

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!

What a special day! On November 3, Christians in the Dirashe community in southwestern Ethiopia dedicated the first ever New Testament in their language (Dhirayta) and celebrated its arrival with a special service. Jim was blessed to be part of the celebration as the official representative from Lutheran Bible Translators. It was doubly special since this was one of the translations Jim helped to complete. Thank you for your part in making this day possible!



The EECMY (Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus) also had several special “Bible For All” events to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the translation of the Bible into Oromo. In Arba Minch, EECMY members swept the streets early Friday morning, held a conference on Bible translation Friday evening, and held a 5k race on Saturday morning. The grand marshal of the race was Tsige Duguma, the Olympic silver medalist for the Women’s 800 meters. She is an EECMY member, and is known for displaying a “Jesus is Lord” sign at the Paris Olympics.



Some of the street sweepers with their brooms



Tsige Duguma, Olympic silver medalist



Jim helping to present awards (a Bible and a medal) to some of the race winners

GRAMMAR AND TRANSLATION

Each language has its own unique grammar. Sometimes there are similarities with another language, but often there are differences that can cause confusion during translation.

One area where this is true is in how grammatical forms relate to meaning. The same grammatical form in a language can be used to show different meanings. For example, in English, the grammatical form *with* followed by a noun can be used to show a number of different meanings:

- I eat cake with my fork. (I use a fork to eat my cake).
- I eat cake with my wife. (I and my wife together eat cake).
- I eat cake with ice cream. (I eat cake and ice cream together).
- I eat cake with classical music. (I listen to music while I eat my cake).

People whose first language is not English may not recognize all of these possible meanings and may misunderstand a statement in English. In 1 Chronicles 15:15, the ESV says, “The Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles.” One team misunderstood this to mean, “The Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders, and they carried the poles on their shoulders.” This was revised to, “The Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders using the poles.”

In 1 Chronicles 25:1, the ESV says, “...who prophesied with lyres, with harps, and with cymbals.” The team understood this as, “...who used lyres, harps, and cymbals to prophesy.” Here this is best understood as, “... who prophesied while being accompanied by lyres, harps, and cymbals.”



Susan sharing a message with children

PARTNERSHIP

This 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:

Jan 12	St. Peter, Macomb
Jan 13	Trinity LWML, Utica
Jan 15	St. Peter school, Macomb
Jan 26	Our Redeemer, Dryden
Feb 16	Immanuel, Bridgman
Mar 5	Lutheran Luncheon Club
Apr 27	Immanuel, Frankentrost

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for safe travels as we visit partners in Michigan.

Pray for the checking meeting with the Mende team December 2-6. We will start on 2 Chronicles. 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.

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