



Carl and Kelsey GRULKE

MaryJane, Audrey, Judah, Gideon & Isaac

*We all hear these people speaking in our own languages
about the wonderful things God has done! - Acts 2:11*



May 2025 Update

NEW ROLE, NEW ADVENTURES, MORE TO LEARN



In his new role as regional director, Carl has visited Ethiopia twice in the past two months, building relationships with local partners and gaining a deeper understanding of LBT's work in Ethiopia. Here he is with the South Gumuz translation team, which is based in western Ethiopia and recently moved from their home area to the city of Asosa. They made the move because of security concerns in their region.

Please pray for the team as they adjust to life in a new city, and especially project coordinator Hambisa, who still lives in the area of unrest because of his other job.

ETHIOPIA IN PHOTOS



This is the Zayse translation team in their office. This program has finished their New Testament and is anxiously awaiting its printing.

Pray for the Zayse people as they wait for God's Word!



Carl speaking to a congregation of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the world's largest Lutheran church at 12 million members.

Praise God for a wonderful partner in Bible translation!



This is Getaneh and Samuel, who serve two language communities in the south that do not have translation projects.

Pray for the Ganta and Ocholo communities as they wait.

NEW SOFTWARE TRAINING

Carl attended training on new software LBT is using to simplify project management and reporting. He learned enough to bring the material back to Botswana to train the teams here. This is a big change, but it will free up translators' time from reporting so they can focus on translation work.

Pray for teams as they learn to use new computer programs.



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FROM THE TRANSLATION DESK

CULTURAL CONTEXT IN WAYEYI



A Batswana couple celebrating their wedding.

The Wayeyi team has been working through 1 Corinthians, and chapter 7 presented a significant cultural challenge. The passage about a man marrying due to strong passions seems simple, but for our team, it sparked a 45-minute discussion. In Botswana, marriage isn't just a personal decision—it involves the cultural tradition of *lobola* (bride-price), typically paid in cattle or cash to the bride's family. Without this, many won't consider a couple truly married, and the issue can follow them for life.

This creates a real dilemma for couples, especially those with limited financial means. The idea of simply "getting married" doesn't align with the cultural reality, and the passage can be confusing or misleading without proper explanation. One translator said, "This is what leads us to misinterpret things, especially our youths... they are left confused about what the Bible is teaching about marriage."

As a result, we are considering how best to translate this—perhaps with footnotes or alternate wording—and how to partner with local pastors or the Bible Society to provide cultural context for passages like this. These efforts take time and care, but we believe they are worth it.

Please continue praying for us. We want God's Word to be both available and truly understood in Botswana. We have come to see that this work isn't just about translation—it's about transformation, and we are committed to doing it well.

Pray for our team as we tackle these kinds of translation challenges, that God would grant us wisdom and discernment.

CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

SEVEN YEARS IN BOTSWANA!



We arrived in Maun on **April 19, 2018** for the first time as a family. What an adventure the last 7 years have been! The billboard with elephants in this photo was so right. We have been blessed beyond measure by our time in Botswana and are excited to see how God will continue to work through us here in Bible translation.

Praise God for the last seven years and pray that we would continue to faithfully serve the people of Botswana.

PRAY

We need your prayers for our family, programs and projects, the translators and more.

GIVE

We need the financial support of partners to make this ministry possible. Give online at lbt.org/grulke or mail a check to LBT. Regular gifts make a big difference!

TELL

We need people to raise awareness for our ministry. Share the mission of Bible translation with your church or friends!

WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

May 6 - Happy birthday Carl!

May 13 - New school term begins at Matshwane

May 23-31 - Songwriting seminar in Shekgalagari

Jun 5 - MaryJane arrives home from US

Jun 17 - Happy birthday Audrey!

We are hosting a songwriting seminar in Maun with a LBT colleague for people to write songs in Shekgalagari for use in worship. Pray for things to go well!

PLEDGED MONTHLY SUPPORT

79%

This tracker shows the amount that is pledged to our ministry on a monthly basis. It doesn't show every gift, but it helps us plan for the future.