

## Summer of Transition

This summer was a bit of a whirlwind for our family. We arrived in Ohio from Ethiopia on June 23rd to spend time with Ali's family. On July 2nd we filled a trailer with the boxes of items we have stored over the eighteen years we have lived overseas and drove to our house in Concordia, MO. Slowly unpacking has been a treasure hunt as we find things that haven't been out of a box since 2006. At other times we are looking for things that we were sure we had somewhere, only to realize that it was likely in a house in Tamale, Accra, or Addis Ababa.

A little over a week after we moved into our house, we headed to southern Missouri for the LBT Gathering. This year Lutheran Bible Translators is

celebrating our 60th anniversary! For the first time ever, almost all our staff and missionaries were together from around the world. We spent four full days celebrating how the Lord has blessed this mission, worshiping, and talking about what future ministry should look like. Soon after returning to Concordia, we sent Hannah off to a re-entry program in Georgia geared towards third culture kids entering university. Our kids are US citizens but have never lived in the US for more than a few months at a time. As Hannah started college, we felt it was important for her to have an introduction to American culture with other kids like her. The rest of our family will participate in a re-entry program early next year.



The full crew at the LBT Gathering in July



We have already had friends and colleagues from Ethiopia visit us in our new home!

We often are asked, "Are you settled?" That is a more difficult question to answer than you may think. We have unpacked the things necessary for daily living. We are using our house in all of the normal ways: preparing meals, washing laundry, sleeping, conversation, interactions, etc. We have even hung a picture on a wall! However, the idea of being settled seems so much deeper than these functions. It brings up the idea of belonging, connection and some other things. Although we are each finding our way and figuring things out a little more each day, there are moments where we miss what it was like when we lived in other places as well as times when we don't understand what is going on around us. In some ways the move back to the US is harder than a move to another country because we look and sound like Americans, but there are many cultural things that we don't understand. We are grateful for the grace extended to us by everyone.

## Job Updates

Over the last several months Paul has been asked many times how the "new" job is going. The reality is that Paul's job is exactly the same. He has an international role leading Lutheran Bible Translators' field work around the world. Many things have gotten easier being in the office in the US as he can just walk down the hall to talk to people in other departments. It is also so much easier being on the same time zone instead of eight to nine hours ahead.

Paul also continues to hold the role of country director for Ethiopia, which is now the part of his job that is on a far different time zone and even required a quick trip back to Ethiopia in September. Among several other issues that had come up where an in-person meeting was needed to make sure there was good understanding, Paul wanted to get a sense for how the major change in the value of Ethiopia's currency (the Ethiopian Birr lost half its value vs the US Dollar since we left in June) affected life for the people that we work with and the grant and budget process for next year.

# Paul & Ali FEDERWITZ

Hannah, Levi & Eden

## ABOUT US

Paul's role is two-fold: He provides strategic leadership internationally as LBT's Chief Programs Officer while also serving as Director of Programs in Ethiopia.

Ali is the Member Care Manager and Prayer Working Group lead.

Paul and Ali's ministry is funded solely through donations from individuals and groups.

## CORRESPONDENCE

✉ Paul and Ali Federwitz  
C/O LBT  
P.O. Box 789  
Concordia, MO 64020

@ Paul-Ali.Federwitz@LBT.org

f on.fb.me/138ZLI5



Lutheran Bible  
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## CONTRIBUTIONS

Lutheran Bible Translators  
P.O. Box 789  
Concordia, MO 64020

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Online giving at  
<https://lbt.org/pafederwitz>

Ali carries on in her member care work. She is looking forward to attending an international member care conference at the end of October. In the last few months, she has added the role of Prayer Working Group lead. The Prayer Working Group is tasked with facilitating growth and involvement in prayer throughout Lutheran Bible Translators as an organization. As the point person, Ali leads meetings and carries out various tasks. She is excited to be part of this group and is energized and encouraged by their collaboration.

## Kids Update

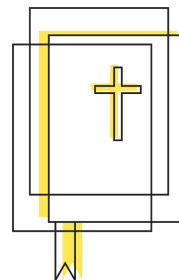
All three of our kids started school the same week. Levi and Eden started 11th and 9th grade at St. Paul's High School in Concordia, MO where the LBT offices are located (they often stop by dad's office during the day to say hi). Levi and Eden are doing well in a new high school environment. There is a big difference in curriculum since their school in Ethiopia operated on the British system. Levi has joined the soccer team, and Eden is in cross country. They both like their teammates, but it has been quite an adjustment for all of us to adapt to practice and game schedules.



Hannah went off to Concordia University Nebraska to begin a degree in Behavioral Sciences. Hannah is in the new Paul's Scholars program with nine other freshmen. This small cohort has proven to be a great support and blessing to all of the newness of college. We are excited to hear from Hannah all the things she is learning and how she is navigating this life of independence.

Pictures (clockwise): Hannah settled into her dorm room, Eden at her first cross country meet, Levi after scoring his first goal in soccer.

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