



Messenger

Fifth Anniversary Celebrated

Twenty-Nine Year Ministry Draws to a Close

It began with dancing and a display of Kwanja New Testaments. Kwanjas who participated in translation and literacy work through the years were honored. Kwanja literature was sold. Prizes were awarded for winners of contests and test copies of the newly printed Kwanja dictionary were presented.

Last December, the Kwanja people of Cameroon celebrated the fifth anniversary of the dedication of the New Testament in their heart language, and they celebrated as if honoring a Chief.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of two Proclaimers, solar powered Faith Comes by Hearing audio devices that play the Kwanja New Testament. The Kwanja are awaiting the arrival of more Proclaimers that can be distributed to all the villages.

Martin and Joan Weber have served in translation and Scripture Engagement ministry with the Kwanja people for twenty-nine years. Currently on furlough in the U.S. and Canada, they will begin a new assignment when they return to Cameroon. "Our last few months in Cameroon were a time

of closure to living and working in our village with our Kwanja neighbors," said the Webers.

The Kwanja New Testament was dedicated in 2006. Since then, interest in literacy has grown, and today people are responding enthusiastically to the audio Old and New Testaments. But, as the Webers recalled, there have been struggles.

"At the beginning, as we were learning the language, it was difficult to make ourselves understood. We had to learn to speak 'in tune', to get the melodies of the words," said Martin and Joan. "We also needed to understand the cultural implications behind the words."

As the translation work began, the Webers, like all translators, had to be sure that the Kwanja words used in the translation accurately expressed the meaning of God's Word. Developing a writing system was a challenge since Kwanja is a tonal language. Pitch is used as a part of speech, changing the meaning of a word. Diacritical markings are used to indicate tone. The translation team had to find the best way to depict tone so that people would be able to more easily learn to read and write. And of course, literacy teachers needed to be trained so they could in turn teach others to read and write in Kwanja.

It has been an ongoing process to encourage the Kwanja to take leadership so that literacy efforts will continue. Those



Djan Robert expressed his joy at receiving a Proclaimer.



There was music and dancing at the Kwanja New Testament Fifth Anniversary Celebration.

Continued on page 7

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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History in the Making

by Dr. Marshall Gillam

I was struck to read that the Kwanja New Testament dedication was five years ago. I suppose that one of the reasons for my reaction was a simple one — I was there, and it doesn't seem so long ago!

I remember that day for another reason as well. It was at the Kwanja celebration that I had an experience that was new to me at the time, though it has been repeated several times since then.

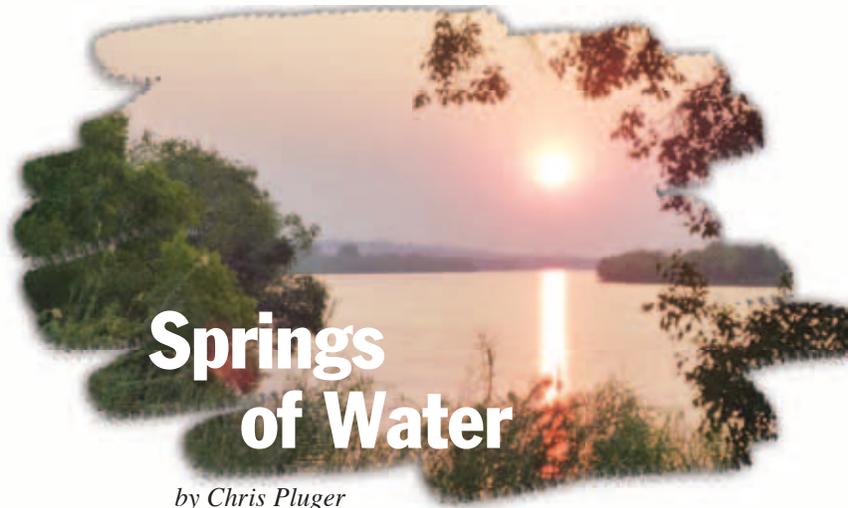
The dedication ceremony was held on Saturday. As the celebration ended, people swarmed around the tables to secure their copy of the New Testament. Then came Sunday. And Kwanja people were carrying their Bibles to church! More than that, as the lessons were read, the people turned to the appropriate chapter and verse to follow along with the reading. Now I realize that in Lutheran circles today most people don't carry their Bible to church as was once a more common practice. But this was different. Never before did the Kwanja have a Bible to carry to church... it didn't exist before!

