

Living Letters

2 Corinthians 3

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Dear Family and Friends,

It has been a long time since we have written to you. We want to update you on topics mentioned in our last letter and new events on the horizon.

We attended a transition program in MI in January. We had three full weeks with two sessions every weekday morning on different topics followed by group counseling and then couple counseling in the afternoon. They had a wonderful kids program which allowed our children to rest and play with other kids while we took time to attend sessions, process what we were hearing, and rest. We discovered new ideas, and those gold nuggets keep resurfacing.

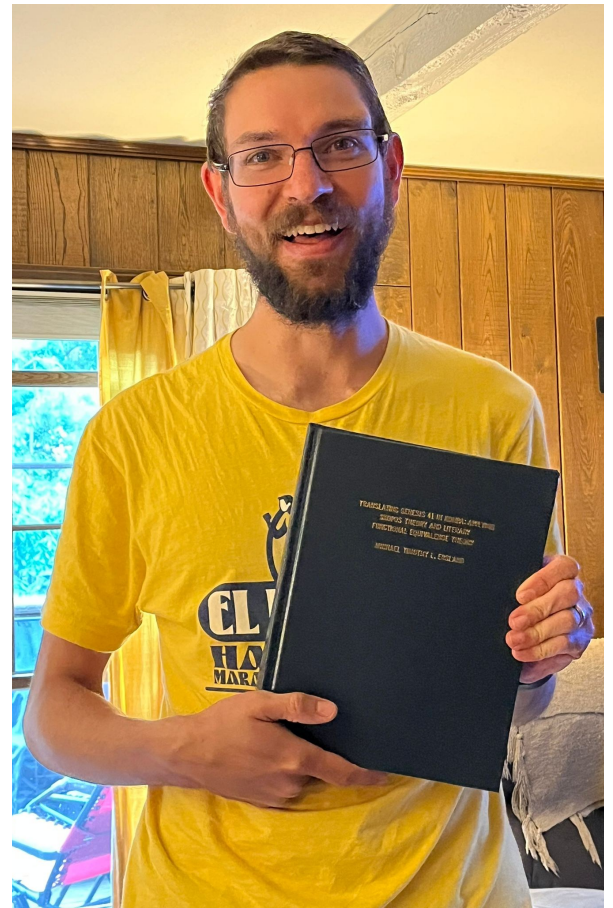
We were able to rest during our sabbatical. We were able to explore family rhythms and routines. Some ideas proved to be life giving and others were flops. Thankfully, we had space to experiment and learn. That is something our sabbatical coach encouraged us to do. We took time building resiliency and adding new tools to our family's tool box. We visited with all of our parents, siblings, nieces, and nephews. Our children continued to meet family in May and June.

I finally finished all the checks for my thesis in February, and it was published online in March. This link: (www.diu.edu/documents/theses/Ersland_Michael-thesis.pdf) will lead you to the document. I graduated in May with a Master's in Applied Linguistics. Woohoo!

As I write this letter, we are finished with our sabbatical and back to full time work with Lutheran Bible Translators. We just attended a mission conference where we reconnected with friends and colleagues, shared ideas, and participated in meetings. I presented on my MA research and facilitated a separate discussion session. We also gave a presentation about our life in Ghana. It was a full week!

A lot is happening in our lives in the coming months. By the time you receive this letter, we will have completed a trip overseas to a potential placement. Please pray that God will give our family and mission leaders discernment and guidance for where we will live.

We will also have started visiting churches, schools, groups, and individuals as we share about the ministry in Ghana with the Komba Bible. We invite you to reach out to us if you, your school, or your church would like us to come visit. We hope to be in Oklahoma for three weeks in August. Then, we hope to be in Kansas, Nebraska, and



It was a joy receiving my printed thesis on the same day as my graduation (above).

We prioritized building routines for our entire family during sabbatical. This gave us a chance to learn more about our children and watch them grow (below).





We are grateful that we had time in Michigan in January to rest, debrief, and process aspects of our time in Ghana and to gain tools that can help us as cross-cultural workers (left). We went on many walks which gave us a chance to talk, enjoy God's creation, and to exercise (right).

Colorado in September. We are hoping to visit other states. We are working on filling in dates for this time through December.

A common question we are asked is, "Where are you based right now?" Our response, "Out of the car a kind couple is letting us borrow." Please pray for safe travels for our family and that we can use our experiences to provide stability for our children.

Finally, there are several major events coming up for us this fall. The first event is an academic conference where people from different mission organizations present and explore topics related to Bible translation. I am thankful that I get to present.

The second major event coming up for us this fall is the anticipated dedication of the Kompa Bible in Ghana. The Bibles have been printed, and they are being shipped to Ghana. Praise God for this wonderful work and stage in which we find ourselves! May God provide protection and speed for the books as they head to Ghana. May God bless the efforts of those who are planning the dedication. There is not a set date, but we pray that it may occur in November.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this ministry. We are grateful for you. We hope that you are well.

Confident in Christ,
Naomi and Michael Ersland

Prayer Requests

- Praise for the gift of a sabbatical, and pray that God will help us continue to draw from what we learned.
- Praise for a chance to connect with friends and colleagues at a conference.
- Pray for God to guide our family in our next steps as we prepare for a new placement.
- Pray that we will make good connections with churches, schools, groups, and you as we are in the US.
- How may we pray for you? Please let us know so that we may be praying for you!

Contributions:
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Checks written to Lutheran Bible Translators with *Ersland Ministry* on the memo line. You can also give online at LBT.org

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