

FEDERWITZ UPDATE

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Lifetime Achievement Award

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” I Cor. 12:7 (NLT) Many people are involved in making God’s Word available to people worldwide in their heart language.

LBT held a “More than Words” gathering at Ascension Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC, on January 17th, 2025. At this meeting, we learned about some marvelous ways God blesses LBT’s work worldwide. Also at this meeting, I was awarded the Dale G. and Alvina E. Federwitz Lifetime Achievement Award. I was humbled and honored to receive the award. I couldn’t help but think of my late husband, Rev. Dale Federwitz, and many other people who have played a part in what the Lord has allowed us to accomplish together.

When I received the award, LBT allowed me to invite the missionaries who worked with me in Liberia who now live in the Charlotte area. This blessed me as they all contributed to what I accomplished in Liberia and they could celebrate with me all that continues to happen today. Also at this meeting were numerous LBT staff who use their unique gifts to get God’s Word to people who are without the Word of God in their language. Thankfully more language groups have God’s Word



My children, their spouses, and some of my grandchildren were with me when I received the lifetime achievement award.



Elvina Miller with her pastor and LBT staff

today than when I began working with LBT 54 years

ago, but there are still many that remain without one Word of God in their language.

I could not help but think about you, my faithful partners, and your support through the years. I remember the time that my appendix ruptured in the village, a 12-hour drive away from Monrovia where God provided an amazing doctor who performed the surgery and removed a bucket of infection that should have killed me. Two weeks later I got a letter from a partner in Iowa, who shared that she was working in her garden and God prompted her to kneel and pray for me. You can imagine my joy in sharing with her how God answered her prayers. You see God not only provided a good doctor, but just a short time before that happened, God provided our first LBT airplane and pilot to get me to the hospital in time. Prayers and financial support always kept me on the front lines doing what it takes to get God’s Word in the heart language of the special people of Liberia I worked with.

It would fill a book to tell you about all the special people (including many of you reading this letter) who have touched my life with their faithful prayer and financial support. I could not have worked in Africa without that support. My prayer and financial partners' role in this ministry is equally as important

as the role that I have played in getting God's Word to the Bibleless people in Liberia.

One example is Elvina Miller (see the photo of her on the previous page). I was a new, inexperienced missionary when Morrie and Lois Watkins, who began LBT, introduced me to Elvina Miller. Not only did we share the same name, but we also shared a passion for the unreached. While I had a husband who became a gifted Bible translator, she had a husband who was gifted with making money. Although her husband was not called to be a missionary, he had the willingness to use his gift to support missions. Elvina and I became close friends and naturally shared the needs and successes of what God was doing in my work and that of LBT. Soon they eagerly met the needs of many of my fellow missionaries. Elvina went to be with the Lord just this past July. I will always remember Elvina for her faithful support of missions.

I am presently a member of All Saints Lutheran Church, a very mission-minded church. A fellow member of All Saints that stands out to me is Gail Lovell. Despite her advancing age, twice a year she orchestrates a Spring and Fall Attic Sale to generate income for the seven missionary teams All Saints supports. Not only does this help support missionaries, but it also provides an opportunity to meet the needs of low-income people. She, along with so many others in my church, demonstrates to me how God uses people with various abilities to get His Word to those who still don't have it. And that reminds me of many of you, and your churches, that are doing the same.

So I may be the one who received a lifetime achievement award last month, but I couldn't have done it without all of you. Thank you!

This isn't the end. The work is not over. As long as the Lord gives me breath, I will continue to do what I can to put God's Word into the hands of all people. The work of Bible translation and Scripture use in Liberia is continued by Liberians who continue to need our prayers and financial support (See LIBTRALO below). God's love moved Isaiah to say, "Here am I. Send me!" Is. 6:8. It's what moves us to use our gifts to share the saving love of Jesus with those around us."



Gail Lovell



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