

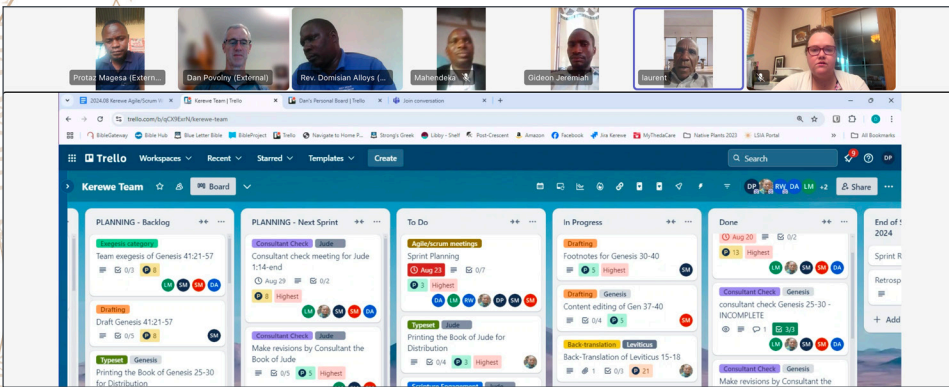


they will See and Understand

ISAIAH 52:15; ROMANS 15:21

FALL 2024

I was in Tanzania in August and am heading back soon (October 26-November 12) for another training! Ukerewe Island is starting to feel like a second home now that I'm taking more trips. Plus, I'm meeting virtually with the team all the time! It is such a blessing to keep the stability of Minnesota for my family while continuing to support Bible Translation. I deeply appreciate the support from our church, Trinity Lutheran, Northfield, as they provide meals and help while I'm gone. *Teamwork makes the dream work!* This includes YOU! It would be impossible without you since donations from individuals and churches entirely support my work.



AGILE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

WORKING WITH AGILITY!

"I have learned much about Scrum... it needs unity, strength, and time. It seems that oneness in the team has been strengthened because nowadays we communicate regularly concerning our translation work. I think everything will be done correctly." - Kerewe* Translator

Earlier this year, I was asked by Lutheran Bible Translators to implement an experiment using Agile and Scrum in Bible Translation. Agile is a flexible project management approach, birthed in the IT world, that emphasizes collaboration, customer feedback, and iterative progress. Scrum is a specific Agile framework that organizes teams into roles, responsibilities, and cycles called sprints to complete work incrementally. There have been many changes to how the Kerewe Program is running! The team is in daily in-person or remote communication (as in the picture above). They discuss what they've done, what they're going to do, and if they have any blockers. They work hard at helping one another overcome any challenges, and they can divide the tasks based on the strengths of each member.

TRADITIONAL APPROACH ▶ AGILE/SCRUM APPROACH

- INDIVIDUAL EXEGESIS AND DRAFTING ▶ COLLABORATIVE EXEGESIS AND DRAFTING
- COMMUNITY AND CONSULTANT CHECKING A FEW TIMES A YEAR ▶ CHECKING EVERY FEW WEEKS
- MEETING AS A TEAM AS NEEDED ▶ MEETING EVERY DAY ABOUT CURRENT WORK AND BLOCKERS!
- SETTING ANNUAL GOALS ▶ SETTING GOALS EVERY TWO WEEKS BASED ON CONTINUAL REVIEW
- RIGID, UPFRONT PLANNING ▶ ADAPTIVE, ITERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CYCLES
- WAITING YEARS TO GET FEEDBACK ON A FINAL PRODUCT ▶ CONTINUOUS CUSTOMER FEEDBACK
- DELIVERING LARGE, FINAL PRODUCTS ▶ DELIVERING SMALL, USABLE PRODUCT INCREMENTS
- EXTERNAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ▶ INTERNAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

*Kikerewe is spoken on Ukerewe Island on Lake Victoria on the northwestern border of Tanzania. There are around 400,000 speakers of the language. Books completed: Jonah, Gospels, Acts, Jude. In Progress: Gen, Ex, Lev.

Are you new to Wagner Updates? Please introduce yourself and contact us if you have any questions about our ministry.

RECURRING SUPPORT

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

100%

WHO WE ARE



The Wagner Family first served with Lutheran Bible Translators in Sierra Leone alongside the Themne people in Translation & Scripture

Use. Now Ruthie is a Consultant-in-Training and serves as trainer for the Kerewe Bible Translation Program in Tanzania.

