



Lutheran Bible
Translators

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Looking Back, Looking Forward

The first feeling of home found me by surprise during the layover in Brussels, Belgium. As people began to line up to enter the plane, I looked around and listened to the beautiful cacophony of languages around me. Everyone was chatting with their families and with one another. There were businessmen, college students, and diaspora traveling home with their young children to see their family after decades away. I was included in conversations as people asked me about traveling to Freetown. Had I been there before? Would I be well taken care of during my visit? Would I be trying their favorite food?

I met speakers of the same languages I would be supporting. We talked about the barriers that have stood in the way of people learning to read and write in their mother tongue. We spoke about the war, the recovery, the Ebola outbreak and eventual end, and, most importantly, the resilience of the people. I learned about the history I had read about but hearing it in their own words and through their eyes offered me a wider perspective.

That feeling of home found me in many other moments during my weeks in Freetown. Although it is an English-speaking country, there are many cultural similarities that echoed back to my life in Cameroon. Water filters. Mosquito nets. Humidity and more humidity. Friendliness. Bustling markets. Bright fabrics. Mangoes.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:9

The trip was filled with learning and listening in meetings, linguistic research, literacy class observations, and creative thinking about how to help eight language groups develop learning materials - books about reading, math, and life skills. In the coming prayer letters, I am excited to share with you about my time in Sierra Leone and the ways I will be supporting these eight language groups from a distance during the next year.



This beautiful rainbow appeared outside the window of the guesthouse where I stayed in Freetown.



- ☐ CAPACITY
 - ☐ ENGAGEMENT
 - ☐ TRANSLATION
 - PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED COUNTRIES
 - CURRENTLY ENGAGED COUNTRIES
- *Pseudonym used because of a sensitive situation

1 BOTSWANA

- ☐ Botswana Language Exploration
- ☐ KHWEDAM Bible Translation
- ☐ SHEKALAGARI Bible Translation
- ☐ WAYEYI New Testament Translation

2 CAMEROON

- ☐ Department of Bible Translation and Literacy DTA EELC
- ☐ SUBULA* Bible Translation and Literacy

3 ETHIOPIA

- ☐ Mekane Yesus Seminary Bible Translation Training
- ☐ DHIRAYTA Old Testament Translation
- ☐ EECMY Bible Translation and Language Development
- ☐ SOUTH GUMUZ Old Testament Translation
- ☐ Southwest Ethiopia Bible Translation Coordination Office
- ☐ ZAYSE Old Testament Translation

4 GHANA

- ☐ KOMBA Old Testament Translation

5 LIBERIA

- ☐ Liberia Translation and Literacy Organization (LIBTRALO)
- ☐ GREBO Language Development
- ☐ BANDI Old Testament Translation
- ☐ DAN Old Testament Translation
- ☐ MAAN Bible Translation

6 NIGERIA

- ☐ BOKYI Literacy and Scripture Engagement
- ☐ GOKANA Bible Translation
- ☐ KUKLE Language Development and Bible Translation
- ☐ OBE Language Development and Bible Translation
- ☐ YALA Language Development and Bible Translation

7 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- ☐ MOROBE Area Bible Translation
- ☐ SUENA Old Testament Translation
- ☐ YEKORA New Testament Translation
- ☐ ZIA Old Testament Translation

8 SIERRA LEONE

- ☐ TISLL Administration
- ☐ KISSI Literacy and Scripture Engagement
- ☐ KONO Literacy and Scripture Engagement
- ☐ KRIO Literacy and Scripture Engagement
- ☐ KURANKO Literacy and Scripture Engagement
- ☐ LIMBA Literacy and Scripture Engagement
- ☐ LOKO Literacy and Scripture Engagement
- ☐ MENDE Literacy and Scripture Engagement
- ☐ THEMNE Literacy and Scripture Engagement
- ☐ MENDE Full Bible Translation
- ☐ THEMNE Full Bible Translation

9 SOUTHEAST ASIA

- ☐ NOLA* Expansion

10 TANZANIA

- ☐ DATOGA TATURU Bible Translation
- ☐ KARA Bible Translation
- ☐ KEREWI New Testament Translation
- ☐ SUMBWA Bible Translation

11 TOGO

- ☐ FAKKI* Literacy

12 US & MIDDLE EAST

- ☐ ASSYRIAN Full Bible Translation
- ☐ SABELTO* Full Bible Translation

WORLDWIDE

- ☐ International Development Fund
- ☐ Ministry Technology Fund
- ☐ Ministry Vehicle Fund
- ☐ New Mission Exploration Fund
- ☐ New Missionary Training Fund
- ☐ Scholarship Fund
- ☐ Bible Printing and Distribution

Language Highlight: The Kissi Language

The Kissi language is spoken in Sierra Leone as well as the neighboring country of Guinea. It is tonal—which means the vowels have markings on them. A certain high or low tone on a vowel can change the whole meaning of an otherwise identically written word. According to the Ethnologue, Kissi has over 10,000 speakers.

The following is an excerpt from Ch. 1 of the Kissi learning materials that we are working on:

Fällā kùè ò pāngá ò ndá ló chiéè.
Fallah went to the farm in their village.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise the Lord for safe travel and easy connections to and from Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- Praise the Lord for good health for the entire trip!
- Praise the Lord for the opportunity to work with TISLL and use my skills to assist them.
- Praise the Lord for giving me energy and focus to be able to accomplish so much with TISLL during the trip.
- Pray for good internet connections as I continue to work with the literacy teams on the learning materials.
- Pray for the literacy teams as they develop chapter 1 or 25 chapters for the learning materials.
- Pray for the new school year here in Montana that begins August 18th.

CONTACT

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Monthly Pledged Financial Support



GIVE

<https://lbt.org/project/serena-derricks/>