I still remember being overwhelmed by the historical significance of the moment. To quote the Webers, this was the very first Sunday — ever — that the Kwanja people could hold God's Word in their hands... and receive it into their hearts.

The Webers' ministry is comprehensive: Bible translation, literacy and Scripture Engagement. Each element is intended to create access to God's Word. Access then is a tool of the Holy Spirit to work faith in the hearts of the Kwanja. The Webers will be moving to new field of ministry with LBT, but the Holy Spirit will continue to work faith in the hearts and lives of Kwanja people through His Word. As you have prayed for the Webers and the Kwanja over these years, please continue to pray for them in their new phase of life and ministry. 📖

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dr. Marshall R. Gillam, CFRE
Executive Director



Springs of Water

by Chris Pluger

Earlier this year, I met with Bishop George Lungu, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Eastern Province. He is Nsenga by tribe and is very interested in the Nsenga Bible Translation.

Bishop Lungu explained that when he was first ordained, many people in his churches tried to pray in English or Chewa (the "official" language of Eastern Province). But now, he is happy to see many Nsenga are starting to use their own language more and more in prayers and the liturgy.

As for himself, he said he prefers to pray and think about God in his own Nsenga language, too. He quoted John 4:14 — "Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" — and said, "I can read this in Chewa and understand what it means. The Chewa word *chitsema* means 'spring of water,' and I know what Jesus is talking about. But if I hear the Nsenga word, *nchera* — then I actually can hear and taste and see the cool water coming out of the ground, and feel it bubbling forth to give me life!" 📖

Chris, Janine, and Sean Pluger serve in translation ministry with the Nsenga people of Zambia.

What Does This Mean II

See if you can interpret these Liberian idioms recorded by Rev. Larry Johnson.

1. to "breaks over the hand"
2. a "red matter"
3. to have a "hanging" heart
4. to "walk in your mind"
5. "you are saving my head"

- a. to be very worried about something
- b. deliver a person from a big problem
- c. a serious trouble that has come to a person
- d. to have a victory over a person or country
- e. to meditate on something

1. d 2. c 3. a 4. e 5. b

A Visit to Liberia

by Gail Ludvigson, Deaconess Intern

When I first learned that one of my internship duties would be to go to Liberia to work with LIBTRALO (Liberian Translation and Literacy Organization), I didn't know what to expect. My experience turned out to be so much richer and satisfying than I could ever have imagined.

Roberts International Airport in Monrovia, like its counterparts around the world, can sometimes be a chaotic place. It would have been even more so on January 16, when Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was sworn in for her second term as president of Liberia. I was happy that I arrived on the Sunday before the inauguration. I was treated to the experience of watching the ceremony on TV with ladies at the Methodist compound.

LBT missionary Alvina Federwitz was my hostess for 35 days. She's a great cook, a pleasant companion and a wealth of information about Liberia and missionary service. What a wonderful mentor! Thanks to her I learned to love such Liberian food as rice and "soup," soursop and addo. She introduced me to her friends, both Liberians and expatriates, and everyone made me feel welcome. We also attended church together at St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia).

Every work day was full, and I was able to use many of my skills and abilities in service to my Liberian colleagues. I provided instruction in grant writing and assisted in writing a proposal to USAID. I offered editorial advice, helped troubleshoot computer issues, and participated in policy review. It was inspiring to work with such devoted and committed staff at LIBTRALO. I would have liked to do more and was sad to leave when my time was over.

A typical day with Alvina at the LIBTRALO office begins before 7:00 AM (to beat the traffic). Since the generator is not switched on until 8-8:30 AM, you learn very quickly to plan your work around how much battery life your laptop has. As the staff begins to arrive, the work



Gail spent five weeks working with LIBTRALO staff in Monrovia.



