



Lutheran Bible  
Translators



# IMPACT REPORT

**More Than Words**

The Comprehensive Campaign for Scripture Impact  
Final Report 2019-2024

# MORE THAN WORDS

DEAR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS,

GOD IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE.

(Ephesians 3:20-21)

I am honored to present the Impact Report for the More Than Words 5-Year Comprehensive Campaign. This Impact Report shares our progress toward the campaign goal of \$43.9 million, as well as milestones and ministry moments that shine a light on how God is at work through Lutheran Bible Translators. Together, we have empowered a total of 149 language communities and witnessed God transform countless lives over the past five years.

We've seen significant milestones in infrastructure development, training programs, and translation projects. Scripture engagement initiatives flourished, breaking down barriers and creating pathways for meaningful engagement with God's Word.

This report also serves to acknowledge your invaluable support and dedication – thank you for your prayers, gifts, and advocacy on behalf of Bible translation.

In late 2024, we support 137 language communities concurrently. Yet, there are dozens waiting to partner with us. To help bring God's Word to them, our capacity must continue to rise.

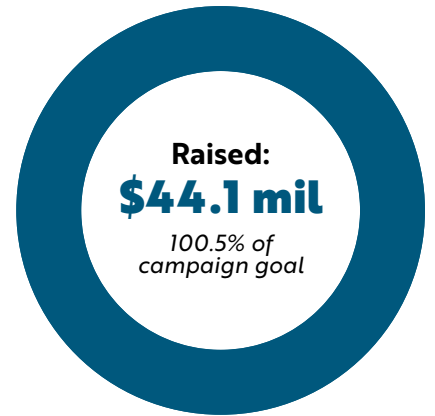
I ask that you prayerfully consider helping us close the campaign gap and head into the next three-year cycle in strong position to expand field programs' reach.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to addressing the Scripture need in this generation.

In Christ,

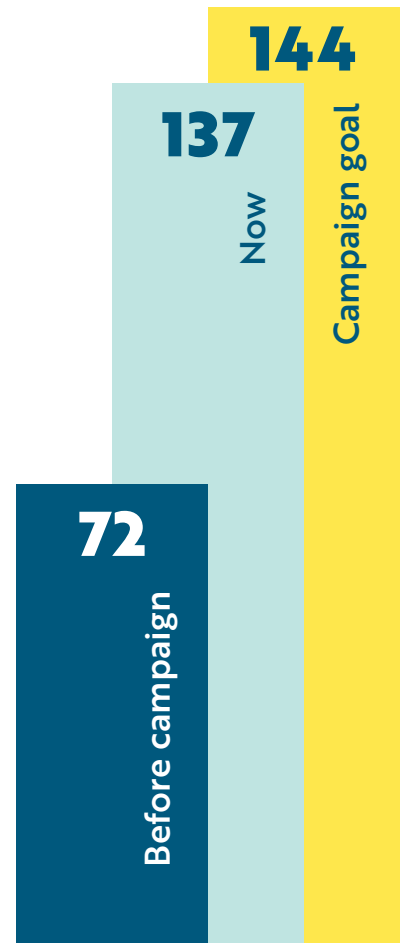


**REV. DR. RICH RUDOWSKE**  
Executive Director | CEO  
Lutheran Bible Translators



## CONCURRENT LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES SERVED

Funds raised expanded the number of language communities with whom we can actively partner.



# MORE THAN WORDS MILESTONES

In 2019, we had the capacity to serve 72 language communities concurrently. The audacious goal was set to double that number to 144. **Today, we can proudly celebrate 90% growth in ongoing ministry reach!** We now have the capacity to actively serve 137 language communities. Currently, we have 18 additional language communities seeking support which would require expanding capacity.

## TIMELINE OF KEY MILESTONES (2019-2024)



- 2019 More Than Words comprehensive campaign launched
- 2020 Scripture Dedication: Gola New Testament (Liberia)
- 2022 Opening of the Helge Center for Scripture Engagement at Mekane Yesus Seminary (Ethiopia)
- 2022 Scripture Dedication: Full Hadiyya Bible (Ethiopia)
- 2022 First Bible Translation cohort graduates at Mekane Yesus Seminary
- 2022 Dr. Mike Rodewald retires as Executive Director after 8 years and 41 total years of faithful service with Lutheran Bible Translators
- 2023 Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske installed as Executive Director | CEO
- 2023 The Living Water Project (New Testament set to music) is added to YouVersion Bible app
- 2023 Invited by The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea to facilitate discussions about becoming a translating church
- 2023 Rev. Kierien Ekpang Ayugha adds C'Lela New Testament to Museum of the Bible's illumiNations exhibit
- 2024 First use of Kerewe guesthouse, an income-generating project for local Bible translation and ministry (Tanzania)
- 2024 Scripture Dedication: Full Konso Bible (Ethiopia)
- 2024 Scripture Dedication: Shekgalagari New Testament (Botswana)
- 2024 Lutheran Bible Translators celebrates 60 years of ministry



# CAPACITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Raised:  
**\$26.4 mil**

**IMPACT AREA GOAL: \$26,290,500**

**STARTED 3 INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**  
TARGET: 4 PROJECTS

### **The Helge Center for Scripture Engagement** *Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | Mekane Yesus Seminary*

Dedicated in 2022, the Helges Center for Scripture Engagement houses Bible translation courses for Mekane Yesus Seminary students and offices for Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus leaders, with some floors rented to local businesses. The rental revenue funds the ministry, reducing costs for those pursuing Bible translation and theological careers.

*Similar revenue-generating projects are nearing completion or completed in Liberia (event rental space) and Tanzania (Kerewe guest house).*



Ribbon cutting for The Helge Center on June 19, 2022





## 88 TRANSLATION ADVISORS TRAINED OR IN PROGRESS

TARGET: 77 TRANSLATION ADVISORS

"I am a servant of Ethiopia to advance the Kingdom of God. It's an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus for those who are in darkness and bondage. Bible translation is a primary task, to engage people with Scripture."

**Hilina Tadesse**

*MYS seminary graduate in Ethiopia*



## 11 DOCTORAL STUDENTS SUPPORTED

TARGET: 6 DOCTORAL STUDENTS

"On behalf of my family, thank you very much to Lutheran Bible Translators and all her faithful partners for the support during my Ph.D. studies and in my work at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN), helping train future Bible translators. I look forward to my term as Acting Head of the Bible Translation Department at TCNN."

**Rev. Kierien Ekpang Ayugha**

*International Associate, Lutheran Bible Translators*



## 13 TRANSLATION CONSULTANTS & TRAINEES

TARGET: 30 CONSULTANTS

"Since learning about Bible translation, I've been eager to help others access the Bible as I always have. It's one of the most humbling things - to have so many people I've just met or have never met supporting me in this journey and this work."

**Amy Formella**

*Technical Advisor in Sierra Leone*

## LED AND PARTICIPATED IN 12+ REGIONAL PLANNING EXERCISES

TARGET: 6 PLANNING EXERCISES

Regional planning expands institutional knowledge, shares development expertise, and increases potential partnerships for Lutheran Bible Translators. Field leadership has been driving regional planning exercises in Tanzania, Botswana, and Liberia, as well as actively participating in Fiji, Southeast Asia, Cameroon, and Ethiopia.



Southern Africa Bible Translation Forum

# ENGAGEMENT

## SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

Raised:  
**\$4.2 mil**

IMPACT AREA GOAL: **\$4,182,000**



### 60 LITERACY PROGRAMS

TARGET: 48 LITERACY PROGRAMS

Literacy education is vital in Bible translation, particularly in communities with newly developed or underutilized written languages. Without the ability to read, printed translations remain inaccessible.

Komba language community members participate in a literacy class (Ghana)



## SUPPORT LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

### 10 LANGUAGES ASSESSED AND SUPPORTED

"Language development is where the rubber meets the road, making the shift from an oral only language into a written language with an orthography and conventional grammar."

**Rev. Carl Grulke**  
Program Director for Southern Africa



## LITURGY WORKSHOPS

Liturgy Workshops help multi-ethnic congregations bring God's Word, now translated into the language they understand best, into worship. Participants receive training and resources to strengthen liturgical practices, enhance community engagement, and support church leaders.



## MEDIA + VIDEO PRODUCTION

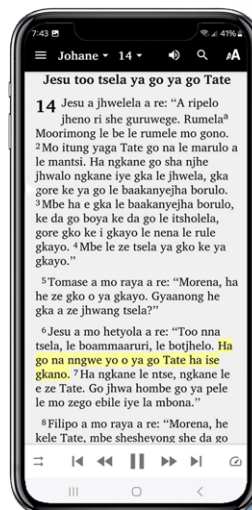
### AN ESTIMATED 15 MILLION PEOPLE IMPACTED

\*Mark and Marie, urban-based missionaries in Southeast Asia, have trained a team from the \*Khon language project in methods of Oral Bible Story Crafting. The Khon team is working with the \*Shi language team to develop their first Bible stories. 30 stories from the Gospel of Luke have been developed in the Shi language and discreetly distributed on audio players, YouTube videos, and phone apps.

