



# Messenger

## The Ministry of Presence

by Rev. Rich Rudowske

**H**e da go thanonena Baebele gka Shekgalagari! (We can explain the Bible with the language of the Kgalagari!) After nearly three years working among the Kgalagari people, the vision is starting to come together. It is possible for the Word of God to be expressed in their language.

The Kgalagari people number 242,000, living in the Kalahari Desert of western Botswana in southern Africa. Their nearby neighbors, the Tswana (for whom the nation is named), were the recipients of the first full translation of the Scriptures in sub-Saharan Africa in the late 1800s – a product of the mission work of the famed Robert Moffatt and David Livingstone from the London Missionary Society. Because they have similar customs and appearances, the Kgalagari were mistaken for ‘poor Tswana’ by many mission agencies and anthropologists. This led to decades of attempts to evangelize the Kgalagari people using the Tswana language.

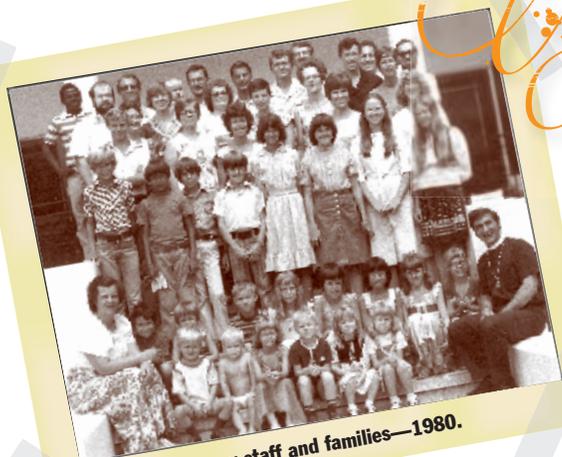
As a result, the vast majority of the Kgalagari population holds to a very surface level Christianity, mixed with traditional religious beliefs in ancestor worship and a reliance upon and deep fear of witchcraft. For many Kgalagari, the name of Jesus is only on their lips as another option in the spirit world from which to attempt to draw power. They don’t know the Bible’s message of God’s unconditional love as demonstrated by Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

In 2009, my family and I were sent to the village of Kang to work toward the goal of producing a New Testament in the Shekgalagari language. We were met with such an enthusiastic showing our first Sunday worshipping at the local Lutheran church that we thought it was a mistake that we had been sent here. The worship was so vibrant, the congregation so large and welcoming, that we thought the reports of the need for evangelism to the Kgalagari had been inaccurate. But, as we continued to attend services, we noticed that the enthusiasm waned and attendance dropped off.

*Continued on page 6*

## Memories of Needed

### Help Us Celebrate Our 50th Anniversary



Liberia missionary staff and families—1980.

As many of you know, LBT was incorporated on May 19, 1964. That means that May 19, 2014, will be our **50th birthday!**

Although it seems far away, planning for this milestone year has already begun, and we’d like to invite your participation. Do you have any **special photos, memories, or stories** about LBT? We’ll be setting up a special website in the near future where you can share this information with staff, missionaries, and other friends of LBT. *We’ll let you know more details as they become available.*

In the meantime, cast your mind back to yesteryear, go through the photo albums, relive the experience of hearing a missionary speak. Your input and memorabilia will help make a special year even more exceptional. 📖

*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.*

### Inside this issue...

A Heart for Missions:	It’s a “Faith Perspective” .....	4
The Ultimate Word .....		2
Fall Dinners Coming Soon .....	Elephants in the Bible!?	5
Thanks and Farewell .....	“New” Missionary Welcomed.....	5
LWML Districts Award Mission Grants for LBT Projects.....	Teacher or Student? .....	6



a heart  
for missions

## The Ultimate Word

**W**e live in a world of words! Have you ever thought about that before? Words are everywhere. Words are spoken; words are written; words are projected!

Several of the articles in this edition of *The Messenger* are all about words. As the authors make clear, words are to be taken seriously and used precisely. Anything short of these principles and communication is at risk. When words are not well used, the message may be garbled and misunderstood.

Of course, a garbled or misunderstood message is always a problem. But when the words are the words of Scripture, garbled and misunderstood just won't do!