Pillowcase dresses were distributed at Samukai Town.

pace quickens with meetings and interruptions and people stopping in. Suddenly you look up, and it's 12:00 noon and time for devotions. After lunch, the afternoon flies by until you realize that it's almost 5:00 PM.

Adjusting my routine to the interruptions in electrical power and the availability of Internet service took some doing. In the U.S. everything is "always on," but in Liberia you can never be sure. Although I'm not as plugged in as many of my friends and family, it was frustrating not to be able to communicate regularly.

Heat, dust and insects were another challenge. In the "mid-dry" season of January and February, the heat and dust from the Sahara (known as the "harmattan") quickly sap your energy, even in the city of Monrovia. One annoyance I could have done without was bites from mosquitoes, flies, ants and spiders, despite using strong insect repellent every night.

With so much to do and see, the time just zoomed by. Surprisingly, the hectic work pace was counterbalanced by an unusual whirl of other activities. In five weeks, we ate dinner at the homes of friends, were treated to dinner out several times, visited the new U.S. Embassy and met the ambassador, attended a movie screening at the German Embassy, attended the opening of the new Ministry of Health building, and sat in on a case at the Supreme Court. My new Liberian friends at LIBTRALO also arranged a visit to Samukai Town, a refugee village, to distribute "pillowcase dresses" sewn by ladies from Messiah Lutheran Church in Seattle.

My heart is filled with gratitude to the Lord and to His servants at LBT who made my first experience in Africa so amazing. Now, more than ever, the words of the hymn are proven true: *God is my comfort and my trust, my hope and life abiding; and to His counsel, wise and just, I yield, in Him confiding.*" (LSB 758:2) He knew just what was needed and provided it, all praise to His name! 📖

Gail received her M.A. degree on May 18, 2012, from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She served as an intern at the LBT Service Center from August 2011 to May 2012.



Integrity in Charitable Gift Decision-Making

By Mike Butterfield



Mike Butterfield

A former African missionary remembers that Wednesdays were “Market Days.” Under the African heat, vendors would gather in a central village location. Many would seek a shade tree under which to display their goods. The shaded locations were not sought out in order to avoid the skin-baking effects of the sun. Rather, such intense day-long heat tended to melt the

stained wax filler the craftsmen used in an effort to hide the blemishes in their wood carvings that greatly reduce their value to a collector. (The missionary wondered whether or not this is the origination of the term “shady deal.”)

We know that a lack of integrity in conducting business affairs is similarly far too common in our Western culture. All we need do to be reminded about the matter of integrity among professional politicians is to watch the evening news. What has become of the day when men shook hands to reach a binding agreement? And how many of their paid eight hours do most employees really work?

Now consider the concept of “organizational integrity” demonstrated by the charities to which you provide financial support. Have you evaluated if they are truly carrying out the stated mission of their organization? Do they dedicate the financial resources you offer toward the purpose for which you have given them? Do they demonstrate to you that they appreciate your charity by providing you with letters or other documents clearly expressing their gratitude? Do they accurately account for and print for you the total of the

gifts you have given on an annual basis? Have you done the research to determine what percentage of every gift dollar your charities spend on administrative costs or in raising a dollar of charitable support?

Lutheran Bible Translators seeks to be flawless in our practice of “organizational integrity.” We tirelessly promote, advance and adhere to our mission of “helping to 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.” We have consistently remained well within what is understood to be “acceptable standards” in our ratios of operational and fund-raising costs. As a further demonstration of our concern for such matters, we are charter members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). That organization forthrightly states in its mission that it “is committed to helping Christ-centered organizations earn the public’s trust through developing and maintaining standards of accountability that convey God-honoring ethical practices.”

Be assured—in fact, be guaranteed—that each dollar you gift to LBT contributes to the advancement and support of “heart language” Bible translation and/or Scripture Engagement. Christ is preeminent in our service as we seek to bring the saving Gospel to more and more souls and strive to bring honor and glory to God in all we do. As we shake hands with you, be certain that we remain partners in the advancement of this mission. ☺

Need More Information?

