



Messenger

Krio Bible Dedicated in Sierra Leone

by Jim Laesch

The complete Holy Bible is now available in the Krio language of Sierra Leone for the very first time!

The Bible Society in Sierra Leone formally introduced the First Holy Bible to the large crowd gathered at the Presidential Lounge at the National Stadium in Freetown on May 28, 2013.

Mrs. Ruby Pearce, the Executive Secretary (now retired) of the Bible Society for the past 15 years, shepherded the project through to completion. She spoke passionately about the many ups and downs experienced through the years. "It

is by God's grace and faithfulness the book is now complete and available in Sierra Leone," she exclaimed, holding high the Bible which now speaks in the common language of the nation.

The Krio Bible effort began in 1975 with linguistic research spearheaded by Lutheran Bible Translators missionaries and national educators and church leaders in Sierra Leone. The New Testament was published in 1986 and went through numerous printings. A new translation team was formed in 1986 with the work centered at The Institute for Sierra Leonean Languages (TISLL), a partner of LBT in Sierra Leone.

Continued on page 5

1975 Research and planning begins for Bible translation in the Krio language. LBT is invited by partners to serve in Sierra Leone as exegetes and technical advisors.

1978 Translation work begins with Luke's gospel. Training of translators and checking of translations is provided by the United Bible Societies. LBT provides an exegete and gives overall supervision. The project is based at The Institute for Sierra Leonean Languages (TISLL). All materials are either typed on a typewriter or handwritten. Computer keyboarding is done in Dallas, Texas.

1986 The Krio New Testament is completed and dedicated in May 1986 in Freetown. A new team is formed and translation of the Old Testament begins. Keyboarding and editing of the text is done on computers at TISLL. Each report by the Translation Consultant includes a section on "Computer Problems!"

1995 Translation work slows during the war years. LBT advisors and consultants continue their role on a "visit and consult basis."

1999 The Bible Society in Sierra Leone fully assumes the management and supervision of the Krio BT work. LBT is a donor partner and provides a consultant in partnership with UBS.

2004 Translators construct and edit the Krio manuscript directly on their laptop computers using Bible translation software.

2011 The Krio First Bible manuscript is completed and submitted for manuscript examination and typesetting.

2013 The Krio Bible is introduced and launched by the Bible Society in Sierra Leone!

An ecstatic Ruth with her Krio Bible.

The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators [LBT] is to make the Word of God accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

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Close to Her Heart

MEET RUTH! Although you'll read about her in this issue of *The Messenger*, I'd love to introduce you to Ruth myself.

Some weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the launching of the Krio Bible in Sierra Leone, West Africa. It was a wonderful celebration and a powerful demonstration of God's faithfulness. After the dedication, LBT Associate Director of Language Programs Jim Laesch and I visited the towns of Makeni and Bo, where LBT missionaries will be deployed later this year. It was on that trip that I met Ruth.

Ruth is a young Sierra Leonean woman who works for Women of Hope International. One of the highlights of meeting Ruth was witnessing her reaction when the Krio Bible was placed in her hands.

You see, Ruth is a Krio speaker. Krio is her mother tongue language. She took the Bible and cradled it as one might cradle an infant. Her exuberance filled the room.

The Bible — in her language. What a moment!

Thinking back over the past 60+ years I have spent in American congregations, I can't recall ever witnessing such a demonstration of joy and enthusiasm when someone held a Bible written in their language. I suspect that is attributable to familiarity — most of us cannot remember a time when the Bible in our heart language was not readily available.

Whenever I see people receive the Bible in their heart language for the first time — and I've seen many over the years — I am reminded of who we are and what we do. While there are many joyful Ruths in the world, there are millions who are still without Scripture in a language they truly understand. Many of them don't have any idea that the key to salvation and eternal life can be found in the pages of Scripture. Others do know, but are awaiting the day when they, like Ruth, can hold their Bible, in their language, close to their hearts. So there continues to be great need to make Scripture accessible to people in meaningful and practical ways in the languages that communicate God's Word clearly and accurately.

