

CHECKING WITH MENDE AND KONO

Thanks for partnering with us in helping to get God's Word to the Mende and Kono people of Sierra Leone. I (Jim) met online with the Mende translation team in April and June. We were able to finish Romans and made progress in Jeremiah. I met with the Kono translation team in April, May, and June, and we made good progress in Ezekiel.

I plan to meet online with the Mende team in July. Then in late August, I will travel to Sierra Leone to meet with both teams in person. Earlier in August, I will also be meeting with the Tsamakko team in Ethiopia to check over some of their Old Testament books.

TRANSLATION TIDBITS

When translating, misunderstandings sometimes come up because the English text that the team is using can be understood in more than one way. One example of this is in Jeremiah 24:6 – "I will set my eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them back to this land" (ESV). Here the misunderstanding came from the phrase "for good". Often in English when we say we do something "for good", we mean we are doing it permanently or forever. That is the meaning that the team understood here, and so they translated, "I will watch over them forever." However, here the phrase has a different meaning and is better shown in a different English translation, "I will watch over them for their own good" (GW).

Another example was seen in Jeremiah 29:14 – "I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you." Here the problem was the word "fortunes". It can mean "large amounts of money or assets", and that is how the team translated it here. But in the context of restoring their fortunes, the

meaning is to return them to a state of well-being after their period of loss and hardship in captivity.

METAPHORS AND SIMILES

A metaphor is a type of figure of speech. It is used to describe one thing by comparing it to something else. But in a metaphor, no comparison word is used, such as like or as. "Love is a rose" and "my feet are blocks of ice" are examples of metaphors in English.

Metaphors are often used in poetry.

The Bible is filled with metaphors. Sayings like "the Lord is my shepherd", "Jesus is the bread of life", and "God's word is a lamp" are very common and are crucial to communicating spiritual truths to us. They help make the message more relatable and understandable. They can also catch our attention and make the message more vivid and memorable.

Often metaphors can be easily translated and communicate the right meaning in the new language. But sometimes a translated metaphor does not communicate the right meaning. For example, comparing someone to a dog can have very different meanings in American, Chinese, and Arabic cultures. When a translated metaphor gives the wrong meaning, it is sometimes necessary to make the comparison and its point explicit. One way to do this is to change the metaphor into a simile. A simile is a comparison that uses the word "like" or "as". So if we changed the metaphor "my feet are blocks of ice" to a simile, it would read "my feet are like blocks of ice". Or to make the point of comparison clear, we could say "my feet are as cold as blocks of ice".



One other problem with translating metaphors (or similes) from the Bible is that sometimes we do not know what the point of comparison is between the two things being compared. One example of this is, “Your nose is like a tower of Lebanon, overlooking



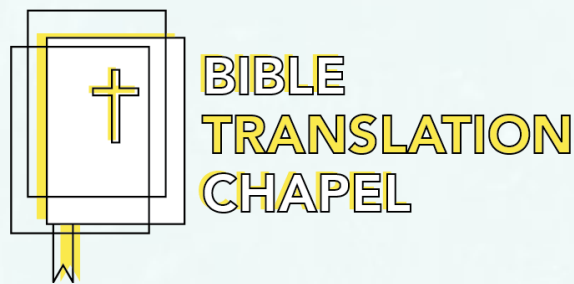
Damascus.” (Song of Solomon 7:4) This is certainly not how we would complement a woman in our culture! It might even give the opposite meaning to many people. The Good News Bible translates a possible meaning: “Your nose is as lovely as the tower of Lebanon.”

BIBLE TRANSLATION CHAPELS

Lutheran Bible Translators wants to help you connect students to global missions. We have crafted a chapel series for students to discover how God’s Word is transforming lives around the world—and invite them to join the adventure.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the Kono & Mende teams (Sierra Leone) as they continue to work on their translations of the Old Testament and revision of the New Testament.
- Pray for the online checking session scheduled with the Mende team July 27-30. Pray for good health, reliable electricity, good internet connection, wisdom, and guidance from the Holy Spirit for all involved.
- Pray for Jim’s trip to Ethiopia July 31-August 29. He will be teaching a class at Mekane Yesus Seminary 8/3-14, and then checking translations with the Tsamakko team 8/17-28. Pray for safe travels, good health, wisdom, and guidance for all involved.
- Pray for Jim’s trip to Sierra Leone August 29-September 12 to work with the Kono and Mende teams in person. Pray for safe travels, good health, reliable electricity, wisdom, and guidance from the Holy Spirit for all involved.



The Bible Translation Chapel series invites your school to embark on a global adventure, exploring how God is working through Bible translation to bring hope, life, and transformation to people everywhere.

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