Return this coupon to:

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Heart Music

by Rev. Michael Megahan

Over the years I have been asked many different questions as I visit congregations during furlough in the States. One that seems to cause me the longest pause before answering is, “What do you find that you miss the most about America?”

This year, in an attempt to be prepared, I have given the matter more thought than usual, and the answer is **worship in English, especially music**. Now, I must first confess that I am a ‘closet orthodox/high church’ person (except for the incense). The music of pipe-organs, of Bach or Mozart or contemporary masses with organ, orchestra and choirs (vocal and bell) - now I’m in worship! Give me the hymns that tell the story, no matter how long the verses, how complex the music. I rejoice in the procession of the cross, the reading of the Gospel from the middle of the congregation, the kneeling at confession (though my knees are old enough and have been bent long enough to ache when I stand).

Now, I am not down-playing many of the current, alternative styles of worship. In fact, my point is that our styles of worship are often cultural and speak to our hearts.

Some find worship in praise songs, others in singing old-time favorites. All are valid and appropriate ways of worshipping. What I am saying is that just as we have ‘Heart Language,’ so we also have ‘Heart Music’ — music that communicates the Gospel to our hearts just as much as the words of the sermon or the reading of the Scriptures. For me, the strains of a Mozart Requiem can bring the sorrow of the Law into my heart, as well as the joy of the Gospel, far better than any sermon I have ever preached or heard.

So, what is the point I am making? Well, there are two or three points. First, Jo Ann and I find that we miss music and worship in English and are so thankful when we can sit back in the sinners’ pew and let the Spirit work through the Heart Music we miss so often overseas. Second, if we find our Heart Music (and so Heart Worship) so meaningful, then what about our brothers and sisters in Africa, Asia, and South America? They, too, have their Heart Music and Heart Worship. If dancing and singing to drums does not lift me up in worship, then should Mozart or Bach bring tears to their eyes? Many years ago, while driving a group of fellow pastors to a workshop, I played a CD of hymns being performed on the organ. My ‘heart’ was singing along with the music. Suddenly, one of the pastors asked me to change the music to theirs, because they couldn’t **understand** the music I was playing.

As we consider translating the Scriptures into the Heart Languages of all people so that they can understand, let us remember also to help them develop hymnody in their Heart Language, so that they, too, can lift their Hearts in worship to God. ☞

Rev. Michael and Jo Ann Megahan are on furlough from the Kalanga Old Testament Translation Project. They will return to Botswana in June.



Rev. Michael Megahan conducting services during a retreat in Namibia.

A Zambian Fable

A dog, a chicken, a goat, and a cow all needed to go to town. So they flagged down a passing minibus and asked the driver for a lift. The driver told the dog, “You can’t get on. You’ll just bite all the passengers.” He told the other animals that the fare was three thousand kwacha.

When they got to town, the chicken had no money, so she ran away from the driver without paying. The goat did the same thing. The cow, however, gave the driver a five thousand kwacha note. But since the chicken and the goat had not paid, the driver had no change to give to the cow.

This story explains how animals act on the road. When you drive past a dog, it will chase your car barking because it is mad about not being given a lift. When you drive past chickens and goats, they will run away from you because they think you have come to collect their fare. But when you meet a cow, it will make you stop by standing in the middle of the road, staring at you as if to say, “I want my two thousand kwacha.”



Lost and Found

by Eshinee Veith

One morning a few months ago, I misplaced the keys to the translation office. I turned the house upside down looking, all to no avail.

So, on the way to the hopelessly locked office, where I knew Shiyeyi translation team members Bahiti and Keene would be waiting for me to begin the day's work, I began to think of things that we could do instead. I told them that we would have a field trip morning. There were new Shiyeyi materials at Mrs. Musupukwa's place that I hadn't gotten around to picking up; we would start there.

When we arrived, Mrs. Musupukwa's daughter, Pearl, welcomed us. We sat in the porch area and she brought out the new materials for me to take. We ended up sitting and chatting for quite some time, switching back and forth between three languages: Setswana, Shiyeyi, and English. Bahiti shared about what we had been doing at the new office, and told Pearl how to find it. She had been meaning to visit but wasn't sure of the location.

