

# Consulting for Christ

## Enabling Bible Translation in Ethiopia

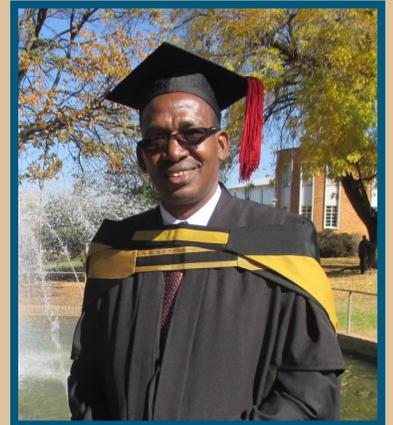
March 23, 2021

### Loss of a Friend

On February 22, we were saddened to hear of the sudden death of our long-time friend and colleague, Rev. Berhanu Kambro. He died suddenly after going to his office for work.

Rev. Berhanu was the one responsible for Lutheran Bible Translators beginning work in Ethiopia. About 10 years ago, he was praying about the shortage of workers to help the translation projects he was overseeing. He decided to google, "Lutheran Bible translation" and found the Lutheran Bible Translators' web site. He quickly wrote an email requesting help, and that eventually led to me making my first trip here in 2012 to work with three translation projects.

Rev. Berhanu was a faithful, wise servant whose steady hand helped guide the projects he was responsible for. Please pray that God will raise up a new person to take his position.



### Covid

As with many of you, covid-19 finally caught up with Susan and I earlier this month. We are thankful that our cases were not too severe, and we are gradually getting back to full strength. Please pray that we will fully recover soon.

### Oral Bible Storytelling

In early February, I was blessed to be part of a small celebration to mark the end of Oral Bible Storytelling projects in four languages in western Ethiopia. Over the course of six years, several hundred Bible stories had been translated into each language, and 4,000 people became Christians as the stories were shared.

Oral Bible Storytelling is a strategy that is sometimes used in languages that are not yet ready for a project to translate the Bible in written form. Perhaps there are very few Christians in the language, or the people may not be favorable to writing their language down. Oral Bible Storytelling is a way to begin sharing God's word with people. After Oral Bible Storytelling, some of the projects that began that way go on to produce a written translation in their language.

### Tsamakko Checking

Lord-willing, we will be travelling to Arba Minch to work with the Tsamakko team March 29 – April 30. We will be checking over their translation of the book of Acts, as well as 1 and 2 Timothy. Please pray that God gives us all good health, wisdom, and good relations as we work together on these books. Please pray for the team of Hailu, Yonas, and Rebika in Arba Minch, and Fredrik in Norway. Our plan B, in case we are not yet strong enough to travel, is to do some checking using audio/video chat.

## God's Paths Beyond Tracing: A Blessing Instead of a Curse

According to the Tsamakko culture, when a child's top teeth come in before its bottom teeth, that child is called a "mingi child". They are considered impure or defiled. Children born "mingi" are thought to bring curses or bad luck for the tribe. This leads to the killing of many children. These children are disposed of either through drowning, suffocation, or leaving the infant in the forest. The elders make the decision to brand a child "mingi".



Hailu Berhanu, one of the Tsamakko Bible translators and the team leader, said, "When I was about an eight month-old baby, my gum of the upper jaw, the place for the central incisors, was getting white, which is a sign for new teeth eruption. My father and mother knew that I would be a "mingi" if the teeth erupted from the upper jaw first. Therefore, they were very worried about the issue. Thanks goes to Ato Aylo Koole, my grandfather (father of my mother). He was a very wise person who found a solution for the problem.

"One day, my mother, Verre Aylo, went to fetch water and only my grandfather was with me. He then came up with a solution to this great challenge. He took broken clay and curved my lower gum. He removed the flesh and reached down to the developing teeth which were white and visible as teeth. Then it was made known that the central incisors teeth had been erupted from the lower jaw before the upper ones. When my mother was back from bringing water, she was very surprised by what my grandfather had done. Although it was difficult to see the bleeding at my gum, she learned that it was the best solution to escape the risk of her child's death."

Hailu praises God for his wisdom to save an unknown baby child in this way. He says, "Who told my grandfather to save me from such a risky situation? I would say through him God saved me. During that time, when I was a baby, I don't know about myself, but God knows me very well from the beginning. Let us praise our God for his unlimited grace!

(Adapted from: CPBT Report, FY2019-2020, pp.28-29.)

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### For Donations

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Please make checks payable to Lutheran Bible Translators and designate: **Kaiser Ministry** in the memo line.

### Pray...

- ➔ Pray for Jim & the Tsamakko team as they check Acts and 1-2 Timothy.
- ➔ Praise God for the good progress on the building on the Mekane Yesus Seminary. Construction has reached the top floor. Pray that the work will continue to go well.
- ➔ Pray for LBT missionaries Dr. Chris & Janine Pluger as they prepare to join us here in Ethiopia in July.
- ➔ 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 an end to Covid-19. Pray that Susan and I will fully recover from it.
- ➔ Pray for peace in Ethiopia, and for wisdom for their leaders as they deal with conflict in the north of the country, and with national elections in June.