



Messenger

“We Have Been Hoping and Praying”

Cañar Quichua Bible Dedicated in Ecuador

“This Bible is just what we have been hoping and praying for. It is perfect. We want to use these Bibles to teach our young people about God, in our very own language!”

That’s just one of the comments made at the dedication of the Cañar Quichua Bible on March 19, 2011, in Cañar, Ecuador. The occasion marked the first time the Cañari people had both the Old and New Testaments — the entire Bible — in their heart language.

Former LBT missionaries Dale and Lillian Nesse served among the Cañari from 1982 -1997, helping translate the New Testament. Upon the Nesses’ return to the U.S., two of the Cañari translators, Reinaldo Chimborazo and Pastor Manuel Niveló, worked diligently and faithfully to translate the Old Testament. Dale served as long distance advisor while the Ecuadorian Bible Society offered encouragement and support.

Dr. Marshall Gillam, LBT Executive Director, Dale, Lillian, and their daughter, Sonia, attended the celebrations. It was



Almost 200 women sang for the crowd.

a joyous occasion that left an impression. “Nearly two hundred women from at least a dozen churches dressed in their finest and sang as with one voice in Quichua to the crowd gathered in

the gymnasium during the dedication ceremony,” Dale recalls. “They had made the two hour hike as part of the parade from Tambo to Cañar, then stood for almost two hours waiting for the opportunity to sing. I was moved to tears as I listened to them.”



Dale Nesse received special recognition at the ceremonies.

The Cañari people are excited about their Bible. “I read my Bible this morning, and God used the words to speak directly to my heart,” said one individual. “This Bible will also be useful for the Cañari people living in other lands, such as Spain and the United States. There are many churches and many believers in those places.”



Hundreds followed the parade route.

The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators [LBT] is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

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God's Unchanging Word

My recent trip to Ecuador for the Cañar Quichua Bible dedication was an absolute delight on many levels. It was wonderful to meet people and see things that I had heard about for years.

It was also great to travel with Dale and Lillian Nesse, the translation advisors to the Cañar New Testament that was dedicated in 1997 shortly after I joined the staff of LBT. I was struck by how invested Dale, Lillian and Sonia (one of four daughters who made the trip) had become in the lives of the Cañari people.

Of course, many things have changed since the Nesses first arrived in Ecuador. Perhaps the most notable change was the volume of traffic! Cars and trucks — EVERYWHERE, even in Cañar, with real Chicago-style traffic jams. We were also astonished that the town of Cañar had traffic lights — and some of them were working!

The other major change was the improved roads. The national government has invested significantly in infrastructure, and road improvement was apparently high on the list. Our drive from the city of Cuenca to the town of Cañar took less than 90 minutes. When Dale made that trip on a regular basis, the drive time was much, much longer.

While all of the sights and sounds were wonderful to absorb and the renewal of friendships was certainly a treasure, that wasn't the point!

We were there to celebrate a 25 year project that was coming to a conclusion with music and speeches and excitement. On Sunday morning we saw many people coming to church — Bible in hand. It was an overwhelming historic moment — never before had the Cañari people come to church carrying a complete Bible in their heart language. But it finally happened that Sunday.

Over the years, Cañar has change significantly: street lights, traffic lights, extensive road paving, and many other things. But the Word of God is now in the hands of the Cañari people, and the Word of God does not change. The first step of the project is complete — holding God's Word in their hands. The vital second step — holding God's Word in their hearts — is just beginning. 📖

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dr. Marshall R. Gillam, CFRE
Executive Director



Mixed Messages

by John Strasen

Let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no'. I've been hearing this expression for as long as I can remember. Jesus gave these words as a stern warning to His disciples during His sermon on the mount, and the message is echoed by both Paul and James in the epistles. In the New Testament the context has to do with making oaths or promises and the importance of keeping those promises once they are made. Before saying either 'yes' or 'no' to any question however, it pays to know the culture in which the question is being asked.

