



INCREASING IMPACT

According to the US census in 2020, there are 1500 race and ethnicity groups living in our country. The US has become one of the largest mission fields in the world. More and more churches are finding themselves surrounded by people who have different cultural and religious backgrounds. (POBLO International. 2025, February. The Poblo Connection. Clinton Township, MI, USA.) They may speak a different language and have different practices and traditions. How do churches reach out to those in the community that come from these different traditions? At LBT we are asking ourselves questions about our role in helping people engage with the Word of God.

In my last prayer letter, I introduced you to my new boss Rev. Otronyi. My previous boss, **Rev. David Federwitz**, is now the **Director of Partnerships & Scripture Engagement** at LBT. His wife Valerie is our Nutrition and Wellness Advisor. He works to establish relationships with potential partner organizations and churches in the US and abroad to facilitate engagement with Scripture in the language that is most meaningful to their community members. LBT would like to grow in capacity to point people to resources so that they can minister and witness to those around them. **Our desire at LBT is to see people engaging in meaningful ways with the Word of God** whether far away or close to home by translating and developing such materials and helping people know where to find them and then use them.



One of the fundamental ways we do that, of course, is through translating the Bible and making it available in written form. You have been faithfully partnering with me so that several people groups in Liberia will soon have God's Word in a language they understand best.

The Maan translation team is entering their final year of checking and editing before publishing their whole Bible.

They were busy in February compiling all the files needed to fill out the extra front and back matter of their anticipated Bible and to correct anything that needed correction. A complete wordlist is compiled and various spellings are compared, sorted, and corrected. The software program used for the drafting and all our editing has various filters and checks to make sure formatting, spelling, and punctuation are correct. These are run numerous times as a translation is in progress but also run again as editing progresses. These checks find omissions such as missing formatting markers, quotation marks without a beginning or an end, or absent section heads. They can find a misspelled word or inconsistencies in word division (a huge problem when writing systems are relatively new), an editing note that wasn't resolved, a key Biblical term that varies in usage or form.

They have entered titles and information for the title and copyright pages. "Wálà Kii" simply means God's Book.

Wèkpo doò-do yíbo pià	#
Pe bíí lé è lè doò-do zǎǎ	#

Half Title Page Old Testament

WÈ-DO-WÈ ZII

Half Title Page New Testament

WÈ-DO-WÈ DEÈ

FRT FRMHB.PTX Maan First Bible, Final Draft, Liberia, February 2025
UTF-8

Title page

WÁLÀ KII

[LOGO]
The Bible Society in Liberia
MONROVIA

Verso Page

The Bible in Maan
published as
WÁLÀ KII

Published by
The Bible Society in Liberia
P.O. Box 10-0039
1000 MONROVIA 10, Liberia

The entire document needs to have formatting inserted to indicate where pictures should go and what picture is needed. Pictures can help provide information that is not in the text but would have been common knowledge for the original recipient.

A table of contents and introductory material will be included.

Table of Abbreviation

Kii séí lé e Wálà Kiia yía

Kii séí lé e Wálà Kii ziia yía

Kii	À tó kpuii	Lè ì lo kii doò-doa gè yi piéa lé e kía
Zénésè	Zé	#
Ésédò	Ésé	#
Livélékò	Livé	#
Nómà	Nó	#
Ditòwálómà	Dì	#
Zásùà	Zá	#

Maps with corresponding Maan names will add clarity as to the location of many Biblical places.



We will do all this with the Dan Bible soon. The teams and you have persevered so **that people will be able to engage with the Word of God in meaningful ways.** Let's pray that will be so.

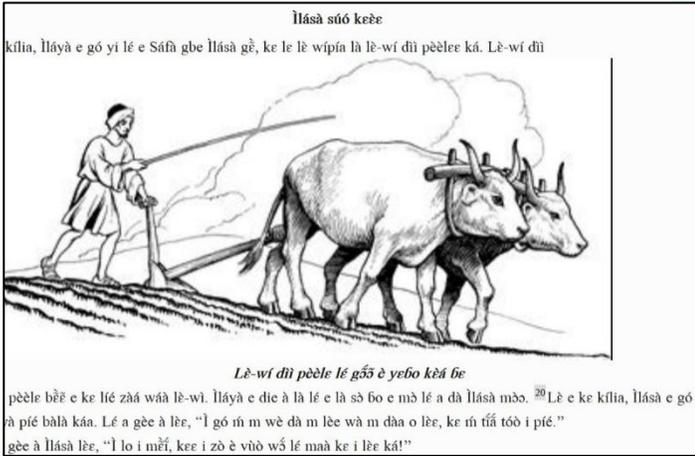
Becky

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise for the progress made in checking online in Themne, Dan, and Bandi this year.
- Pray for a restoration for income and resources lost due to a fire on Rev. Tee Latahn's property in February. Praise no one was injured.
- Pray for the Dan and Maan final editing processes so that their complete manuscript will go to the typesetters this year for printing and for the new typesetting channel that is being used.

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Liberians do not farm with a plow or oxen. Can you tell what story is being illustrated here?

A glossary can also provide more information about people and things that are unfamiliar.

GLO

Áfà Áfà le Gíli-mià zi kii nyiè bèizè ka. Wó Zizè a mò à gèe bo à ye lé e Áfà káa lébè. Áfà yí lé e pe-bèizè.

Ápòsòlò vò Mià vùdoo-wéle-pèèle lé Zizè e o sí ke ó ke là tòà-pié-mià ká éé ke ó à lé-wè gèea.

Ásélà le Átòlò tó dò ká. Le kèwélé le-zè ká, mia óò o zò-dò à mò ke é né no o lèe, éé é wó búmizè ke o lèe.

Átòlò le kèwélé le-zè ká, mia óò o zò-dò à mò ke é né no o lèe, éé é wó búmizè ke o lèe.

Bálè E ke bu síu dò ká lé à sòs e ke bíf Éézèlè sèlè yí mia yéizè wéià.

Bèlè lé bèlè-fò-pè wáá bàà mòò kpíli Zúu-mià wà kpíli o kea ke-piàà dò lé e kía. Óò belè-fò-pè káá kpíli e kía mòò belè bà.

Yé wàà kpíli e kía kee, lèkpèi doó lèé diè ke ó tíá Diè-mià-là Kpíli kèè.

Béó le kèwélé gò-zè-zè ká, mia óò o zò-dò à mò ke é né no o lèe, éé é wó búmizè ke o lèe.

Biósébà Biósébà le Dèfòò tó dò ká. Gèè yoo vò wà do-mi lé e Biósébà káa.

Dò-Wálà-lé-là-mi Mi lé Wálà è à sí àà wè-vo kàà à lé àà gèè mia lèe lé e dò-Wálà-lé-là-mi

TRANSLATION TIDBITS

When we are translating, we also pay attention to the formatting of different types of information. If you look at the book of Numbers 1-2, you will see various lists of names, tribes, leaders and population data. RSV just has the verses in prose and repeats the same wording throughout the verses numerous times, replacing with the appropriate names. NIV makes an indented list to help visualize the listing better. GNT makes a chart. Visually, the chart is very nice. However, how do you read a chart for listeners to grasp the information? Normally the teams I work with prefer the prose and repetition as it is easily heard and understood.

Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "PUT GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship.