

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



WORDS of LIFE

June 20
2025

The Prayer Letter of Glenn & Susan Fluegge

Glenn & Susan Fluegge are missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators and will soon move to Ethiopia. As LBT's seminary program coordinator, Glenn cultivates partnerships with seminaries and churches worldwide to train and equip local Bible translators and Scripture engagement specialists. Learn more: LBT.org/Fluegge

SIX MONTHS IN REVIEW

Quite a few of you have recently joined our "prayer team." If this is your first time reading these updates, welcome to the Fluegge Prayer Letter! Thank you for joining us! To learn more about us, our work with LBT, and why it matters, check out our January and February Prayer Letters at LBT.org/Fluegge. That will give you some helpful background.

If you've read these before, thank you for your continued prayers and support on our behalf!



It's been a full six months! Although I officially joined LBT in September 2024, our work began in earnest in January as we started visiting congregations to raise prayer and financial support.

Since then, we've visited 14 churches across southern California, where I've had the joy of preaching, presenting, and sharing about our work with LBT. I also led an online chapel for a Lutheran school in Washington, and Susan and I have had countless delightful conversations with so many of you. Through it all, God has gathered over 225 prayer partners, and many of you have supported us financially as well.

Thank you for being an encouragement to us through all of this!

A GLIMPSE AHEAD

This month's meetings with LBT gave us a clearer picture of what our first six months in Ethiopia will look like.

We plan to move in early January 2026—just in time to celebrate Ethiopian Christmas on January 7. Ethiopia follows the ancient Julian calendar, different from the Gregorian calendar followed by the West.



The Ethiopian traditional Christmas celebration is something to behold! And reason enough for us to get there early.

Arriving in early January will also give us a chance to settle in before classes begin at Mekane Yesus Seminary later in the month. I expect to teach two courses at the seminary, though the subjects are still to be determined—hopefully in areas I know well.

I'll also be teaching an online graduate course, *Theology and Practice of Missions*, for Concordia University via Zoom. With the 10–11 hour time difference, an evening class in California means a 4:00 AM start in Ethiopia, followed by teaching classes at the seminary during the day and any meetings with U.S. colleagues in the evening. Pray for strength and stamina!

Alongside teaching, I'll be taking Amharic classes several days a week, learning Ethiopian culture, and building relationships within the Mekane Yesus Church.

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STEPPING DOWN AS DIRECTOR

This past Friday, I concluded my 13-year tenure as Director of the Cross-cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University—a program dedicated to forming missionary pastors for the LCMS. It has been a privilege and honor to serve in this role at Concordia.

What a joy to lead, one last time, the final “Sending Service” for four of our graduating students. Part of the service included praying over each student and his family. Afterwards, much to my surprise, the students gathered around and prayed over Susan and me. It’s a moment I will treasure for many years to come.

Though I’ve stepped down from the directorship, I continue serving at Concordia as a professor of theology and missions.



My last “Sending Service” for the Cross-cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University. What a privilege and honor to direct this program over the last thirteen years!

SABBATICAL PROJECT



Before moving to Ethiopia in January, I’ll be completing a research sabbatical granted in my role as a theology professor at Concordia University. The focus is on long-distance walking pilgrimages and Christian spirituality. Beginning June 23, I’ll attempt to hike the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Canada to Mexico, experiencing it as a spiritual pilgrimage—practicing spiritual disciplines, interviewing fellow hikers, and blogging along the way. Once off the trail, we’ll begin preparations for the move to Ethiopia in January 2026.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Please consider partnering with us to get God’s Word into the many languages in Ethiopia and throughout the world. Use this QR code to partner with us in the following ways:



- 1) **PRAY REGULARLY** – Please pray for us regularly (see below). Share this prayer letter with others and encourage them to sign up for our prayer letter.
- 2) **GIVE A GIFT** – Please consider giving a gift to support our ministry with LBT. You can also set it up to support us on a regular basis. *Recurring gifts are especially helpful as we prepare to head overseas.*
 - To give online: visit 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
- 3) **LEARN MORE** – Find out more about Lutheran Bible Translators (www.LBT.org). Host a Bible Translation Sunday (if you’re interested, let’s talk!).

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that God will raise up many partners to pray for and support our ministry with LBT.
- Pray for the Mekane Yesus Seminary, where we’ll be working, and especially for the students in the Bible translation track.
- 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 for our family as we prepare to live on opposite sides of the world from each other. And pray for my sabbatical project and my PCT pilgrimage.

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