



Chris accepts Call from WELS World Missions *will serve on the One Africa Team*

Janine to continue her position with LBT *as Ethiopia Programs Data Coordinator*

On Feb 23, while literally standing on the shores of the Sea of Galilee as part of a Holy Land tour, Chris received a message from the Chairman of the WELS Administrative Committee for Africa. A subsequent phone call let him know that he had received a Divine Call to be part of the One Africa Team (OAT).

Unlike Peter, James, John, and Andrew, Chris did not accept the Call right away. He spent several weeks in deliberation and discussion with both LBT and OAT members, talking about how his gifts, training, strengths, and experience could best be used by both organizations. He spent a lot of time in prayer for wisdom and peace, and had many many conversations with Janine.

On April 20, Chris accepted the Call.



*Janine will stay with Lutheran Bible Translators as
Ethiopia Programs Data Coordinator*

WELS is in fellowship with nine church bodies in Africa, and is in conversation heading towards fellowship with several others. One major need that has been identified by these church bodies is ministry education: where will the next generation of Sunday school teachers, elders, evangelists, preachers, pastors, and professors for these church bodies come from? Every context is different. Some churches need more help, some need less. Some may be in a position to help or serve as models for other churches.

Chris has been asked by OAT to be one of the key partners in these conversations — what are the training needs of each church body? What competencies do ministers and leaders need to have? What's the best way to develop and build these competencies in Gospel ministers in each individual context across the continent of Africa? Chris will be working with church leaders and other missionaries to ask these questions and arrive at sustainable answers.

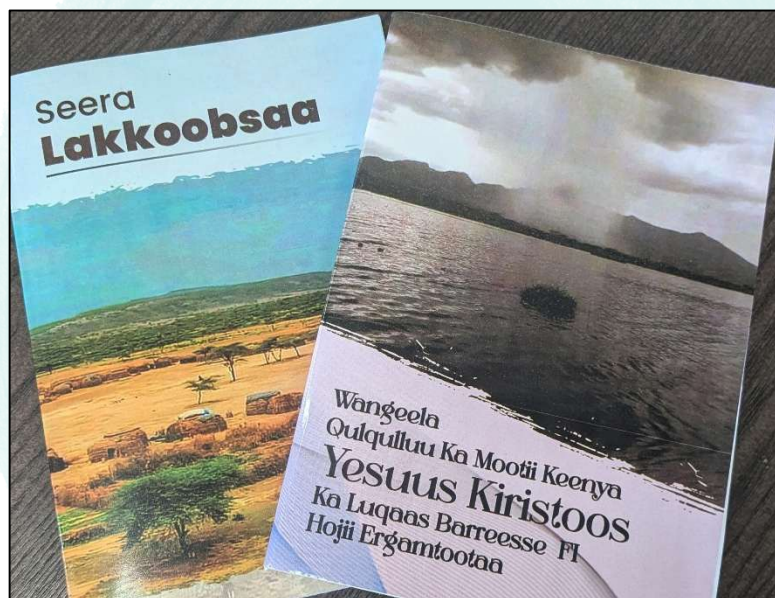
Chris and Janine will be living in the house they have built near Chipata, Zambia (see our [Spring Newsletter](#)). Chris will spend a lot of time at the beginning of his new position visiting partner church bodies throughout Africa to better learn the context, build trust and relationships, and start putting ideas into practice.

Meanwhile, Janine will continue as planned in her position as Ethiopia Programs Data Coordinator. She will work remotely with teams in Ethiopia to coordinate reporting, and also visit 2-4 times a year to help with planning, budgeting, and other organizational tasks.

As part of Chris' transition to WELS from LBT, we will be in the US in June and July. Chris will be commissioned during Taste of Missions at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary on June 13. Then we will do some onboarding tasks with WELS, visit family and friends, and take care of "US stuff" such as doctor and dentist appointments, new glasses, and the like.

Although Chris is moving to WELS effective Aug 1st, Janine will still need financial support from our LBT partners to continue her work. Please remember her and her important work, which supports almost 20 Bible translation teams and training programs throughout Ethiopia, when you are planning your financial gifts.

We know this news comes as a surprise to you, just as it is always a surprise to receive a Divine Call. Thank you for the support you have given Chris during his time with LBT, and please pray for this new chapter in his ministry, even as you continue to pray for and support Janine in her work to bring Scripture to the heart languages of the people of Ethiopia.



Three books that Chris recently consultant checked — Luke, Acts, and Numbers — have been distributed to the Karama language community.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for Chris' years of fruitful service with LBT
- Prayers for safe travels during our time in the US this summer
- For God's blessing on our transition to Zambia and our 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