The next time you pick up a Bible, take a moment to reflect on how Scripture came to be translated into *your* mother tongue. And share Ruth's joy, knowing that His precious Word is accessible to you in the language of your heart. 📖

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dr. Marshall R. Gillam, CFRE
Executive Director



Krio— A Unique Heritage

While Krio may appear to be “broken English” it is actually a complex language spoken by half a million people in Sierra Leone.

The Krio (sometimes spelled Creole) are descendents of freed slaves. They came from London, Jamaica, the U.S., and various African countries and were relocated to Freetown, Sierra Leone, by the British between 1787 and 1855. The Krio language is based on English but incorporates elements of West African languages. It is the mother tongue of almost half a million people and is used as a common language in Sierra Leone.

English remains the official language used in schools and government administration, a product of British colonial influence. Krio is the language of greater communication, and has been taught in schools for 10 years. It is widely used in urban churches for preaching and singing, conveying the Gospel message in everyday speech.

Jim Laesch, LBT Associate Director of Language Programs, spent several weeks in Sierra Leone following the Krio Bible dedication in May. One Sunday while attending worship services, he presented his friend, Pastor Sahr, with a Krio Bible just minutes before the service began. “He put it to use right away!” Jim said. “He fluently read the Old Testament lesson, the Psalm, and then the New Testament lesson.”

Jim further reported that the Krio Bible was greeted with much enthusiasm. “Everywhere people saw the Krio Bible, they admired it, they wondered how to get it, they wanted to buy one,” he said. “What joy to have God's Word in a book, accessible and understandable in their own language!”

Lutheran Bible Translators

A Time to Grow 1984-1994

It was a time of tragedy, and a time of great promise. Things heated up in the **Middle East** while the **Cold War** thawed. **Civil wars** erupted in **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone** as South Africa tentatively sought justice and equality for all races.

We turned our eyes to the heavens while the ground beneath our feet was sometimes shaky. **New technology** joined us together like never before as we discovered the remnants of technology long past. The **economy fell**, the **economy grew**. And faithful donors continued to support the ministry of Lutheran Bible Translators.

In fact, for LBT, it was a time of growth and progress. Several **New Testaments were dedicated**. The organization moved from Orange, California, to Aurora, Illinois. Despite the disruption of evacuations from war zones, translation work continued on projects like the **Vai and Krahn in Liberia** and the **Kono and Mende in Sierra Leone**. Translations in Ecuador, Papua New Guinea, and **Botswana** were nearing completion. Hundreds of thousands of people were finally able to read and hear about Jesus Christ in their own languages.

Do you have a favorite story about LBT? Maybe you have photos or videos you'd like to share. Please visit www.LBT.org/jubilee to learn more. 



Kisi Scripture selections for new readers, Liberia, 1988.

1984

- † **Krio New Testament completed in Sierra Leone**
- † Michael Jordan drafted by the Chicago Bulls
- † More than 70 U. S. banks fail
- † McIntosh computer first released

1985

- † **Dedication service held for new LBT Service Center in Aurora, Illinois**
- † Coca-Cola releases New Coke
- † The wreck of the Titanic is discovered
- † World population is 4.8 billion

1986

- † Space shuttle *Challenger* explodes
- † Nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl
- † IBM unveils first laptop computer

1987

- † **Books of Luke and Acts in the Kisi language dedicated in Liberia**
- † U.S. stock market crashes
- † Lance Armstrong becomes professional athlete

1988

- † **Belleh New Testament completed in Liberia**
- † United States suffers serious drought
- † First class U.S. postage stamp raised to 24 cents

1989

- † **Texmelucan Zapotec New Testament completed in Mexico**
- † **Grebo New Testament completed in Liberia**
- † Berlin Wall falls, Cold War ends
- † First Liberian civil war begins

