

Consulting for Christ

Enabling Bible Translation in Ethiopia

August 6, 2020



Back To The Future

This has been a frustrating year! So many plans and goals have had to be adapted or totally discarded. If only we had known what was before us!

In our culture, we picture time as a journey. We are traveling along, and the future is unknown because we have not yet reached it. We know the past because we have already been there. The past is behind us, and the future lies ahead.



The Suri people of southwestern Ethiopia have a different way of viewing time. They picture time in terms of what is seen and known versus what is unseen and unknown. Since they know the past, they think of the past as being in front of them where it can be plainly seen. The future, which is unknown, lies behind them, where it cannot be seen.

Whether the future lies before me or behind me, I am thankful that our future is securely in the hands of God, who knows the unknown and works all things according to his good purpose.

Out of Africa (But Back Soon?)

Because of Covid, we have been staying in Michigan. But just this past week, LBT's partners in Ethiopia have given permission for some staff to begin returning to Ethiopia. We have started to discuss the possibility of our return in September. Please pray for God's wisdom and guidance as this is considered.

Tsamakko Acts Checking

The Tsamakko translation team has been working hard preparing their translation of the book of Acts. I am scheduled to meet with them in October to check over their translation. We don't know yet whether we will be able to meet in person, whether we will be able to do something via the internet, or whether it will have to be postponed.

This will be a special checking time because I am scheduled to work with Chris Pluger for the first time. Chris is a new consultant-in-training with Lutheran Bible Translators. He and his wife, Janine, are planning to move to Ethiopia next year. Please pray for Chris and I as we prepare for our meeting with the Tsamakko translation team. Pray that God gives us wisdom and insight.

Bible Translation Sunday

Celebrate Bible

Translation Sunday on the last Sunday of September. This year, join congregations across the world in focusing on “The Building Without the Book”.

Dr. Carl Fickenschner II, of Concordia Theological Seminary, writes “**Imagine the building without the book!** The building without the Book would quickly fill up with imagination! **Without the Book**, we can imagine hideous things! Without the Book, imagine how we’d fill the building.”

Resources for congregations to use on Bible Translation Sunday 2020 are available now! Visit www.lbt.org to access free materials. Involve your congregation in this life-changing mission. Join the story today!

Mission Exploration

Almost thirty people spent a week in July discovering more about serving in missions with Lutheran Bible Translators. This was the first ever online version of Mission Exploration. I helped to do a session on cross-cultural partnership. Other sessions were on Bible translation, literacy, scripture engagement, missionary life, and spiritual warfare. Please pray that God would use this experience to guide the attendees as they seek his will regarding serving as a missionary.

Locusts

Please continue to pray for the many people in East Africa (including Ethiopia) who are battling locusts. The effect from locusts this year has already been the worst it has been in decades. The locusts consume both crops and rangeland, and so they destroy the food supply of both people and their herds.



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

Pray...

- ➔ Pray for Chris Pluger and I as we prepare for checking the Tsamakko translation of Acts.
- ➔ Praise God that the foundation of the building on the Mekane Yesus Seminary was completed before the heavy rains. Pray that the work will continue to go well.
- ➔ Pray for wisdom and God’s guidance as a decision is made as to whether we should return to Ethiopia in September.
- ➔ Pray for those who attended Mission Exploration. Pray that God will lead them where he wants them to serve..
- ➔ 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 an end to Covid-19. Pray for wisdom for Ethiopia’s leaders to know the best way to deal with it.
- ➔ Pray for an end to the infestation of desert locusts in East Africa. Pray that God will provide food for those whose crops have been destroyed.