*\*Pseudonyms used in sensitive locations*

## AUDIO BIBLE APP

Missionary to Botswana, **Kelsey Grulke**, worked alongside the Wayeyi translation team to record the Gospel of Matthew, so it can be released in print, audio, and on the smartphone app. For people in language communities with no written language, or for those with limited access to printed Bibles, these apps make God's Word accessible.

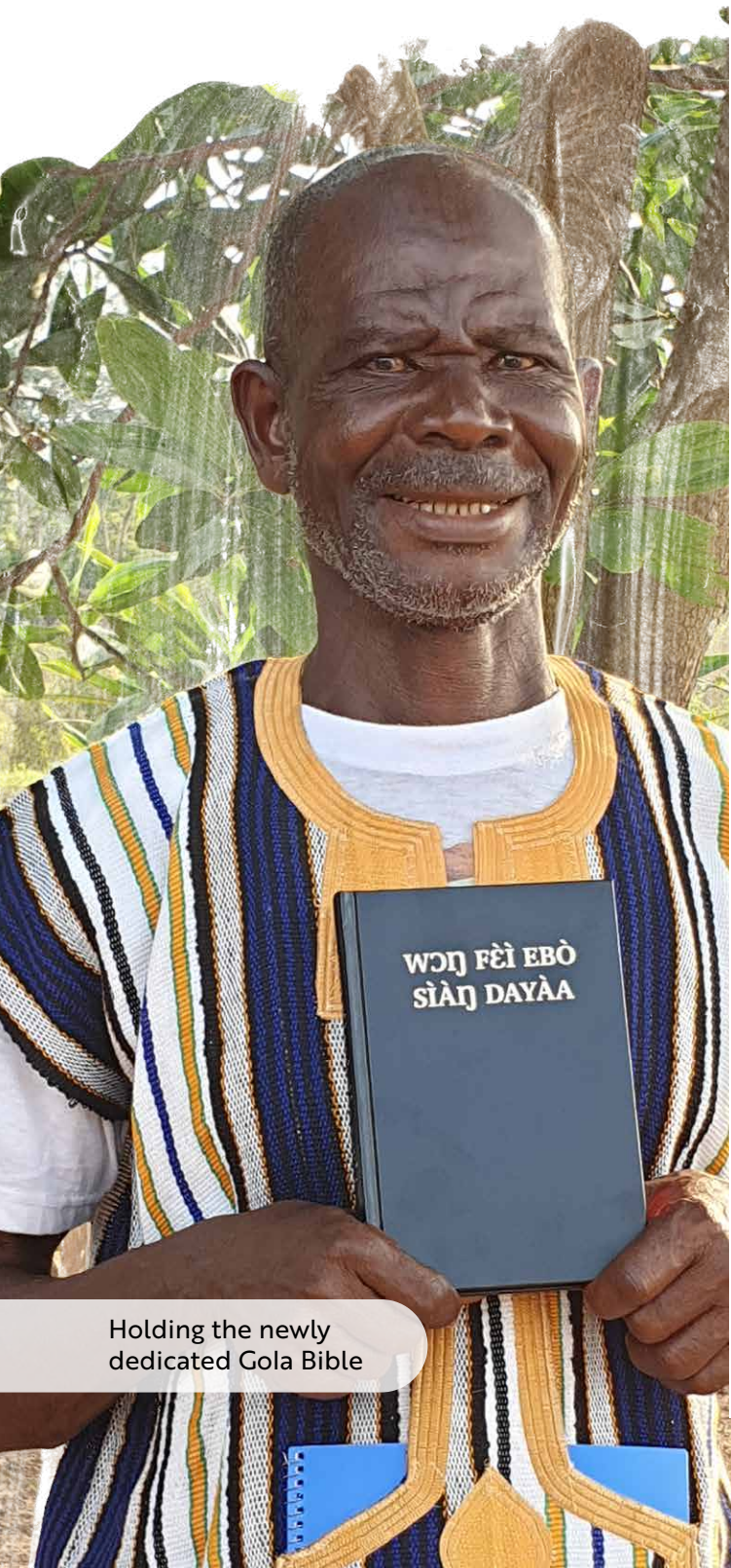


# TRANSLATION

## BIBLE TRANSLATION

IMPACT AREA GOAL: **\$13,424,800**

Raised:  
**\$13.5 mil**



Holding the newly dedicated Gola Bible

### 149 LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES SERVED

TARGET: 144 LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES

149 language communities have been served in the past five years, which exceeded our overarching goal of 144. Annual funding capacity enables us to engage at our current level - 137 language communities concurrently.

