



Lutheran Bible
Translators

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Books, books and more books

When I entered the office of The Institute of Sierra Leonan Languages (TISLL) it felt like my own little slice of heaven. The walls of the office are lined with linguistic materials from the missionaries that studied the languages for many years and wrote down their findings. The director, Pa Lamin, showed me the room they had set aside for my office. It was filled with books for eight different languages! **Each type of book was stacked neatly and organized by language group, patiently waiting for the next round of literacy classes or Bible studies to be used.**

I perused the original copies of the literacy materials from the 1970s that I am working to revise. A few copies of each book remain as they are used by the teachers for the ongoing literacy classes that serve both adults and children each year. **Pa Lamin went through many of the books with me as he explained the strengths and the ways the teachers are asking for improvements.** I spent my first few days pouring over the materials to better understand each of their methodology and systems.

I used my findings to ask more focused questions to the literacy coordinators and teachers about their classes and their students' needs. What has gone well with the literacy programs already in place? What can be improved? What does teacher training look like? Aside from their mother tongue, what languages do the learners speak? When and where is their language spoken versus other languages? What is traditional school like and what is the rate of illiteracy in the communities?

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach and it will be given him."

James 1:5

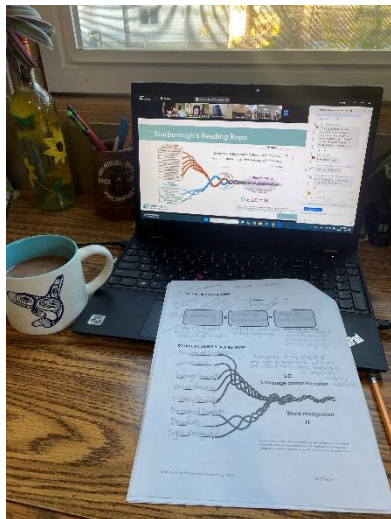
All these questions and many more form a larger vision for what each language group desires from their literacy programs. Please pray for the literacy coordinators as we begin Chapter 2 of the learning materials.

Please pray for clarity as I continue to ask questions to establish the scope and sequence of the goals for the literacy programs. **Pray that God would continue to bless these literacy classes that help people read God's Word in their own language!**



Here is my desk and office at the TISLL office, surrounded by books! The room also houses the printer they use when printing materials.

I've been enjoying online classes about the science of reading! It's a great way to refresh my skills and apply what I know about English to the languages in Sierra Leone.



Language Highlight: The Kono (Kɔnɔ) Language

The Kono language is spoken by about 320,000 individuals in the eastern part of Sierra Leone.

Their first literacy books were published in 1992 through the TISLL office. The Kono people have been holding literacy classes in their communities ever since! They dedicated the New Testament in 2008 and the Old Testament translation began in 2011. At least 18 books of the Old Testament have been translated so far! Please pray the translation would continue without delay so the Kono people can have the entire Bible in their language.

Please pray for their literacy coordinator, Aiah Joe Momoh, as he works to help his community learn to read and write in their language.



Trinity Mission Festival 2025

I had a great time putting together a video for the Trinity Mission Festival in Walton, Nebraska! If your LWML or Bible Study is interested in hearing more about my work in literacy, please let me know.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise the Lord for the completion of Chapter 1 for the learning materials.
- Praise the Lord for the opportunity to work the literacy coordinators! They are so passionate about their work and their love for the Lord.
- Praise the Lord for internet that is working well and ideas to overcome technology setbacks.

CONTACT

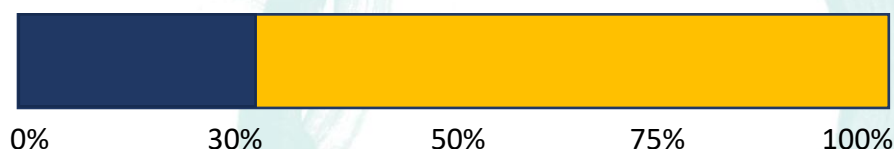
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