Making God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. (LBT's Mission)

TIMELINE

- AUG Ruthie teaches Agile and Scrum in Tanzania; Ruthie's 38th on Aug 6th
- SEPT Practice Agile and Scrum
- OCT-NOV Lizzie's 7th on Oct 9th; Ruthie in Tanzania (Oct 26-Nov 12); 15th Wedding Anniversary on Nov 21st
- DEC-MAY Work on translation remotely and study for DMin; Josiah's 9th on Dec 21st; Josh's 44th on Dec 24th; Trip(s) to Tanzania?
- JUNE DMin Residency in Massachusetts; Elijah's 13th on June 21st

TAKE ACTION

JOIN our "Wagner Updates" group on Facebook! This is where we update most frequently.

[facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)

GIVE to "Wagner Ministry" online or by mailing a check. Please contact us or LBT if you'd like to set up automatic giving.

PRaise for safe travels to and from Tanzania for Ruthie and LBT's Consultant, Dr. Megahan. Praise for the progress in training, checking, and working on the translation into Kerewe!

PRAY for the Kerewe Team as they work on finishing Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus. Pray for LBT's Consultant, Dr. Megahan, and me as we work to support translation efforts in Tanzania.

CONTACT/SUPPORT

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[facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)

📞 612-433-1199 (call or text)

🏠 LBT will forward "Wagner" mail to us.



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IN THIS GENERATION

Our mission in Lutheran Bible Translators is to make God's Word accessible, but our *vision* is "Vibrant Christian communities, deeply rooted in God's Word, engaging fully in God's mission, in this generation." *How can we do this when Bible Translation takes a decade or two?*

Instead of waiting years to publish a booklet (as in the picture on the right), I've been encouraging the team to print and distribute in smaller increments with their office printer. The image on the left is from when they handed out copies of the first half of Genesis to the Kerewe community to see what they think. The response was thrilling as people immediately opened and read these little booklets!

During our training, I compared our changes with Agile (see previous page) to building a house for your wife. Instead of telling her to wait for years, you ask her which room she wants first. You build and finish that room so she can use and enjoy it while you work on the next room she wants.

While in Tanzania this summer, I encouraged them to ask the community what small book they wanted to enjoy and use. They said, *Jude*. The translators used Agile and Scrum to draft and check the book collaboratively. It is now ready to be printed and distributed to the community. What a joy for the translators to immediately deliver something rather than tell the community to wait several years until the Bible is completed. We also hope this will inspire the community to suggest ongoing improvements and revisions to the translation before publication!

WHAT'S NEXT?

I'm headed to Tanzania October 26 for three weeks. I'm looking forward to being with the team in person since I've been meeting with them virtually most days. Please pray for this trip and the follow-up work through the end of the year. Pray for the team that God will inspire creativity in the project to help the Kerewe people engage with Scripture. Pray also for me as I'm deep in my doctoral reading and studying. Of course, the kids and Josh are supportive, but we are juggling a lot these days. Josh and the kids could use your prayers, too! I spend a lot of time reading while waiting for kids at their lessons and events.

WE'RE IN OUR ODD YEARS

The kids are in grades 7, 5, 3, and 1. We are running to keep track of them. They are thriving in Northfield schools.



Elijah keeps straight A's even with confirmation, soccer, three choirs, and percussion. We now have a drum set in the basement. He has great friends and loves increased independence with his bike.

Isaiah 'Zay' reads math and chess books for fun. Hearing about his kindness from people I see in town is common. He is in confirmation, plays soccer, the organ/piano, the euphonium, and sings in two choirs.

Josiah is my go-to for repairs. He loved working on Grandpa's sump pump. We often find him in Josh's workshop or with a book. He prides himself in discovering alternative ways of doing math. He sings in choir, plays piano, and eagerly awaits baseball season.

Elizabeth 'Lizzie' is our fashionista! She loves dressing up, doing crafts, and writing small books. She sings in choir, plays piano, and is in dance. She's also our resident first aid expert.

Josh and I (Ruthie) enjoy increased involvement at church on the board of elders and board of education, respectively. He and Elijah often sing for church. He is working at the LCMS MN South District office as Business Manager. My work and travel continue to increase. I started my DMin through Gordon-Conwell, and for increased sanity, I started taking piano lessons after 20 years as a creative outlet! Our cavapoo Tucker continues to bring us a lot of joy.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

I have been doing some speaking engagements here and there and would be happy to share about my work with Lutheran Bible Translators! Let me know what works for your church or group, and I'll get it on the calendar, in person or virtually.

Thank you so much for your care and support for our family and the work of Bible Translation!

♥ Ruthie & Josh Wagner

Elijah (12), Isaiah (10), Josiah (8.5), & Elizabeth (7)