"Whenever we preach in vernacular Zayse, the elite, the educated, the literate, and the illiterate people can understand equally because it is their own mother tongue. Because of this, there is greater change in the community. Many members of the community responded to the Gospel message."

**Zayse Advisory Team Member**  
*Ethiopia*

"The New Testament is going to be of great value and great importance to the future generation. It will be a way of reference, teaching children in primary schools with their mother tongue. It will be a great joy to me, we will call everyone to come and rejoice when we launch the New Testament."

**Wayeyi Translator**  
*Botswana*



## 21 MISSIONARY TEAMS EQUIPPED

### TARGET: EQUIP 15 MISSIONARY TEAMS



"The preparation of missionaries is thorough and holistic, fostering a culture that feels like family, with a genuine desire to care for one another, building each other up rather than tearing down when expectations aren't met. I feel truly prepared to take on any problem when I'm in the field because I know who to go to for help."

**Rev. Tim and Deac. Erin Schulte**

*Missionaries in Cameroon*



"I have trust in my dad, Jonathan, which is vital as he instructs me in the specifics of missionary piloting. As a missionary pilot, I won't be able to follow a GPS straight down all the way to touchdown. I must have a better understanding of how weather and navigation work without all the helpful aids we have in the U.S. As a missionary pilot, I'll enable the people working on translation to get God's Word to the people as efficiently as possible."

**Nathan and Sarah Federwitz**

*Pre-field Missionaries (Pilot)*



"The practical lessons I learned from real missionaries, beautifully intertwined with structured classroom teachings. Lutheran Bible Translators ensures you're properly prepared for Bible translation and adjusts the road map to fit the community's unique landscape."

**Tiffany Smith**

*Missionary in Tanzania*

## SCRIPTURE DEDICATED

48 Scripture publications since 1964

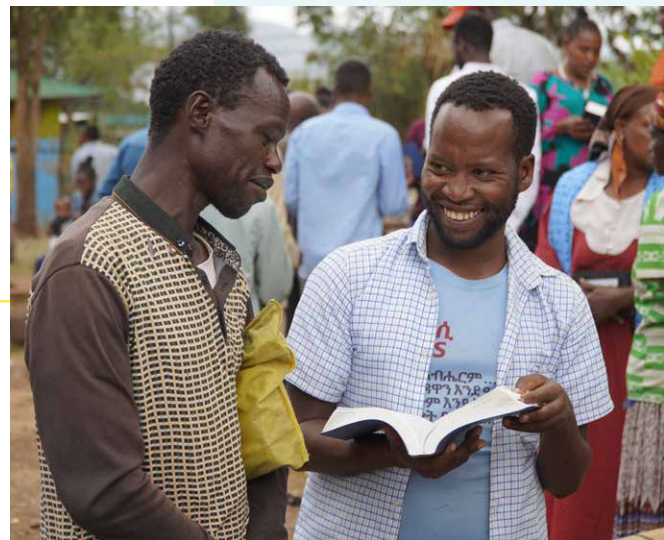
**2020:** Gola New Testament (Liberia)

