention. Pray for this event to be a big success!

Prayer requests for our family

- For the Shekgalagari team as they move to Maun to work from the office here, that it would help coordinate and streamline their ongoing work
- For the Wayeyi team as they continue to work on their translation, that God would continue to bless them through the translation process and help them to receive this "new Bible"
- For the blessing of time with family and time for vacation and relaxing in the United States
- For MaryJane as she begins a new school year, that she would meet it head on and continue to thrive
- For the planning of next steps in projects and thinking about future Bible translation work here
- For our family as we consider what the future holds for us, possibly outside of Botswana, and wisdom and discernment as we prayerfully look at options

PLEGGED MONTHLY SUPPORT

63%

This tracker shows the amount that is pledged to our ministry on a monthly basis. It doesn't show every gift, but it helps us plan for the future.