

SIERRA LEONE TRIP

In July, I (Jim) will be travelling to Sierra Leone to work with two translation teams. I will continue working with the Mende on their translation of the book of Proverbs. I will also begin working with the Kono translation team on some of the prophetic books like Jonah, Daniel, Haggai, and Malachi.

I am excited to work with the Kono language again since it was the first language that I worked with to help translate the Bible. I helped translate the New Testament, which was finished in 2006. The translation team is now working on the Old Testament. All of the translators now on the team are new from the time when I worked with the project before.



Jim working with the Kono team in 2006. From left, Larry Johnson, Aiah Kaingbanjah, Komba Ngekia, and Jim.

The Kono people live in the eastern hill country of Sierra Leone. Their population is about 295,000-350,000. It is estimated that less than 25% of the people are Christian, with most of the people still following traditional beliefs.

STAGES OF TRANSLATION

Both the Mende and Kono teams have reached the consultant check stage in their translation projects. You might wonder what they have done to reach this point, and what comes after for them.



Typically, a translation of a book of the Bible passes through about 5 stages on its way to getting into a user's hands. **First**, there is the drafting stage. A translator will study the text to translate and then try to accurately, clearly, and naturally express the meaning in their own language. Translation teams usually have 3-5 translators on them, so each one will be drafting a different book.

Second, there is the team check stage. Each translator shares what they have done with the other translators on the team. They offer feedback and corrections to the first draft.

Third, there is the community check stage. In this stage, the translation team shares what they done with members of the churches and community and receives feedback from them.

Fourth, there is the consultant check stage. A Bible translation consultant looks over the translation with the team.

Finally, the team works to prepare the translation for publishing.

Often, teams will have different books at different stages as they work through the process. However, both the Mende and Kono teams have most of their books at the consultant check stage. This is because they did not have as much help from a consultant as they needed earlier in the process.

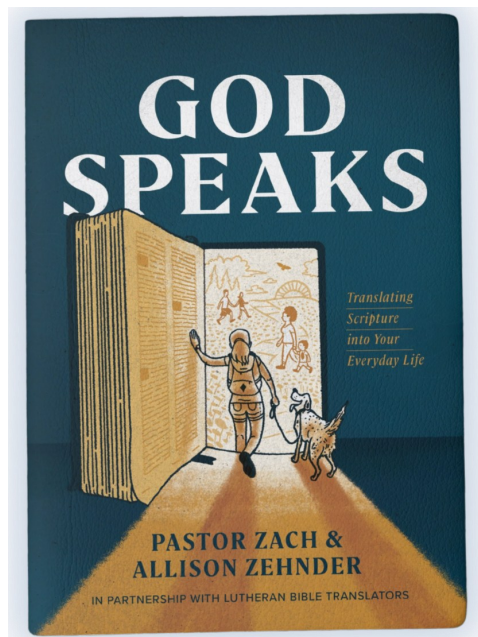
PARTNERSHIP

Here is our speaking schedule for the next few months. Please contact us if you would like to have us come to your church or group:

June 22-24 MI District Conv, Ann Arbor, MI
Sept 13-15 Holy Trinity, Binghamton, NY

Oct 12

Zion, Tawas City, MI



GOD SPEAKS

Lutheran Bible Translators has partnered with Rev. Zach and Allison Zehnder to produce *God Speaks*, a 30-day devotional journey that will transform how you read the Bible. It is perfect for individual study, small groups, or church-wide campaigns. It features daily guided Scripture readings, practical application steps, and reflection questions. For more information, go to <https://lbt.org/god-speaks-translating-scripture-into-your-everyday-life/>

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for safe travels as we travel to the Concordia Missions Institute in Concordia, MO in early July. Pray that it will be a time of growth for all those who will be in attendance.
- Pray for Jim's trip to Sierra Leone July 15-August 4. Pray for safe travels and good health.
- Pray for Jim and the Kono team to develop a good relationship during his time there.
- Pray for Jim and the Kono and Mende translation teams as they check over their translations in July. Pray that God will give wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit as they work together to make the translated portions clear, accurate, and natural.

BT SUNDAY

"Bible Translation Sunday invites congregations to take an inside look at amazing ministry work that is foundational to the Christian church's ministry around the world. The materials are inspiring, beautifully designed, and easy to implement. If you're looking for an easy way to expand your global perspective, this is it!" Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske.

Bible Translation Sunday gives your church an opportunity to engage with a global ministry. Prepared resources and media enable you to host an event that energizes and unites your church, as well as raises awareness of Bible translation ministry.

You can host Bible Translation Sunday any time of year to fit your church's schedule.

Here's How Your Church Can help

Host a Bible Translation Sunday at your church and engage your community in a call to action to support Lutheran Bible Translators. Every church has the option to inspire and invite individuals and families to generously support one of three impact areas: capacity building, Scripture engagement, and advancing Bible translation.

<https://lbt.org/bible-translation-sundays/>

- Praise God for our three new grandchildren expected this year. Pray for healthy development and deliveries.

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Give at [LBT.org/Kaiser](https://lbt.org/Kaiser)

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