In the book of Esther, three royal proclamations are reported. In each instance, the proclamation is translated into all the languages of the empire. While the text is not explicit on this point, it implies that the process of translation and distribution was done fairly quickly. There must have been a huge staff in the emperor's translation department!

It is my experience that successful translation projects take time... enormous amounts of time... to translate God's Word into a language that previously had no Scripture. LBT translation advisors work closely and meticulously with the local translation team to find just the right word or phrase to make the Gospel message accurate and clear.

As I have been writing this article, a profoundly obvious text is running through my mind... ***and the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.***

Words are everywhere. Words are always important. But words are never more important than when they speak of the Word that became Flesh — our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through your prayers and your gifts, the precious words of Scripture are being carefully translated into many languages — and people will learn of the most precious Word of all! 📖

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dr. Marshall R. Gillam, CFRE  
Executive Director



## Fall Dinners Coming Soon

LBT will host several lunch and dinner events this Fall.

- November 5** Phoenix, Arizona
- November 7** Knotts Berry Farm, Buena Park, California
- November 9** Seattle, Washington
- November 11, 12** Denver, Colorado

If you're in the area, please plan to join us. For more details please call 1-800-532-4253.

## Thanks and Farewell

by Gail Ludvigson

With a full heart and a sense of sadness, I want to thank everyone at the Service Center and LBT's faithful supporters for the opportunity to serve as an intern over the past year. By now, you may have heard that I graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary with an M.A. and await placement as a commissioned deaconess. Even though my internship officially ended in May, LBT has graciously allowed me to return and serve for two more months before I return to Seattle in August.

I've learned from the inside how vital the ministry of Bible translation and literacy are to the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ. Like many Americans, I take for granted the wonderful blessing of having the Bible in my own language, available to use whenever and wherever I want. I also take for granted the education I received in American schools that allows me to easily read, study and memorize the Scriptures. Until I served with LBT, I never thought about the fact that a mother tongue Bible translation means little if the audience does not read or understand their mother tongue. That's why translation and Scripture Engagement go hand in hand.

It's hard to believe that an entire year has gone by since I began my internship. So much has happened. I've written 28 LWML grants as well as several others. For the very first time, I traveled to Africa and spent 35 days in Liberia assisting LBT colleagues at LIBTRALO. Five times I've spoken publicly about LBT's mission and ministry — to volunteers, congregational members, Lutheran school students and LWML members. I've written articles for *The Messenger*. I've forged valuable relationships with staff and missionaries that I hope will endure for years to come.

I'll miss working beside all the people (staff, missionaries, supporters) who devote themselves to ensuring that the Word of God is not bound but is preached and taught to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people. Farewell to you all, and may God continue to bless you richly in your service to His Church. 📖

*As Gail learned about Bible translation, the staff, missionaries, and people we serve benefited from the diligent work she performed on behalf of LBT. We express our appreciation to Gail and to those who supported her financially during her internship at LBT, especially Messiah Lutheran Church of Seattle, Washington.*

# LWML Districts Award Mission Grants for LBT Projects

Seven districts of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League have awarded over \$15,000 in grants to LBT projects for 2012-2014 so far in this convention season. Several other districts are in the decision making process. What a great blessing it is to have such faithful partners as the women of the LWML! Their mite offerings benefit a wide range of mission projects across the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as well as in their local districts.

**California-Nevada-Hawaii, South Dakota, and Louisiana-Mississippi** approved funds to support classes to teach Liberian women how to read so they can use the Bible in their mother tongue.

Literacy rates plummeted in Liberia when families were displaced from their communities and schools were destroyed due to civil war in the 1980s and mid 1990s. Many parents could not afford to send their children to the few schools that remained. Today, many Liberian adults, especially women, cannot read or write any language.

If people cannot read and write their own language they cannot fully benefit from the Bible translations available to them. During the last 10 years programs in Liberia have grown to include Scripture and language engagement activities. The LWML grants will be used to cover the costs of literacy classes for one year including a two-week teacher training workshop, classroom supplies, printing of teaching and learning materials, use of CD and cassette players, and travel to recruit students and to conduct post-training assessments.

Grant funds from the **Carolinas District** will be used to produce "Morality Play Stories."