Several months ago, while still in Namibia, I received this text message on my cell phone. "Are you not going to Otjovanatje tomorrow?" A question asked in negative form usually requires some thought before you answer. But I was tired and in no mood to answer with a long explanation. So I simply replied to the message by writing, "No." Of course, what I meant was, "No, I am not going to Otjovanatje tomorrow." Imagine my surprise when several people arrived at my door the next morning requesting a ride to Otjovanatje.

Why the confusion? Well, I really needed to write out the full message, without taking shortcuts. Moreover, I should have taken a second to consider the culture in which I was living. In southern Africa, as well as many other places in the world, a 'yes' response to a question merely affirms the question being asked. A 'no' response denies it. And when you deny a negative, you get a positive. My 'no' response informed my audience that I was indeed going to Otjovanatje. People in Namibia just love asking questions in negative form, and whenever I asked such questions, I was always given a response which is just the opposite of what I am used to hearing.

God's response to our deepest spiritual need is always 'yes' in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:17-20). Jesus is God's answer to His promise of forgiveness and salvation. There is no mixed message here, no confusion in meaning, just a simple reply wrapped up in the gift of Jesus Christ, "Yes, I do love you. You are indeed my true children." There is eternal life and salvation in God's 'yes' to us. Is there no greater gift? Yes! There can be no greater gift! 📖

John Strasen served with the Dhimba New Testament Translation Project in Namibia. The New Testament manuscript was completed in 2010. John is currently in the U.S. awaiting his next assignment.

50 Miles from Tomorrow

by Dan and Kay Finley

As missionaries and media specialists with LBT, Kay and I work in partnership with Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH) through a memo of understanding between the two organizations to produce audio recordings of New Testaments (NT) in languages worldwide.

Once FCBH selects a language for us, we make our flight arrangements and contact the local partner organization to begin building a good working relationship. When we arrive at the location, we work with the requesting mission, Bible Society, or missionary to select the voices we will use to produce the dramatized New Testaments.

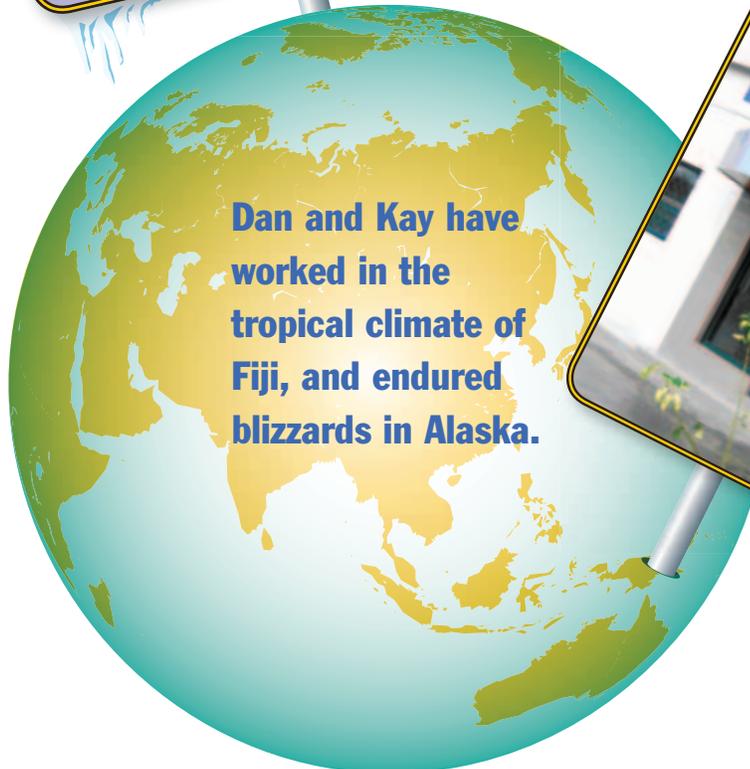
Kay and I have been blessed to record a French NT in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, the Ipili NT in Papua New Guinea that was translated by LBT missionaries Rev. Terry and Janet Borchard, the Fijian NT in Fiji, and the Portuguese NT in Brazil. Each recording project has had its own set of unique challenges and blessings so no one recording could be rated as the best or the hardest or even the most rewarding. Overall, it is the joy we receive knowing that God has chosen us to go out and make audio recordings possible for literally millions of His flock that makes our work so enjoyable.



Sound booth used for recording the New Testament.

Our most recent project took us to Kotzebue, Alaska, where we assisted in the initial set-up for recording the Iñupiaq NT. Kotzebue is located 30 miles inside the Arctic Circle, 50 miles from tomorrow (the International Date Line), and 90 miles from Russia. But no location on the map is far distant from God's desire to have His Word proclaimed.

With LBT and FCBH working together, millions of people around the world are gaining access to God's Word in their own languages. Through LBT's efforts in Bible translation, Scripture engagement and literacy, and FCBH's efforts to produce dramatized audio New Testaments, His Word is becoming more available and accessible to people in every corner of the world. 📖





The Most Important Mission

by Mike Butterfield



Mike Butterfield

He is now in his 89th year of life. To say that he “has lived a full life” trivializes his astounding series of life accomplishments. Early on he demonstrated his gifts in mathematics and logical thought. He was selected for specialized training in the Army and began increasing in rank and position. His military experiences led him to graduate with a baccalaureate and two advanced engineering degrees. After years of engineering project leadership, even on an international scale, he became the Dean of the College of Engineering at a major national university. He has a room in his home lined with professional service recognition awards mingled with pictures of him shaking hands with United States presidents and leaders of several countries.

At the age of 85 he became a first-time financial contributor in support of the mission of LBT. He has since contributed annual gifts. A recent gift of appreciated securities was equal to approximately ten times the total of gifts he had contributed in the past four years. Interestingly, he cannot even remember how he first heard about the mission of Lutheran Bible Translators. He only guesses that it must have been through his membership at a local Lutheran church.

He has no difficulty, however, in knowing why he has chosen to remain an LBT annual supporter. He declared recently, “Of all the ministries being done outside of my local congregation, I firmly believe that the ministry of heart-language translation that LBT carries out worldwide is the most important mission activity today.”

Thank you for *your* conviction that Bible translation is of fundamental importance in touching the hearts of people who do not have access to God’s Word in their own languages. Your prayers and financial donations, faithfully given, are helping make a difference in the lives of people around the world. 📖

Need More Information?

Return this coupon to:

Mike Butterfield
 Lutheran Bible Translators, 303 N Lake Street, PO Box 2050,
 Aurora, IL 60507-2050
 Phone: 1-800-532-4253 or 630-897-0660 Fax: 630-897-3567
 E-mail: mbutterfield@lbt.org

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- I would like to make a regular monthly donation by major credit card.
- I would like to make a one-time gift.

Additional on-line giving opportunities and information about LBT are available on our web site: www.LBT.org

A Worthwhile Effort?

by Alvina Federwitz

Recently I have been wondering, “Is all the effort the LIBTRALO (Liberian Translation and Literacy Organization) language associations and I are putting into developing learning materials in 16 Liberian languages worth it? Will teaching children and adults how to read their language **really prompt Liberians to read and understand God’s Word?**” Little did I know that God would use Bea Kun, one of my Liberian co-workers, to clear these fleeting doubts.

I stopped to visit Bea one morning as she was collating Easy Readers for Klao children. Without any prompting, she shared how she regularly takes her Klao New Testament to church to read the Epistle and Gospel each Sunday, even though it is read by the pastor. Although she was an English teacher at one time, she went on to tell me that nothing speaks to her heart like God’s Word in her own language. In fact, a few Sundays ago, when the Gospel was being read from John 3, she really did not understand what Jesus was telling Nicodemus about being born again. So she opened up her Klao Bible and was reading it when a man next to her poked her and asked if her Bible was written in Klao.

“Yes,” she replied, and quietly read the story to him. His eyes widened in surprise and comprehension. He said that he had heard the story many times, but this was the first time he really understood it. Yes, his heart language was Klao, too. After church he asked Bea if she could get a Klao



Bea Kun collating Klao literacy materials.

Bible for him and she said she would. She promised a primer as well, and said she would help him learn how to read Klao.

Bea shared numerous experiences with me that she has had in encouraging her people to learn to read God’s Word in their own language. As she continued to collate the Klao Easy Readers, she was expressing how she wished all of her people could have an opportunity to read these books. “They would just love these nice stories,” she said. “They could read them quickly and take pride in their reading skills.”

As I was moving on to greet others in the office, I felt such deep gratitude in my heart that indeed God was preparing the Klao people for embracing and using the Klao Bible. Praise God that Bea’s testimony reminded me that what God has called us — me, my Liberian colleagues, and *you* — to do is worth everything we put into it! 📖

Alvina Federwitz serves in Liberia, working with 16 language groups. She is also advisor to church literacy programs in Ghana.

Joys of Greeting

by Eshinee Veith

Eshinee and Rob Veith are serving in Botswana among the Shiyeyi people. At the time of this writing, they were living in the village of Kang while searching for a home in Maun. Learning Setswana, one of the national languages of Botswana, will help Eshinee identify “borrowed” words in Shiyeyi — Setswana words being used by Shiyeyi speakers that are not truly a part of the Shiyeyi language.

How nice it is to take the walk to work in the early morning, greeting everyone that I meet! The first Setswana “lesson” that fellow missionary Richard Rudowske and I did was a review of Setswana greetings, so I am taking every opportunity to practice. While the basic beginning greeting is the same (“dumela” to one person or “dumelang” to more than one), there is a variety of things that can be said after that. The challenge is to recognize quickly which potential response has been used and react appropriately.

It’s easier if I greet first because, by starting the chain reaction, I get to choose what comes after the basic “dumela”. But that only works if I *know* what comes after

the “dumela”. I can’t just say “dumela”; I have to indicate who the person is that I’m greeting. If I know their name I can say it, but often I don’t know the people that I meet on the path in Kang. When I don’t know, I have to say “mma” to a woman, “rra” to a man, “bomma” to multiple women, “borra” to multiple men, “mma le rra” to a woman with a man, “borra le mma” to a woman walking with two men, etc.

At any rate, it seems that I am one of few foreigners who greet around here because, while a smile usually accompanies the “dumela” response, surprise often does as well. The people en route to the Rudowskes’ home are beginning to expect me these days as my schedule is regular. This is not so much true in the center of the village. The looks there are often ones of confusion, as if they can’t reconcile my use of Setswana with my face. Still, the vast majority smile in a friendly fashion. I arrive at the Rudowskes’ for my Setswana lesson light-hearted and raring to go.

There is a saying here, “Madume ga a jewe” — greetings are not eaten. True, but they can be food for the soul. 📖



From the Front Row

by Marshall Gillam

I had the distinct honor and privilege of representing LBT at the dedication ceremony for the Cañari Bible — the first published Bible in which LBT has been engaged.

As with most such events, it was spread over two days. On Friday evening there was a concert — musical groups and presentations from many of the Cañari churches in the area. It was an evening of great festivity in anticipation of the dedication to come the next day.

On Saturday morning there was a parade several miles in length. Many people were gathered up along the way. An hour before the parade arrived, the auditorium where the ceremonies were to take place was empty — just a few individuals setting up equipment and hanging banners. A band from the local Christian school lined both sides of the street as the parade marched through. What an exciting event — approximately 1,500 people made their way inside the auditorium! The room, once fairly empty, quickly filled to near capacity.

As a special guest, I was seated in the front row of the auditorium — the very front row! That gave me an excellent position to witness everything that was happening — including a women’s chorale of approximately 200 voices that represented many of the area churches. Their musical style was traditional Cañari, and their presentation was powerful.

The late morning and early afternoon were filled with speeches, prayers, recognitions, thanksgiving and celebration. Although the Cañari have had their New Testament for nearly 15 years, now they have the complete Bible. Clearly there was excitement at what God has done among them.



The auditorium was filled almost to capacity.

But the most moving experience came on Saturday afternoon after the celebration and on Sunday morning at church. In two separate settings, the lead translators, Reinaldo and Manuel, expressed the same sentiment. Among other things, they marveled that people who did not know them and who had never seen them would provide the support that helped make this project a reality! My impression is that Cañari men do not readily cry. But in these two conversations there were tears running down their cheeks.

And while they thanked me, the thanks goes to all of the friends and supporters of LBT. Reinaldo and Manuel may have been surprised and moved by the generosity of strangers. It should be no surprise to us. It happens on a daily basis. Friends of LBT provide prayer and financial support so that people around the world — people we have never met or visited — can be given access to God’s Word. Ever wonder if it is worth it all? Reinaldo and Manuel affirm that it is. Every life that is invested in the project and every dollar that is invested in the project is *to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.* 

...there was excitement at what God has done...



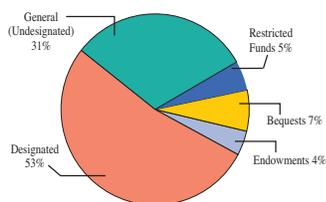
Marshall Gillam, Reinaldo Chimborazo, Dale Nesse.

LBT Partnership Support

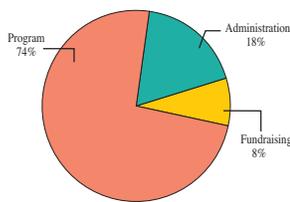
January 1 – March 31, 2011

	Unaudited 1st Quarter	Unaudited Year-to-date
INCOME		
Designated	\$421,770	\$421,770
General (Undesignated)	247,725	247,725
Restricted Funds	41,054	41,054
Bequests	56,128	56,128
Endowments	<u>27,708</u>	<u>27,708</u>
Total Income	\$794,385	\$794,385

1st Quarter Income



1st Quarter Expenses



EXPENSES

Program	\$710,484	\$710,484
General & Administration	171,550	171,550
Fundraising	<u>74,753</u>	<u>74,753</u>
Total Expenses	\$956,787	\$956,787
Net Total	(\$162,402)	(\$162,402)

NOTE: During the first quarter of 2011 LBT was able to purchase 1 missionary laptop computer and 1 vehicle for Cameroon use. The total of these purchases was \$43,451. These costs are not reflected above.

CUT HERE

CUT HERE

Birthdays

JUNE

- 2 **Eshinee Veith**
Botswana
- 6 **Seth Rodewald**
(1997)
South Africa
- 8 **Ed Rupprecht**
United States
- 12 **Dean Mehl**
United States
- 16 **Susan Malone**
Southeast Asia
- 18 **Maya Rudowske**
Botswana
- 28 **Amanda Speck**
(2006)
Mexico
- 28 **Joshua Rudowske**
(2003)
Botswana
- 30 **Jo Ann Megahan**
Botswana

JULY

- 1 **Mary Holman**
Ghana
- 5 **Mary Blake**
Service Center Staff
- 5 **Aili Esala** (2006)
Ghana
- 6 **Judi Behrens**
Service Center Staff
- 7 **Jim Kaiser**
United States
- 10 **Joshua DeLoach**
(2006)
Papua New Guinea
- 11 **Vance Schultz**
United States
- 11 **Peter Megahan**
(1992)
Botswana
- 12 **Nathan Esala**
Ghana
- 12 **Josiah Federwitz**
(2004)
Ghana
- 19 **Grace Closius**
United States

- 30 **Andrew Beckendorf**
(2007)
Botswana

AUGUST

- 1 **Valerie Federwitz**
Ghana
- 4 **Tim Miller**
Thailand
- 8 **Rachel Federwitz**
(2004)
Papua New Guinea
- 8 **Sarah Miller**
(1997)
Thailand
- 10 **Rich Rudowske**
Botswana
- 14 **Mike Butterfield**
Service Center Staff
- 14 **Cheryl Jensen**
Brazil
- 30 **Paul Closius**
United States

FOLD

Interested in Becoming a Missionary? Know Someone Who Is? Then Don't Miss IDIOM (In Depth Investigation of Missions)

LBT's second free seminar of the year will be held in Aurora, Illinois, this August. Individuals and couples from across the country, curious about possible overseas missionary service, will interact for two days with seasoned missionaries, have their questions answered, explore possibilities, and find out what it takes to serve on the mission field.

**Join us
August 3-6, 2011**

We'd love to talk with you!
Want to find out more?

Call: 1-800-532-4253 and ask for Peter Slayton (x 23)
Website: www.LBT.org - click on Become a Missionary and then click on IDIOM (In Depth Investigation of Missions)
Email: PSlayton@LBT.org

Gift Designations

Your gifts in support of Mission Projects and Programs are applied to the designated project or program. When a designated project is fully funded, surplus funds are applied to comparable projects. When a designated program is fully funded, surplus funds are applied to the general fund.

LBT MISSIONARY Currents

Prayer partnership is the backbone of this ministry. Here are several prayer concerns for which we ask your support. May God bless you abundantly!

BOTSWANA

- Pray that the fledgling **Shekgalagari Bible Translation Project committee** will build a fruitful partnership with LBT and the Bible Society of Botswana.
- Pray for **Peter Megahan**, son of **Rev. Michael and Jo Ann Megahan**, as he completes his high school education.

LIBERIA

- Praise God for the steady progress that the **Liberian Translation and Literacy Organization (LIBTRALO)** has made in empowering and encouraging Liberians to read God's Word in their mother tongues.



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Executive Director:
Dr. Marshall R. Gillam



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This mailing was assembled by volunteers!

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Lutheran Bible Translators is an independent mission group, founded in 1964, which is dedicated to helping bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. It is the only Lutheran organization totally devoted to this specialized ministry. LBT actively recruits Lutherans to serve as Bible translators, literacy or vernacular media specialists and support missionaries. The LBT ministry is supported by the prayers and contributions of fellow Christians. It is not subsidized by any church body or sponsoring agency.

Want more information about translation, Scripture engagement, or LBT's ministry in a specific country? Sign up to receive one or more prayer letters from LBT missionaries.



Call Karen Campbell at
1-800-532-4253 for more details.

NIGERIA

- Praise God for the ministry of **Ed and Wilma Rupprecht**, who completed their overseas service and returned to the U.S. at the end of April.
- Pray for peace in **Côte D'Ivoire** and **Nigeria**, and that violence in those countries will not spill over to their neighbors.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Pray for **Caleb Rodewald**, son of **Mike and Cindy Rodewald**, as he approaches high school graduation.

THAILAND

- Pray for **Tim and Michelle Miller** as they return to the U.S. for partnership development in May. Praise God for daughter **Ellyn**, who graduates from high school this spring.



UNITED STATES

- Praise God for the March 16th birth of **Anastasia Joy Kinney**, daughter of **Paul and Kedra**, and sister to Luke, Erin, Ethan, and Josiah.
- Pray for **Rev. Chris LaBoube** as he prepares for his first field assignment to begin this summer.
- Pray for **Chris and Janine Pluger** as they make final arrangements for their translation assignment in Zambia, scheduled to begin in August.

- Praise God that **Rev. Larry Johnson's** ankle has finally healed almost a year and a half after his motorcycle accident. He traveled to Liberia to resume ministry in April.
- Pray for **Rev. Terry Borchard**, whose multiple myeloma cancer has resurged.

