

Consulting for Christ

Enabling Bible Translation in Ethiopia

January 30, 2020

Finished!

This week, I met with the Zayse translation team and checked over their translation of the book of Philippians. This completes their translation of the New Testament! After many years of hard work, they are finally done! Although the translating is finished, they still have months of editing work to do as they go over the formatting, punctuation, spelling, and consistency of the text. They are hoping that their New Testament can be printed later this year. Please pray for them as they continue in their editing work.



Jim with the Zayse translation team. From left, Mulatu, Jim, Tadele, Tsegaye, and Pieterneel

At Five Years

Five years! It is hard to believe that we been living here in Ethiopia for five years already! Thank you for standing with us, for holding us up, and for being our partner during this time. We certainly could not have done it alone.

Some of the significant achievements you have helped us make happen:

- ◆ The completion of the translation of the Old Testament into the Konso language, and the revision of the New Testament. The entire Bible is scheduled to be printed this year. For the first time, the Konso people will have all of the Bible in their language.
- ◆ The completion of the translation of the New Testament into the language of the Dirayta people. That is also scheduled to be printed later this year. This will be the first time the Dirayta people will have the New Testament in their language.
- ◆ The completion of the translation of the New Testament (and Genesis) into the Zayse language. After they finish editing, they are hoping that their New Testament can also be printed later this year. This will be the first time the New Testament will be available in their language.
- ◆ We have also helped the Tsamakko, Ale, and Nyangatom teams make progress in their New Testaments. All of these teams still have several years of work ahead of them before they will be finished.

We praise God for his goodness in making all these things happen! Thank you for being his instruments in carrying out this work!



Looking Ahead

This year we look forward to the following exciting events:

- ◆ The construction will be started on the new building on the Mekane Yesus Seminary. When finished (estimated for 2022), this building will provide space for the translation program at the seminary, and rent from it will provide funding for scholarships in the future.
- ◆ The second class of twenty students will be recruited for the Bible translation program at the seminary. Please pray that God will lead us to the right students who will be able to put this training to use in translating God's Word into their own languages. Many of the languages we work with are in remote areas, so there often has not been as many opportunities for students to advance in school. Pray that we will find students who have the qualifications and commitment for the seminary program and the work of translation.
- ◆ The EECMY will be hiring new staff for the translation office. Please pray that God will guide them to good administrators who have a heart for this work.

Vehicle Needed

If you are looking for a special project to give towards, the EECMY has asked LBT to help purchase a four-wheel drive vehicle that can be used to travel to the translation project sites throughout the country. Because of high import duty, the cost of such vehicles here is quite high. If you would like to contribute towards this, please send your gift to LBT and designate it for the "Ministry Vehicle Fund—Ethiopia."

PRAY...

- Pray for the process of choosing a general contractor to build the Bible translation building at the Mekane Yesus Seminary. They hope to have one chosen by mid February.
- Pray for the process of hiring new staff for the EECMY translation program. Pray that God will provide good administrators with a real heart for the work.
- Continue to pray that God will keep us healthy, and that he will keep us safe on the busy roads here.
- Pray that our ability to speak Amharic will continue to grow.
- Pray for the 3 teams who are nearing the finish line for their translations (Dirayta, Konso, and Zayse). Pray for wisdom, health, unity, and endurance.
- Pray for our visitors from the LBT office who will be here for meetings from February 3-14.

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