Traditional storytellers tell stories in their mother tongue, followed by the reading of a Scripture verse that addresses the moral value in the story. In this way, Liberians learn how God's Word

**Recording a morality story.**



**Road conditions can be hazardous on the mission field.**

relates to their daily lives. LBT's partner, LIBTRALO (Liberian Translation and Literacy Organization), will produce audio cassettes and CDs of these stories in seven languages (Bandi, Bassa, Kpelle, Lorma, Kisi, Dan and Mann) to sell to Liberians at an affordable price. People love to hear their own stories. Tying them to

Scriptural foundations builds appreciation for the value of Scripture as a source of truth and a measure for what is right.

Two districts approved grant funds to provide equipment for God's servants in the mission field. **Kansas District** generously voted funds toward the purchase of a heavy duty vehicle with four wheel drive for John Strasen, who is serving with the Shekgalagari New Testament translation project in Botswana, Southern Africa. Reliable, sturdy vehicles are essential to a ministry that serves people in remote places where weather is harsh and roads are treacherous.

Grant funds to purchase computers for Bible translators in Africa were approved by the **Central Illinois District**. These laptops will be equipped with software specifically for Bible translation, improving efficiency and speeding the translation process.

The **Slovak District (SELC) LWML** awarded a grant for literacy and Scripture Engagement work in Southeast Asia. The planned storybook will include simplified Bible stories for newer readers.

The staff and missionaries of LBT continue to be moved and grateful for the ongoing support of the women of the LWML. Their compassion for those who do not know Jesus Christ and the commitment to bring Scripture to them in their heart languages is inspirational and a source of encouragement. 📖



# It's a "Faith Perspective"

by Michael Butterfield



Mike Butterfield

**W**herever we're at, whatever we're doing, God must be glorified in all we're doing."  
*"Hopefully people will see the peace in me and ask me where it comes from so I can tell them about Jesus."*  
*"I've just got to be thankful to the Lord for the gifts He's given me. My gift back to Him is always to be humble and always try to work as hard as I can."*

*"It's not about me. It's having a relationship with Christ and that's what I'm living for. It's having a relationship with Christ, impacting a lot of people and trying to help, encourage and inspire people."*

Who do you believe is being quoted — LBT missionaries or professional athletes? Yes, you guessed it. These quotes were taken from interviews with a Chicago White Sox pitcher, a dedicated Lutheran professional golfer, one of the best players in professional basketball, and one of the more famous professional football quarterbacks in today's game.

What is the relevance of these quotes to the mission of LBT and this quarterly *Messenger*? The answer: the reaffirmation of the importance of a "faith perspective."

Read again the perspective of life encouraged by the prophet in Jeremiah 9:23-24.

*"This is what the Lord says: Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the*

*Lord who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth for in these I delight, declares the Lord."*

Now read the "faith perspective" of just a few of our missionaries. They truly represent some of the most dedicated servants God has created.

*"Despite my limited preparedness and lack of technical skills, I have experienced that God has a unique way of guiding me through each presentation so I can successfully report to my prayer partners how God continues to fuel the work I am doing through their prayers and/or financial partnership."*

*"Stepping out in faith to go where God calls you to go is not about your individual ideas or 'rights.' Stepping out in faith to go where God leads you is all about Him using your talents and gifts—which He gave you—in ways that you never considered so that God will ultimately be glorified."*

*"It is only by God's grace and through the giving and prayers of supporters that we are able to serve and be a part of what God is doing here in Africa. We can only hope that they all understand what a humbling and encouraging thing it is to see God using them to provide for us. We could not be here without them and for that we are truly thankful."*

This is the "faith perspective" that only the Spirit Himself can create within you. Your faithful years of remarkably generous support — both with financial offerings and prayer — have demonstrated to us that we share a deep commitment to this mission of producing "heart language" Bible translations. May the Lord bless us as we strive together as partners in advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. 📖

## Need More Information?

### Return this coupon to:

Mike Butterfield  
Lutheran Bible Translators, 303 N Lake Street, PO Box 2050,  
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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](http://www.LBT.org)

# Elephants in the Bible!?

by Rev. Tim Beckendorf

On several occasions I've had to ask my fellow translators, Moses and Splash, "Why is there an elephant in the text?" This question for the first few times was met with inquisitive looks and perplexity, "What is he talking about!?" Then I would bring their attention to a small but very important spelling error which differentiates between the noun 'elephant' and the verb 'go out/away'.

