

they will See and Understand

ISAIAH 52:15; ROMANS 15:21

SUMMER 2026

Hi, Team! What an excellent first half of the year it has been for us! I pray this finds you well, and if not, that the Lord is carrying you through, as he does so well. Highlights from the last few months...

- Made progress on researching, testing, and supporting the careful use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Bible translation.
- Shadowed consultants for training and completed my second of three residencies for my DMin program in Bible Translation from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (toward my consultant certification).
- Thanks be to God for the healing my mom (Margaret Lee) is experiencing. She has been in cancer treatment. The tumors are shrinking!

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 a few 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

- FEB- Studying & working remotely;
- MAY Consultant shadowing and checking;
DMin Residency in Italy May 16-30th
- JUNE Elijah's 14th birthday on June 21st
- JULY Zay's 12th birthday on July 9th;
Concordia Mission Institute (LBT Conference in MO) July 12-18
- AUG- Ruthie's 40th birthday on Aug 6th;
- OCT Tentative work trip;
Lizzie's 9th (golden!) birthday on Oct 9th

TAKE ACTION

- JOIN** our "Wagner Updates" group
[facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)
- GIVE** to "Wagner Ministry" online or by mailing a check. lbt.org/wagner
- PRAISE** for the opportunity to support research and implementation of AI tools and strategies. And praise for my mom's healing progress (cancer)!
- PRAY** for responsible use of AI and wisdom for managers and translators. Pray for Ruthie's mom.

CONTACT/SUPPORT

- ✉ Ruthie.Wagner@LBT.org
- 📘 [facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)
- 📞 612-433-1199 (call or text)
- 🏠 1317 Honeylocust Dr, Northfield, MN 55057



Designate "Wagner Ministry"

LBT • PO Box 789

Concordia, MO 64020

800.532.4253 lbt.org/wagner



ChatGPT-generated image: Benefits and Risks of AI & Bible Translation

AI & BIBLE TRANSLATION

Most, if not all of us, are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in daily life through services like Google Maps, travel booking, smart cameras, automated thermostats, home security, smart appliances, predictive text, auto-grammar correction, virtual assistants, language translation, fraud protection, fitness tracking, and on and on. Calling AI "intelligent" is widely considered a misnomer, since it lacks true understanding, consciousness, and general reasoning. AI systems use advanced pattern recognition and complex mathematical probabilities to predict outcomes.

Can Artificial Intelligence (AI) be used for Bible translation? This leads to many more questions, not only technical but also ethical. At LBT, we want to be careful,

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

RECURRING SUPPORT • To cover my 2026 budget, my support needs to increase a bit. Thank you! 90% 100%

considered, and community-based in our use of AI.

There are countless tools that can assist with the Bible translation process at every level of exegesis, drafting, checking, formatting, and distributing. We aim to carefully and deliberately work alongside our partners, managing translation programs and considering how AI might be incorporated into our methods. For example, there are powerful draft-generating tools, but do translators and communities want this or would they like to maintain control over initial translation decisions made while drafting? There are AI tools for exegesis such as chatbots, that translators, exegetes, and consultants can use to ask specific questions about a text being translated. There are tools that check translations for consistency, grammar and spelling patterns, alignment with translations in other languages, and more.

A portion of my current role is to research and test these tools. I am making recommendations regarding approach, usage, and training within our organization to support and/or caution against adoption and use. There is certainly not a single approach to promote. We intend for approaches to be customized to each program and guided by the interests, ethics, and values of the communities we serve.

DMIN RESIDENCY IN ITALY

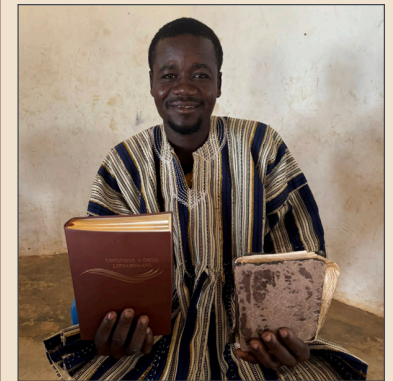
I spent the second half of May in Misano Adriatico, Italy, for my second of three residencies for my doctorate in Bible Translation. Not only was the location incredible, but so was the fellowship and discussion with my internationally diverse cohort. We have become quite close and enjoy one another very much as we share our experiences and learning, guided by our excellent mentors. This program is required to complete my certification as a translation consultant.

WHAT'S NEXT?

I'm discussing with my supervisors about my next training trips and how my time can be used between programs in East and West Africa. Please pray for wisdom.

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.

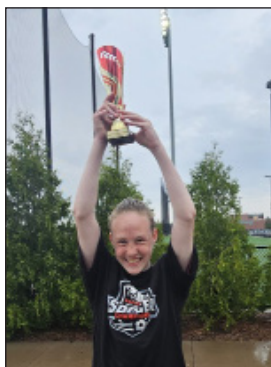
♥ Ruthie & Josh Wagner ~ Elijah (14), Zay (12), Josiah (10.5), & Lizzie (8.5)



LBT HIGHLIGHT: Some of you may remember when Josh, Elijah, and I went to Ghana in 2013 for a three-month orientation. We spent time with the Komba people when they were doing their final read-through of their translated New Testament. It was published in 2014. The full Bible in Komba was dedicated in November 2025. The second picture shows a Komba man holding up the new Bible next to a well-used New Testament. May this encourage and inspire us all in this work! ♥



JOSH started a new job at Farm Bureau Financial Services in April and enjoys the diversity of tasks and challenges and helping people! He had the honor of walking his youngest sister, Laurelyn, down the aisle in May. **RUTHIE** is turning 40 this year and spent an exciting weekend in Florida with one of her best friends from high school, riding roller coasters and attending a Beach Boys concert!



ELIJAH is kickstarting his summer with a tournament win! He's playing as much soccer as he can when he's not at music camps, singing, and playing all his instruments—percussion, piano, and guitar!



ISAIAH/ZAY has grown so much after his first year of middle school. He is getting stronger and faster in soccer and has not shied away from advanced math. He overcame a bullying situation like a champ! So proud of him!



JOSIAH is thrilled to be done with school so he can spend more time researching science and math facts, engineering, and of course, snuggling Tucker and our new foster cat, Benny.



LIZZIE gracefully completed her dance season. She is thrilled to be learning how to crochet from Grandma Kathy (Josh's mom), who lives nearby. Spending more time at Grandma and Grandpa's house is her summer goal.