

Green - White - Green

#115

Tessaro Newsletter

January 2026



Lutheran Bible
Translators

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Give thanks for productive sessions with the Gokana, Kukele, and Yala translation teams at the end of 2025.
- Pray for God's guidance and patience as the Jenjo and Mwaghavul translation teams work towards moving their scriptures into the typesetting stage.
- Pray for strength and guidance for the staff and students in the Linguistics and Bible Translation Department in the Theological College of Northern Nigeria.
- Give thanks for John David and Rina Rose as they continue to grow; may they always grow closer to God!

Dear Friends in Christ,

This time of year gives us a good opportunity to reflect. During the Advent and Christmas seasons we remember how our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to live and die for sinful people like us. And his resurrection from the dead gives us even more reason to celebrate. We are grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and support to see that this message reaches others.

END OF 2025

2025 ended like a whirlwind. Teaching an extra class (New Testament Key Terms) as well as weeks of sessions with the Gokana, Kukele, and Yala translation teams provided a nice way to finish the year. Each group is moving forward. With the Gokana team we went through most of the book of Leviticus and with the Kukele team we went through most of the book of Numbers. The Yala team has come up with a plan to have their entire Bible ready to enter the typesetting process by the end of 2026. We got a good start on that plan during the couple of weeks we met together.



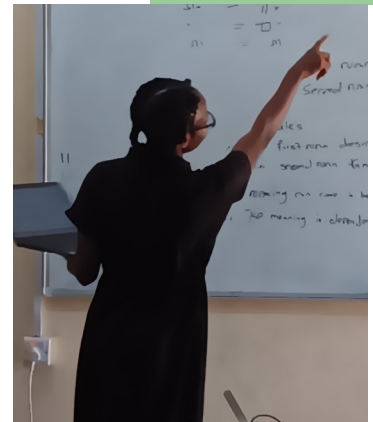
The Kukele team at work

JENJO AND MWAGHAVUL

A few years ago Chuck had the opportunity to go through seven New Testament books with the Jenjo translation team. Over the years he has also gone through a few books with the Mwaghavul translation team. Both projects are now at the typesetting stage. Let's pray that the Jenjo New Testament and the Mwaghavul Bible will be available about a year from now.

STUDENTS ARE MAKING PROGRESS

In the last newsletter we mentioned teaching classes in the Linguistics and Bible Translation Department at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria in order to prepare people to work on a higher level in translation projects. Chuck frequently encourages students to make presentations in order to deepen their own understanding and that of their fellow students. Here is a picture of a student named Beatrice as she is explaining a fine point of Hebrew grammar. When people working in translation can read the Bible in its original Hebrew and Greek form they gain more understanding and are able to move directly from the text of the Bible to their own language.



FOOLISH YAM



Regular yams

Yams are a popular food here. They are not sweet potatoes. They are more like Idaho potatoes. They typically grow to the size of an American football, and sometimes two or three more footballs. When the Kukele translation team was in town, we received a yam about the size of three footballs. However, this yam was different from any others we have seen. When Karen cut this one to cook it, it was hollow inside and it was turning dark. Karen quickly showed the Kukele team. They mentioned that some yams are like that. One of the team members says that he calls such yams “foolish yams,” because they don’t do the “right” thing.



A “foolish” yam

EXAMS AT HOME

A few weeks before John David’s school was scheduled to finish the first term in December, our state government directed that all schools would be closed immediately and for the rest of the semester. This was done as a precautionary measure to maintain the safety of the students after some other problems. The school found a way to monitor the students while they were taking their exams online. Karen had John David stay alone in a quiet room, and it worked out well.

THANKS!

We are always so grateful for your kindness and support. May God bless you throughout 2026 and beyond!

God’s blessings,

Chuck + Karen Tessaro

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