Here's an example:

Matthew 16:23
Khwedam: Tiki ʘxoa Catan tce
English back translation: Me.from elephant Satan
Khwedam: Tiki ʘ'oa Catan tce
English back translation: Me.from go out Satan

That little apostrophe mark after the 'x' in the second word is what we use to notate a 'glottal stop' and it makes the difference between the verb 'go out/away' and the noun 'elephant'. That little mark makes the difference in our translation reflecting the original meaning of the text or an elephant inadvertently slipping into our translation.

Since this language is in its infancy with regards to writing, spelling is an issue that we discuss every day. There is a dictionary that was produced in 2002 in Namibia, but the dialect and the spellings do not always agree with the Khwedam dialect spoken here in Botswana. (The dialect used in the dictionary reflects a dialect spoken in Angola.)

So, as we go along we are creating a new dictionary that can be used by the Khwe people of northern Botswana. 📖

*Rev. Tim and Lisa Beckendorf and family live in Shakawe, Botswana, serving in translation ministry with the Khwe Translation Project.*

## "New" Missionary Welcomed



Christina and students.

**Christina Riddle** was appointed to full missionary status at the May 2012 Board of Directors meeting. She has been serving as a volunteer mk (missionary kid) tutor with LBT since 2008.

Christina grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Ohio Dominican University in 2003. After college, she spent two years working as a missionary in Taiwan, where she taught English as a Foreign Language and volunteered with a local church.

Christina supports Bible translation and serves missionaries in Ghana by home schooling their children. She works full time with LBT missionary kids and periodically branches out to teach other nearby missionary kids at her local home school co-op meetings. Her goal is to provide for missionary parents by assisting with child rearing, helping out with household tasks, and being on hand as an extra adult. She especially enjoys reading aloud to the children in the evenings and helping them hone their writing skills.

Moses working on a draft of Genesis 3:15.



Khwe villagers reviewing a draft copy of translated Scripture.



# Teacher or Student?

by Eshinee Veith

**A**t a Shiyeyi writers workshop earlier this year, the writers translated a numeracy textbook into Shiyeyi at the request of the Department of Out of School Education and Training. There were a lot of decisions that needed to be made about how to best translate English math terminology into Shiyeyi, especially where nothing quite like those terms had existed before. Some of the challenges were to be expected, such as with the terms ‘numerator’ and ‘denominator’. The writers decided to use *shitshukanwa*, ‘that which is divided’, and *shitshukana*, ‘that which divides’.

The challenge that surprised me the most had to do with the terms for ‘teacher’ and ‘student’. I noticed that ‘teacher’ was consistently translated as *muyaayati*. The translation for ‘student’, however, was not as consistent; sometimes it was *muyaaywa*, sometimes it was *muyaayati*, the word used for teacher. Why was this happening?

Historically, the term chosen to translate ‘teach’ was *iyaaya*. This was a term adopted from the male initiation process, meaning ‘to engage in the process of instruction’. This instruction primarily involved guidance as to how to be a productive and harmonious citizen of the Wayeyi community. The challenge is that *iyaaya* makes no distinction between teaching and learning; it can be used equally to refer to either side of the process. Therefore, the term *muyaayati* is traditionally used to refer to a teacher as well as a student.

Early in the language development process, it was decided that referring to teachers and students with the same word would be too confusing. So, some people began to use the term *muyaaywa*, basically ‘one who has *iyaaya* (teaching) done to them’. Confusion also occurs because trained writers and traditional writers have differing points of view. Trained writers use the newly developed term, *muyaaywa*. Readers should theoretically be able to figure out and adopt it into their vocabulary, as it was developed using natural Shiyeyi word construction rules. The more traditional writers prefer to use the traditional Shiyeyi term, *muyaayati*, even though it does not distinguish between ‘teacher’ and ‘student’ in the way that English does.

While the choice between *muyaayati* and *muyaaywa* is a decision that belongs to the Wayeyi, it does pose an interesting challenge for those of us directly involved in the Shiyeyi Bible translation process. What terms should be used to describe the relationship between Jesus and his disciples? In traditional Shiyeyi terms, Jesus was a *muyaayati*; his disciples were also *wayaayati*. But does that really pose a problem for translation?

