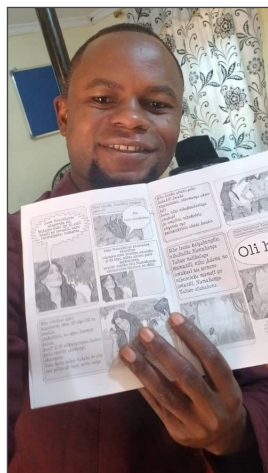


they will See and Understand

ISAIAH 52:15; ROMANS 15:21

FEBRUARY 2026

Hi, Team! I hope this finds you well. We have a lovely blanket of snow here in Northfield, MN. The year ended with family time in California, where my parents are living with my grandma and other extended family. 2025 was a challenging year of five extended trips away from my family and then shorter trips to be with my mom, who is undergoing cancer treatment. I also worked full-time supporting translation and studying for my Doctorate of Ministry at Gordon-Conwell. It was a rough year on many levels, but Josh, the kids, and I experienced God's grace and generosity in caring for our family, bringing healing and joy to mind, body, and spirit. **We give thanks to God for His great care and for your support as we serve in Bible translation as He allows.**



LEVITICUS & CREATION COMIC FOR THE KEREWÉ*

I got a WhatsApp message from the Kerewe team saying that they planned to distribute 200 copies of Leviticus for adults and 100 copies of the creation story in comic form for children at a village. They said they are focusing on touching the lives of children and creating interest in reading the Kerewe Bible. After the event, I've heard that even adults are "running" to the comic booklets. What a joy!

Since 2022, I have been supporting the Kerewe translation team in Tanzania to be more self-organized and equipped for higher-quality translation in the early stages. We have also increased the team's collaboration with the broader Kerewe community through early and incremental distribution of Scripture as portions are completed! They are having fun distributing God's Word in a new location around the island about once a month.

***Kikerewe** is spoken by around 400,000 people on Ukerewe Island on Lake Victoria on the northwestern border of Tanzania. **Books completed:** Genesis, Leviticus, Ruth, Jonah, the Gospels, Acts, Jude. **In Progress:** Exodus, Numbers. **Up Next:** Deuteronomy. **The full Bible is 24% completed!**

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

RECURRING SUPPORT • Based on 2025 giving, my support needs to increase a bit. Thank you!

89% 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

- NOV Ruthie studying for DMin and working from MN & CA; 16th wedding anniversary on Nov 21st; Thanksgiving in CA
- DEC Working remotely; LBT Tanzania Team Meetings; Christmas in CA; Josiah's 10th birthday on Dec 21st; Josh's birthday on Dec 25th
- JAN Studying & working remotely; Discourse Conference; Africa Digital Summit
- FEB- Studying & working remotely;
- MAY consultant shadowing and checking

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 and fruitful efforts engaging with the community through early distribution!

PRAY for Bible translation in Tanzania. Pray for Ruthie's work and studies. Pray for Josh and the kids. Pray for Ruthie's mom (cancer).

CONTACT/SUPPORT

- ✉ Ruthie.Wagner@LBT.org
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Lutheran Bible Translators

Designate "Wagner Ministry"

LBT • PO Box 789

Concordia, MO 64020

800.532.4253 lbt.org/wagner

RUTHIE'S MOM

Thank you for your prayers for my mom, Margaret Lee. She completed rehabilitation and was accepted back into the immunotherapy trial at USC Norris for her NETs cancer. We were able to be in California for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We praise God for her improvement!

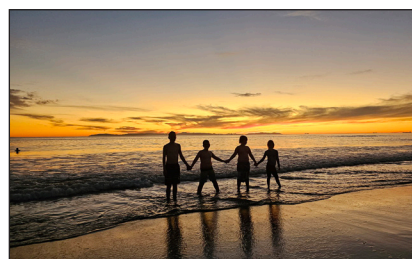
WHAT'S NEXT?

I hit the ground running in 2026 with a new budget and set of goals. My responsibilities are similar to last year, but my supervisors increased the time dedicated to research and experimentation of emerging methods for Bible translation. I plan to take a few international trips and support translation efforts remotely through training and checking. For 2026, I plan on...

- Working in translation development and training, including developing resources that can be used by others to train translators remotely and to support efforts of self-organization and community engagement.
- Training as a Translation Consultant by studying, learning through shadowing, and doing supervised checking of translations.
- Reading, researching, and writing for my Doctorate of Ministry in Bible Translation (a requirement to become certified as a consultant).
- Research and test emerging methods and tools, particularly if and how AI might be leveraged to improve translation quality.

Thank you so much for your care and support for our family and the work of Bible Translation! Please consider closing my funding gap for 2026.

♥ **Ruthie & Josh Wagner**
Elíjah (13.5), Zay (11.5), Josiah (10), & Lizzie (8)



We greatly enjoyed two family trips to California to spend time with my family. The picture below is of four-generations!



ELIJAH is usually found in our living room singing, playing piano, or composing music on his iPad. Otherwise, he's in his room on his drumset, marimba, or keyboard. He's in 8th grade, trying to decide what music camp(s) to attend this summer.



ISAIAH/ZAY is getting into theater at school and is in his second year of confirmation. He is tackling an advanced math class in his free time and continues to play the organ and piano. He's in 6th grade and hopes to go to Camp Omega this summer.



JOSIAH is into engineering and building. He is my go-to person for house repairs and learns a lot working with his dad. He is in a challenge math group and devours books! He's in 4th grade and looks forward to playing baseball this summer.



LIZZIE is our thoughtful and encouraging sweetheart. She loves writing notes, snuggling, braiding hair, and going to dance class! She's in 2nd grade and looks forward to spending time this summer with her American Girl doll and craft supplies.