

"You have the Words of eternal life." (Jn 6:68)

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Lutheran Bible  
Translators

# WORDS of LIFE

The Prayer Letter of Glenn & Susan Fluegge

## WHO ARE WE?

It was twenty-six years ago today – Jan 7, 1999. I remember the day quite vividly. We landed in Togo, West Africa, with two cranky kids and ten seventy-pound bags of personal belongings. Sleep-deprived and culturally disoriented, we stumbled through those first few weeks.

But we ended up staying eleven years in northern Togo as LCMS missionaries. During that time, I worked with the Centre Luthérien d'Etudes Théologiques, an international Lutheran seminary. We then spent three years in South Africa where I taught at a Lutheran seminary there.

According to this unique partnership, I will be a theology professor at Concordia **AND** also a missionary with Lutheran Bible Translators. As a missionary, I'll serve as Seminary Program Coordinator. My job is to help Lutheran Bible Translators collaborate with partner seminaries and institutions worldwide to train up local Bible translators.



*A year from now we move to Ethiopia!*

Since Lutheran Bible Translators already has a thriving partnership with the Mekane Yesus Seminary (MYS) in Ethiopia, each year Susan and I will spend half of the year in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I will teach classes at the seminary and foster our ongoing partnership. Susan will continue her role online as administrative assistant at Concordia.

So, God is calling us back to Africa, but in a different way, with a different organization, and to a different part of Africa. We plan to move to Addis Ababa a year from now in January of 2026.



*A student walks to chapel at Mekane Yesus Seminary*



In 2012, we transitioned back to the States to Concordia University Irvine in southern California. I've been serving as a theology professor and director of a seminary program at Concordia for the last thirteen years. Susan serves as administrative assistant to the school of arts and sciences.

Our work at Concordia has been quite fulfilling and living in southern California next to family has been refreshing. But I always wondered if God would someday call us back to Africa....

## BACK TO AFRICA

...Well, it seems He has. And in a way neither of us anticipated. A few months ago, Lutheran Bible Translators and Concordia University Irvine formed a partnership.



CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
IRVINE

## WHY ETHIOPIA?

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the world's largest Lutheran church, is facing a challenge: **Over half of Ethiopia's 85 languages lack Bible translations.**

To help meet this challenge, Mekane Yesus Seminary recently partnered with Lutheran Bible Translators to launch a unique Bible translation Bachelor of Theology (BTh) program. This initiative aims to equip future local pastors and church leaders to translate the Bible into the multitude of languages throughout Ethiopia.



*LBT missionary Dr. Chris Plugger leads a class on Bible Translation at Mekane Yesus Seminary*

The program's first cohort is currently about half way through their studies and will graduate soon. They will then return to their home churches scattered throughout Ethiopia where many of them will be involved in Bible translation and Scripture engagement projects.

The vision shared by both organizations is ambitious, planning for multiple graduating cohorts. This would mean an increase in Bible translators, significantly expanding access to Scripture in native languages for millions.



*Bible translation students at Mekane Yesus Seminary*

## WILL YOU JOIN US?

No missionary goes alone. Rather, missionaries are accompanied by a whole host of others who support and send them. This was the case for the Apostle Paul (Acts 13:1-3) and it's the case for us as well.

The plan is to move to Ethiopia a year from now in January 2026. But, before we leave, Lutheran Bible Translators has asked us to raise support from partners who can join us through prayer and financial contributions.

There are two main ways you can join us on this journey:

1) **PRAYER SUPPORT** – Please consider praying for us regularly (see below). If you're not already on it, consider signing up for our Prayer Letter. Send me an email or, better yet, use this QR code:



2) **FINANCIAL SUPPORT** – Please consider giving a gift to support our ministry with LBT.

- To give online: visit [LBT.org/Fluegge](http://LBT.org/Fluegge).
- To give by check: Make out check to "Lutheran Bible Translators" AND write "Fluegge Ministry" on the memo line. Send it to: Lutheran Bible Translators, P.O. Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for Mekane Yesus Seminary and especially for the students in the new Bible translation track.
- Pray for Dr. Chris & Janine Plugger, our future colleagues. Chris teaches in the Bible translation track at MYS and works as a translation consultant.
- Pray for our upcoming transition to Ethiopia and all the logistical details that go with it. Pray that God would grant us a deep love and appreciation for Ethiopia and for those with whom we'll work.
- Pray that God will raise up many partners to pray for and support our ministry with LBT.

## CONTACT

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