I think of Matthew 28:19, where Jesus tells his disciples to go and make more disciples. There’s a seamlessness in this idea in Shiyeyi that makes me look at this passage with fresh eyes. Did they stop being disciples of Jesus once they started



Translators at the Shiyeyi numeracy text workshop in Gumare, Botswana. Photo by Kenosi Nkape

making disciples themselves? Do we? Rather, I suspect that the process of discipleship, *ku iyaaya*, is an integrated one. It is the worldwide body of Christ entering together into a fuller understanding of what it means to be a citizen of the kingdom of heaven through engaging with the Word of God... in all of the languages of all of our hearts. 

*Rob and Eshinee Veith serve in Botswana, Eshinee with the Shiyeyi Translation project and Rob as a vernacular media specialist.*

## The Ministry of Presence

*Continued from page 1*

Finally, a young member of the church confided to us that the Kgalagari are used to having short term missionaries come through the village from time to time. They usually round up a lot of people to come to the church and put on a good show. However, the core group of the church was small and struggling. For



The translation team reviewing Luke 2.

the most part, the Christian message was not understood and internalized in the daily lives of the Kgalagari. And they were not sure what to do with us. On the one hand, we were not the short term missionaries who came and went. On the other hand, we were not the white African merchants and farmers who live in the area but have nothing to do with the people. It was unsettling for them to always have us around.

I feel like this conversation presented a major breakthrough. For the first time, for a small group of the people, there was a realization that being a Christian was not a

matter of putting on a show for the right people at the right time. They began to realize that they could be themselves with all of their problems, hurts, and traditional beliefs and that God could



The congregation at Kang Lutheran Church singing from a Shekgalagari songbook.

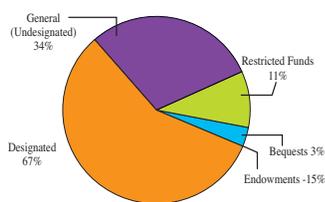
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## LBT Partnership Support

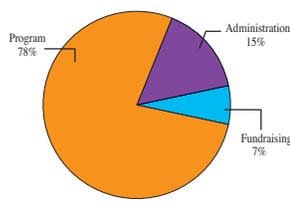
April 1 — June 30, 2012

	Unaudited 2nd Quarter	Unaudited Year-to-date
<b>INCOME</b>		
Designated	\$377,537	\$779,979
General (Undesignated)	195,906	478,231
Restricted Funds	64,314	130,434
Bequests	20,385	259,631
Endowments	(97,082)	65,993
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$561,059</b>	<b>\$1,714,269</b>

2nd Quarter Income



2nd Quarter Expenses



## EXPENSES

	2nd Quarter	Year-to-date
Program	\$731,245	\$1,501,547
Administration	144,694	293,785
Fundraising	61,431	110,790
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>937,370</b>	<b>1,906,122</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$(376,311)</b>	<b>\$(191,853)</b>

NOTE: During the second quarter of 2012, LBT made no equipment purchases other than those reflected above.

CUT HERE

## The Ministry of Presence

Continued from page 6

handle all that. He still wants to have relationship with them, still wants to restore them, still wants to redeem that which is good and true in their culture.

It has been a long three years here. It would be untrue to say that there has been any kind of great revival among the Kgalagari. Many of them still don't know how to 'classify us'. Many of them still don't know if they should trust us. But there is a clear glimmer of hope. We pray that the Lord will continue to use our ministry of presence among the Kgalagari to help them understand the depth and reality of His love for them as His dear and precious children. We pray that He will use our skills to communicate His word clearly and beautifully in their language so that many Kgalagari will come to know Jesus as He has been revealed in the Scriptures. Please join us in that prayer. **He lebogago!** (We are thankful!) 📖

*Rev. Rich and Maya Rudowske and family are on furlough in the U.S. following their first term of service with the Shekgalagari Bible Translation Project team in Botswana.*

**Gift Designations** Your gifts in support of an LBT missionary are applied to the budget of the designated missionary. If the budget for that missionary is overfunded, surplus funds are used to assist other missionaries whose budgets are in deficit. If all missionary budgets are completely funded, surplus funds are applied to the General Fund.