After a bit, I asked if Bahiti and Keene would come with me to Sexaxa, where the Shiyeyi cultural village for tourists is located. Bahiti said that it was not too far from where he lives and that he could go with me. Keene came along as well.

To make a long story short, we spent an entire morning driving from *kgotlas* (meetings, places where meetings are held) to basket shops to people's homes, looking for the contacts for the cultural village so I could arrange a visit when my intern moves here. Along the way, we talked to dozens of people. Each time, Bahiti shared about the Bible translation work and chatted a bit with whoever we found. The way that he introduced me to people was kind of fun; he said that I was a *Muyeyi*, that I speak Shiyeyi. And throughout the course of the morning, I did. Not streams of it, mind you; I can read and understand it far better than I can speak it, by a long shot. But in the moments where the appropriate response in Shiyeyi came to mind, I used it. People's responses when I do that are fun to watch. Shock usually features in. Laughter happens. And Bahiti smiles, like he's played a particularly clever trick on those who heard me. We had an enjoyable and productive time.

Once we finally tracked down the contacts for the village, I dropped Bahiti at his place on my way home. As I headed back to town with Keene, a major storm hit. The rain came down so hard we had to pull over and wait for the roads to be less flooded and for visibility to return. Lightning was everywhere.



Eventually, we decided to creep back onto the road and go slowly with the hazard lights on. As we crossed into the main part of town, we drove out of the storm. Just like that, we were in a totally dry place. People were walking about freely, with no idea of the deluge that was happening just a few kilometers up the river. I dropped Keene at her ward and began the trek home.

I couldn't help but notice that the morning had been highly productive in ways that I hadn't planned on when I got up. I may have found a place where I can learn to dance with the *mawayawaya* (the reed skirt) and to weave a basket (*ku ruka shiteko*). I practiced using my Shiyeyi-ears and my Setswana-ears with people other than my immediate circle of friends and co-workers. Most importantly, people in Sexaxa learned about the Wayeyi Bible Translation Project.

So, am I sorry that I couldn't find my keys? No, I can't say that I am! 📖

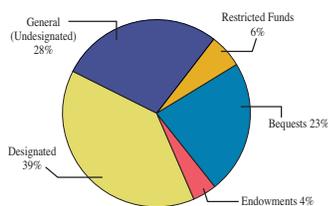
Eshinee Veith serves in Botswana with the Shiyeyi Translation Project. Her husband, Rob, is a vernacular media specialist and ethnomusicologist.

LBT Partnership Support

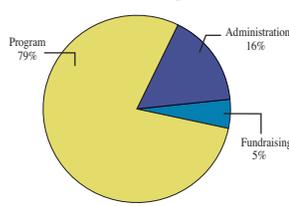
January 1 — March 31, 2012

	Unaudited 1st Quarter	Unaudited Year-to-date
INCOME		
Designated	\$399,043	\$399,043
General (Undesignated)	282,263	282,263
Restricted Funds	66,121	66,121
Bequests	239,247	239,247
Endowments	42,295	42,295
Total Income	\$1,028,969	\$1,028,969

1st Quarter Income



1st Quarter Expenses



EXPENSES

Program	\$724,507	\$724,507
Administration	145,310	145,310
Fundraising	45,408	45,408
Total Expenses	915,225	915,225
Net Total	\$113,744	\$113,744

NOTE: During the first quarter of 2012 LBT was able to purchase 2 missionary laptop computers at a cost of \$2,728. These costs are not reflected above.

