



they will See and Understand

ISAIAH 52:15; ROMANS 15:21

SUMMER 2025

Hi, Team! Greetings to all of you, wonderful saints in Christ Jesus. Since I wrote to you in March, I went to Nigeria for a consultant training, Massachusetts for a residency for my Doctor of Ministry study program, and Missouri for a conference where I led two sessions on translation work. We also took some vacation time for a wedding and family reunion! It's been a whirlwind, but so fulfilling and joyful. Thank you for your support and prayers.

I'm currently getting ready for a three-week trip to Tanzania to work with the Kerewe translation program and help with an Oral Bible Storying Workshop with five Tanzanian languages. Praise God!



Ruthie Wagner, Translation Development Specialist

<https://youtu.be/YsggsKvli6U>

Feel free to share this beautiful video about my work with you church or small group. More about my ministry: lbt.org/wagner

EXPLOSION OF SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

I began working with the Kerewe* Bible Translation Program remotely in Summer 2022 via WhatsApp and YouTube, followed by several trips in 2023 and 2024. We've used discussion-based learning to rethink translation in a way that fits the Tanzanian context—especially the island-based Kerewe community. The team has developed a rhythm of work, embracing diverse skills, contributions, and challenges—leading to greater learning and mutual support. It's been a joy

Kikerewe is spoken on Ukerewe Island on Lake Victoria on the northwestern border of Tanzania. There are around 400,000 speakers of the language. Books completed: Genesis, Leviticus, Ruth, Jonah, Gospels, Acts, Jude. In Progress: Exodus. Up Next: Numbers.

Are you new to Wagner Updates? Please introduce yourself and contact us if you have any questions about our ministry.

RECURRING SUPPORT

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

100%

WHO WE ARE



The Wagner Family first served in Sierra Leone alongside the Themne people in Translation & Scripture Use. Now Ruthie is a Translation Development Specialist and a Consultant-in-Training, based in Minnesota and travels several times a year doing training.

Making God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. (LBT's Mission)

TIMELINE

- MAR- Consultant training in Nigeria Mar 14–April 1; Ruthie continues studies for DMin and works remotely; Elijah confirmed May 4th
- MAY
- JUNE DMin residency in MA June 16-27; Elijah's 13th birthday on the 21st
- JULY Concordia Mission Institute in MO July 6-12; Zay's 11th birthday on the 9th
- AUG Ruthie's 39th birthday on the 6th; trip to Tanzania Aug 12-31 for translation and Oral Bible Storying workshop
- SEPT Kids start school; Ruthie continues studies for DMin and works remotely
- OCT Lizzie's 8th birthday on the 9th; Bible Translation Conference in Thailand

TAKE ACTION

- JOIN** our "Wagner Updates" group facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates
- GIVE** to "Wagner Ministry" online or by mailing a check. lbt.org/wagner
- PRaise** for progress on the Kerewe Bible Translation Program!
- PRAY** for Bible translation in Tanzania, especially for the Kerewe Program. Pray for Ruthie's work, travels, and studies. Pray for Josh and the kids.

CONTACT/SUPPORT

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Distribution of Kerewe Scripture

to watch them grow in confidence and pride. A significant development is the broader Kerewe community's increased involvement. Rather than the translation team telling them to wait for completed Scripture, the team is responding to the community's needs and interests.

There's been an explosion in Scripture distribution and conversations about how to use it, improve it, and prioritize what to translate next!

Here's a glimpse into some recent activities—all taking place alongside ongoing translation. The team recently completed Ruth and Genesis and is working to finish Exodus.

MARCH 22 • Distributed 50 copies of *Leviticus* at an ordination.

APRIL 12 • Distributed 50 copies of *Matthew* and a booklet that consists of *Jonah*, *Luke*, and *Acts* at an election of church leaders.

APRIL 20 • Distributed 200 copies of *Jude* at an Easter crusade.

MAY 30 • Distributed 100 copies of *Exodus 1-15* and 50 copies of *Jude* at the community review of *Ruth*, *Exodus 15-25*, and *Genesis 45-50*.

JUNE 9 • Shared a video of the creation story and *Genesis* audio in Kerewe via WhatsApp. "We have shared the creation video in Kerewe WhatsApp groups and the [Scripture] app, and honestly, the response has been overwhelming." - Kerewe team member

JULY 6 • Distributed 40 copies of *Jude* and 150 copies of *Ruth* at the launch of an album of ten songs.

AUGUST 11 • Distributed 200 copies of *Jude* at a crusade.

WHAT'S NEXT?

I'm headed to Tanzania August 12–31 to check in with the Kerewe Translation Program briefly. After that, I'll participate in a two-week Oral Bible Storying workshop for five languages as a Consultant-in-Training. Elijah and Zay get to travel with me on this trip!

When I return to Minnesota, we'll get the kids settled into school, and I'll jump back into my DMin coursework and ongoing work in translation development. I'm also preparing for a session at the Bible Translation Conference this October in Chiang Mai, Thailand—my abstract was accepted! Please pray for wisdom and clarity as I write the paper and presentation: "Results of Local Ownership:

Using the Agile Mindset for Translation Quality & Scripture Engagement."

I also need to submit my proposed schedule and budget for 2026 to LBT. Please pray for discernment in that process. It's a humbling thing to be so well-supported by you all, allowing me to focus on the work. One supporter recently told me not to worry about writing thank-you cards. While I may never "catch up," I do continue bit by bit because I truly am overflowing with gratitude.

You bless me and our overseas partners by helping make God's Word available to those who don't yet have it. I hope you feel appreciated and know this is a worthy investment. If you are not supporting my ministry financially and would like to begin, go to lbt.org/wagner or call/text me at 612-433-1199. Just a "hi" is fine too at this number.

FAMILY UPDATE



Elijah, 13, 8th - is an energetic music maker, making his opera debut this summer and blowing us all away.



Isaiah 'Zay', 11, 6th - is a kind and compassionate brainiac and organist, excited to start middle school.



Josiah 'JoJo', 9.5, 4th - is a creative, problem-solving super helper, skilled at remembering song lyrics.



Elizabeth 'Lizzie', 7.5, 2nd - is a graceful dancer and beautiful artist, gifting everyone with love and joy.

Thank you so much for your care and support for our family and the work of Bible Translation!

♥ *Ruthie & Josh Wagner*
Elijah, Zay, JoJo, & Lizzie
Serving in Bible Translation