CUT HERE

## Birthdays

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
2 <b>Marshall Schultz</b> United States	3 <b>Joel Miller</b> (1994) Thailand	2 <b>Rebecca Rudowske</b> (2004) Botswana
3 <b>Eden Federwitz</b> (2010) Ghana	8 <b>Jim Laesch</b> Service Center Staff	2 <b>Rob Hilbert</b> Pre-field
3 <b>Peg Seitz</b> Cameroon	10 <b>Cara Fay</b> United States	13 <b>Michaela Federwitz</b> (2002) Ghana
4 <b>Karissa Esala</b> (1999) Ghana	10 <b>Chuck Speck</b> United States	14 <b>Dianne Eckermann</b> Papua New Guinea
7 <b>Mark Konrad</b> Service Center Staff	11 <b>Martin Weber</b> Cameroon	21 <b>Marshall Gillam</b> Service Center Staff
11 <b>Carrie Federwitz</b> Papua New Guinea	12 <b>Sharon Vega</b> Service Center Staff	22 <b>Hezekiah Fay</b> (2010) Cameroon
17 <b>David Snyder</b> Service Center Staff	14 <b>Rob Veith</b> Botswana	22 <b>Leah Federwitz</b> (1999) Papua New Guinea
26 <b>Caleb Rodewald</b> (1992) South Africa	14 <b>Jonathan Federwitz</b> Papua New Guinea	23 <b>Christopher Rudowske</b> (1995) Botswana
27 <b>Rebecca DeLoach</b> Papua New Guinea	15 <b>Dan Finley</b> United States	26 <b>Jim Pindras</b> Service Center Staff
29 <b>Jacob Rodewald</b> (1994) South Africa	18 <b>Paul Kinney</b> Service Center Staff	29 <b>Sarah Esala</b> Ghana
	18 <b>Bill Eckermann</b> Papua New Guinea	
	26 <b>Linda Gari</b> Service Center Staff	
	30 <b>Chuck Tessaro</b> Nigeria	

FOLD

## 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

- Praise God for the good momentum in the translation of the New Testament into the **Khwe language**, despite several disruptions earlier this year.

### ETHIOPIA

- Pray for **Jim Kaiser** as he travels to Ethiopia in late September to do consultant checks on translation of various pieces of Scripture in the Dirayta, Konso, and Zayse languages.

### CANADA

- Pray for a smooth transition for **Rev. James Keller**, the new Executive Director of LBT-Canada, as he begins service this Fall.

### GHANA

- Pray for **Paul Federwitz** as he travels from Ghana to Liberia for two weeks to consult with staff from LIBTRALO (Liberia Translation and Literacy Organization) on technology issues.



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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?**



■ Pray for **Tom and Mary Holman** as they travel to northeastern Nigeria to train translators from seven language groups who have begun to translate the Gospel of Luke. Pray that the workshop (September 17 – October 5) will be successful and effective.

■ Pray for the analysis of surveys and assessments done in Liberia in July by volunteer missionary, **Becky Grossmann**, working with the Bible Society and Dan and Gola communities.

**NAMIBIA**

■ Pray that final arrangements for production, distribution, and dedication of the **Dhimba New Testament** will be completed before the end of the year.

**NIGERIA**

■ Pray that the **Jesus Film**, currently being prepared in the Ogoja area languages, will be available and dedicated by December of this year.



**SIERRA LEONE**

■ Pray for colleagues in Sierra Leone at **TISLL (The Institute for Sierra Leonean Languages)** and the Bible Society in Sierra Leone as they produce new translations and equip pastors and churches to use these translations.

**UNITED STATES**

■ Pray for the ten pre-field missionaries who will be gathering near the Service Center in Aurora, Illinois, for PREPARE, a pre-field training event, being held October 21-26.

■ Pray for all of the **missionaries** (both new and furloughing) who are currently traveling in the U.S. for partnership development.

■ Pray for discernment for those who attended this summer's **IDIOM (In Depth Investigation of Missions)**, a workshop designed to encourage and advise individuals and couples who are considering missionary service.

**ZAMBIA**

■ Praise God for the beginning of translation of the **Nsenga Bible**. Pray for wisdom and protection for the translators who began work in early August on the books of Mark and Ruth.

