



Big Change in 2026

We arrived in Ethiopia in August of 2021, and since then have been working to build local capacity for Bible translation with the Mekane Yesus church.

As a Translation Consultant, Chris has exegetically checked over a dozen books in four different languages. 25 of his former students are now working in BT ministry. Janine assists the central office staff and visits field projects several times a year to discuss budgeting, planning, and reporting. She also keeps LBT administration and marketing up-to-date on Ethiopia data and progress.

Now we are quickly reaching the point where our daily presence in Ethiopia is no longer needed, as our national colleagues take the reins and continue to lead work in their communities. This has been our goal all along: to “work ourselves out of a job” by building capacity in local leadership.

This presents us with a unique opportunity: to relocate outside of Ethiopia but stay on the continent of Africa; to remain available to help our Ethiopian partners and make periodic visits when needed, but also be ready to lend our experience to other projects in other countries.



With all of this in mind, we are happy to let everyone know that we are moving (back) to Zambia! We will live near the town of Chipata, about 2 hours from where we used to work with the Nsenga BT project.

We are excited to see what new possibilities the Lord opens up for us from this new home base, and also glad that we will be able to continue our work with teams and projects in Ethiopia.

Come visit us in our new house when it’s finished in May! Our door is always open.

Dhirayta Scripture Songwriting

In February, ethnodoxologist Rob Veith came to Ethiopia to help the Dhirayta community write Scripture-based songs, taken from the mother-tongue translation which is currently in progress. Musicians from different denominations brought their traditional instruments and Bibles.

The results were spectacular. Fourteen new songs were written, with lyrics taken straight from the Dhirayta Scripture. A request for “more songs



Dhirayta Translators participated to make sure the song lyrics came straight from Scripture

about Jesus” led to the creation of narrative songs based on the Prodigal Son, the Sower and the Seed, the story of Zaccheus, and the birth of Jesus. A new song about repentance and forgiveness had the participants in tears.

As Rob wrote, “One participant said she had struggled to write good songs when focused on getting a good melody and trying to fit in the words. Now, she could open the Bible and find good words right there, and then discover the melody that went with them.”

We thank God that Dhirayta Christians can now not only read and hear God’s Word in the language they know best, but also sing it!

A key part of these workshops is that participants are trained to teach others in their churches the Scripture songwriting process. More workshops are already being planned for next year.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise for the Dhirayta community’s workshop, and for a similar one last year in Zayse
- Prayers for a successful conclusion to Sean’s volunteer time and good re-entry to the US
- For God’s blessing on our transition to Zambia and new and continuing areas of ministry

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*Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to **proclaim** to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.*

—Revelation 14:6