CUT HERE

CUT HERE

Birthdays

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
2 Eshinee Veith Botswana	1 Mary Holman Ghana	1 Valerie Federwitz Ghana
6 Seth Rodewald (1997) South Africa	5 Aili Esala (2006) Ghana	4 Tim Miller Thailand
8 Ed Rupprecht United States	6 Judi Behrens Service Center Staff	6 Ruth Wagner Pre-field
12 Dean Mehl United States	7 Jim Kaiser United States	8 Rachel Federwitz (2004) Papua New Guinea
16 Susan Malone Southeast Asia	10 Joshua DeLoach (2006) Papua New Guinea	8 Sarah Miller (1997) Thailand
18 Maya Rudowske Botswana	11 Vanice Schultz United States	10 Rich Rudowske Botswana
21 Erla Flynn Service Center Staff	11 Peter Megahan (1992) Botswana	14 Mike Butterfield Service Center Staff
28 Amanda Speck (2006) Mexico	12 Nathan Esala Ghana	14 Cheryl Jensen Brazil
28 Joshua Rudowske (2003) Botswana	12 Josiah Federwitz (2004) Ghana	30 Paul Closius United States
30 Jo Ann Megahan Botswana	19 Grace Closius United States	
30 Chris Pluger Zambia	30 Andrew Beckendorf (2007) Botswana	

FOLD

Ministry Draws to a Close

Continued from page 1

who listen to audio Scripture also need to be encouraged to make Scripture part of their daily lives. "As farmers know, having seeds and tools with which to plant them is not enough. The soil conditions need to be good for planting," said the Webers. "The ground needs to be plowed up, obstacles in the field need to be removed, and weeds kept under control. As God's Word becomes more available to the Kwanjas, we are seeing more barriers and distractions that keep people from hearing and receiving it into their lives."

Despite the problems they have observed, the Webers are confident that God will continue to work in the hearts of the Kwanja people. Djang Robert, a Kwanja speaker, received a Proclaimer at the anniversary celebration. He expressed how many Kwanja feel. "This is a real treasure. It is the Word of God that gives life. This is what we need for developing our culture and way of life, so that we will have God's blessings."

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 for the **Wayeyi Bible Translation Project Advisory Committee** as they interview for a Project Secretary and two translators.

CANADA

- Pray for LBT-Canada as they continue to interview for a new Executive Director. Pray for God's blessings on current Executive Director **Rev. David Maffett**, who has accepted a call to parish ministry.

CAMEROON

- Please pray for **Peg Seitz** as she considers expanding her current role as Wycliffe Associates Volunteer Coordinator to include nine more African countries.

- Praise God that LBT-Canada missionaries **Mike and Kara Kuhn** have agreed to serve with the **Nizaa people** of Cameroon. This is the people group that **Kory and Cara Fay** had to leave because of health concerns.



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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.

Did you know we're on Facebook?



LIKE 'Lutheran Bible Translators' for daily prayer requests, breaking news, links to blog updates, and to join the discussion!

GHANA

- Pray for **Paul and Ali Federwitz** as they visit the U.S. for six weeks in May and June. Paul will assist with technical issues at the LBT Service Center and the whole family will attend a family reunion.
- Pray for **Rev. Chris LaBoube** as he continues learning the Dagbani language.
- Praise God for **MK Camp**, the northern Ghana homeschool co-op. The group has met several times now, and is helping to meet the needs of Ghana Missionary Kids.

NIGERIA

- Pray for peace in **Nigeria**. Violence has been escalating since the Christmas Day 2011 church bombings. Pray for safety for our missionaries, **Rev. Chuck and Karen Tessaro**, and for our national co-workers and scholarship students.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Praise God that **Dan and Kay Finley's** work recording the Jesus Film in the Ipili language went so well they were able to complete another small project before returning to the U.S.
- Pray that **Rev. Terry Borchard's** multiple myeloma will remain at a low level.

UNITED STATES

- Pray for **Josh and Ruthie Wagner**, who are expecting their first baby in June.
- Pray for **Susan Kaiser** as she continues with breast cancer treatments for most of this year.
- Pray for the **David and Valerie Federwitz family**, the **Jonathan and Carrie Federwitz family**, **Alvina Federwitz**, the **Rev. Rich and Maya Rudowske family**, and **Martin and Joan Weber**, who are all currently in the U.S. for Partnership Development furlough.

ZAMBIA

- Pray for members of the Nsenga Bible Translation Project as they work on fundraising and publicity.

