

One Mission, Many Hands

Recently I spent time in Dodoma, Tanzania, working alongside the Kerewe team to analyze and explore the discourse grammar of their language - specifically in narratives. Together we uncovered how Kerewe aligns with key grammatical features found in biblical Hebrew and Greek. A lot of work! A lot of learning! Truly exciting!

This 14-day workshop held in partnership with SIL, was a deep dive into linguistic structure and translation principals. It was more than just academic. It was a time of deep learning, cultural exchange, and friendship-building with many Tanzanian translators and consultants.



Who Said That?

The discourse workshop was eye-opening for both the translators and me. We explored how Kerewe discourse differs from English, Greek, and Hebrew – and there are many. One of the biggest challenges is understanding dialogue in Kerewe narratives.

In languages like English, Greek, and Hebrew, speakers are usually identified clearly: “Jesus said...” followed by “John answered...” But in Kerewe, speakers are rarely named. Instead, the dialogue often reads: “He said...” and “He answered...” – without specifying who is speaking. For outsiders, this can be incredibly confusing.

However, Kerewe does offer subtle clues to help track the conversation, and I’m learning to recognize them. It’s a complex process, but each insight brings us closer to translations that truly reflect the natural flow of the



This deeper understanding of Kerewe discourse is vital. It ensures that Scripture will not only be translated accurately but will also speak naturally and powerfully to the hearts of local speakers, **allowing God’s Word to be heard in the language of their heart.**

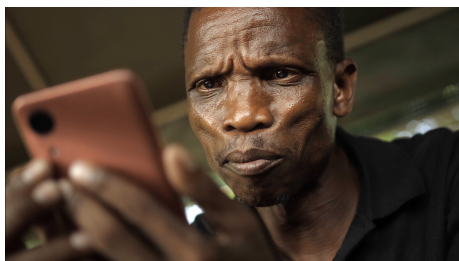
Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!

The Khwedam Panoramic Bible is here—printed and ready for distribution! Anticipation is building – January 2026, the Khwe community in Botswana will gather for a historic celebration to dedicate God's Word in their heart language.

This achievement is the result of decades of effort and perseverance. Rev. Dr. Tim Beckendorf and his team have worked faithfully since 2005, with Michael serving as their consultant for many years. We give thanks for their dedication and pray that Michael and Jo Ann can join the celebration.

From the very beginning, Splash has been a key partner in the Khwedam language development and Bible translation project—a believer and advocate since birth. His father, Morongo Ntemana, raised him in the Christian faith and instilled a passion for restoring dignity to their minority language. Morongo walked alongside Splash and the translation team until his passing in 2022, encouraging them through every challenge.

Splash is carrying forward his father's legacy by planning the Khwedam Panoramic Bible dedication.



Watch: An Introduction to Bible Ministry with Lutheran Bible Translators

Splash shares his hope for God's Word in his Khwe community who is preparing to celebrate a milestone decade in the making.

See the video:

- Scan the QR code



- Go to YouTube and find it on the 'Lutheran Bible Translators' channel



Splash, key leader for the Khwedam Panoramic Bible translation project, and Rev. Dr. Tim Beckendorf

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Pray** for Rev. Malelo, of the Kerewe team, who had to leave the workshop for some time after the passing of his older brother. He returned to complete the training. Pray for his family during this time of loss.
- **Pray** for the Khwe committee and Splash as they organize the dedication. Pray the celebration brings hope and transformation to the community for generations to come.
- **Give thanks** to God, our Provider, for the generous prayer and financial supporters who walk alongside us in this ministry.
- **Finances:** Would you prayerfully consider a special gift to help cover Jo Ann's travel expenses to Botswana, so she can celebrate this historic moment with the Khwe community?

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