**2022:** Full Hadiyya Bible (Ethiopia)

**2024:** Dhirayta New Testament (Ethiopia)

**2024:** Full Konso Bible (Ethiopia)

**2024:** Shekgalagari New Testament (Botswana)



# SUMMARY

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY: MTW GOALS

### CAPACITY BUILDING

\$19,173,600 - WITHOUT MTW

\$26,411,898 - AMOUNT RAISED

\$26,290,500 - MTW GOAL

### SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

\$2,770,000 - WITHOUT MTW

\$4,201,310 - AMOUNT RAISED

\$4,182,000 - MTW GOAL

### BIBLE TRANSLATION

\$5,256,500 - WITHOUT MTW

\$13,486,790 - AMOUNT RAISED

\$13,424,800 - MTW GOAL

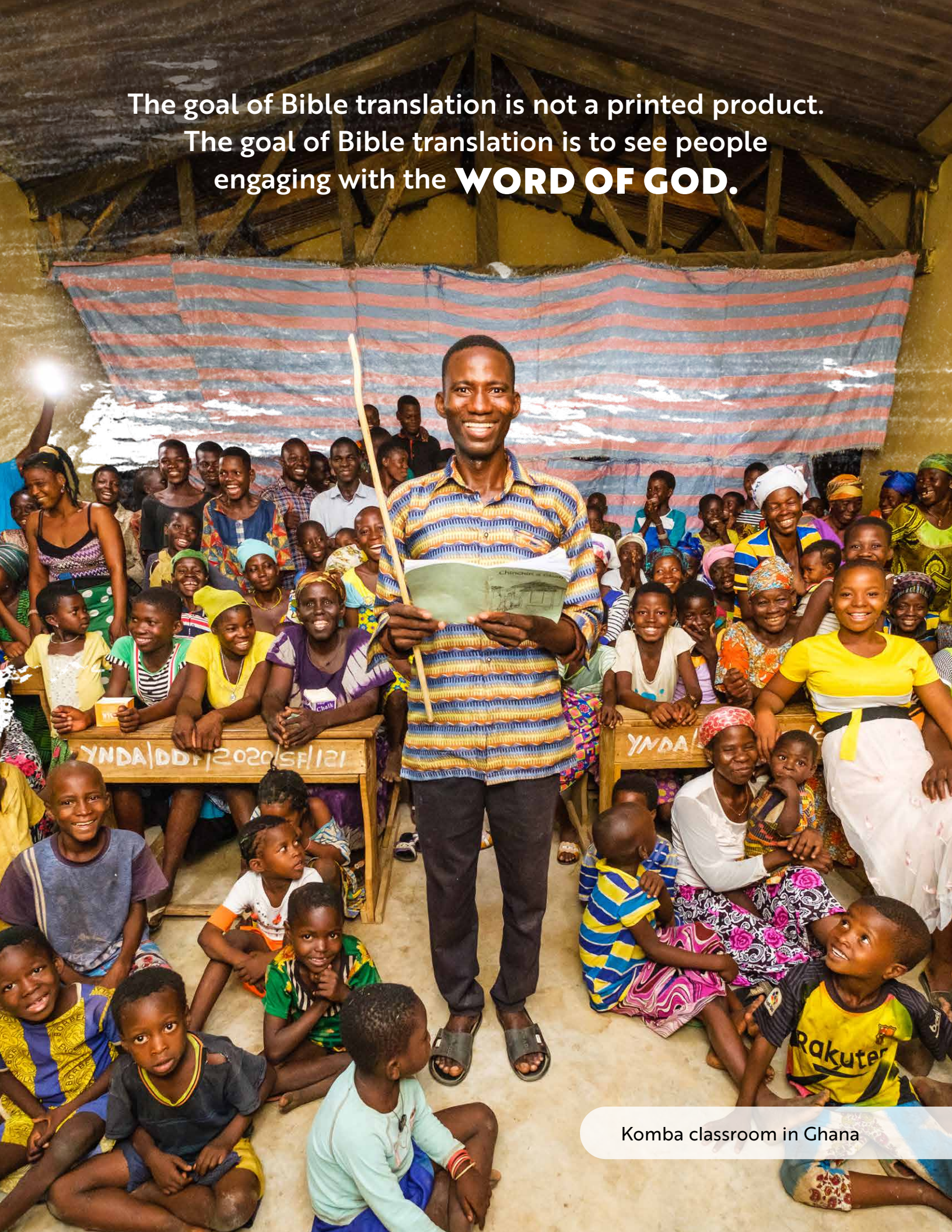


"As we look forward, we see more doors opening than we have the capacity to support. Churches who reach out to us want to become translating churches, actively involved in helping their members fully engage in God's Word. The shared aim of having some portion of Scripture in every language by 2033, guides our focus. Roughly 750 of the over 7,000 languages spoken today have a full Bible. This needs to change in this generation. Thank you for partnering in this mission."

**Paul Federwitz**  
Chief Programs Officer



The goal of Bible translation is not a printed product.  
The goal of Bible translation is to see people  
engaging with the **WORD OF GOD.**



Komba classroom in Ghana



LutheranBible  
Translators

SCRIPTURE IS  
MORE THAN  
WORDS

BRINGING HOPE, LIFE,  
& TRANSFORMATION



illumiNations



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