1990

- † **Kisi New Testament completed in Liberia**
- † Nelson Mandela released from prison
- † Hubble Space Telescope launched
- † **Radio literacy classes begin in the Vai language of Liberia**

1991

- † Civil war begins in Sierra Leone
- † Mount Pinatubo erupts in the Philippines
- † Soviet Union officially ceases to exist

1992

- † **LBT missionaries evacuated from Sierra Leone**
- † Gas prices reach \$1.05
- † Hurricane Andrew hits south Florida
- † Windows 3.1 released

1993

- † **Bine New Testament completed in Papua New Guinea**
- † Great Blizzard strikes eastern U.S.
- † Intel ships first Pentium chips

1994

- † Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa
- † Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles
- † Channel Tunnel opened between England and France
- † World population reaches 5.6 billion



The Family Plan

by Mike Butterfield

Do you own a cell phone? Perhaps you are one of the diminishing number of folks who declare, “No and I don’t want one!” But just think about it. In the last 10 years, the number of operational cell phones has grown from 34 million to 203 million, with the number growing daily. Today, 87% of American adults and over 16 million teens and pre-teens own a cell phone.

Wow! With such numbers, is there any wonder why so many households have bought into a cell phone “Family Plan”? While the wisdom of that plan may be to save money, the real objective is to be able to stay in communication with people and events important to them.

The concept of establishing and maintaining a vibrant, active and growing inter-communication plan is surely an apt analogy within our LBT family of supporters, missionaries and staff. After all, the very nature of our “family membership” is one to which we are linked by our Creator God Himself. Our adoption as His children has bound all of us to a common Christian vocation in which we are called to serve Him in faith and our neighbor in love.

Persistence in prayer is vital in carrying out our calling as members of His family. We readily understand the wisdom found in the phrase, “The family that prays together stays together.” From his imprisoned, bent knees the Apostle Paul urged the Ephesian Christians to remember that every family in heaven and on earth is so named because of their heavenly Father’s calling. He taught that the result of that calling is, through prayer, that they would be more effectively able to communicate with one another. God’s answer to their prayers would be that they would spontaneously unite with one another, a fellowship filled with the grace of God and resulting in unspeakable generosity.



Mike Butterfield

Now that’s another “Wow!” For 49 years the mission of Lutheran Bible Translators has been to make the Word of God accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. Every day of the existence of this ministry has been dedicated to the advancement of the Gospel. We seek to carry out our work with professionalism and innovation. We carry on dialog and mutual service with other organizations which similarly seek Gospel advancement. We do all of this within the principles of Biblical stewardship practicing complete openness, expecting accountability and engaging in the most stringent of ethical practices.

As we depend upon God’s grace and blessings, we serve alongside you—our brothers-and sisters-in-Christ—our family. Our united family dedicates itself to the power of prayer and the promise of God’s answers. We provide our financial resources according to our individual abilities in support of the vital Christian service of Bible translation and Scripture Engagement. We speak to others enthusiastically and informatively about the great things God alone is doing among His called, incredibly dedicated servant missionaries throughout the world.

At the end of a flight, airline attendants thank passengers for choosing to fly their airline, observing, “We know you have many choices.” I conclude this message by expressing our most genuine thanks to you and to our Lord for moving you to believe that this mission and ministry is worthy of your support. Yes, you have lots of worthy choices in charitable giving. Together, as His family, may the preservation and advancement of LBT continue to be our mutual endeavor. 

Need More Information?

Return this coupon to:

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E-mail: mbutterfield@lbt.org

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

Nsenga Gospel of Mark Dedicated in Zambia

by Chris Pluger

On Sunday, May 5th, we publicly dedicated and launched the *Nsenga Gospel* of Mark. It's hard to describe the event for people who have never been to an African church service. It's even more difficult to describe how those 500+ people felt upon hearing the Scripture lesson (and not just the announcements) in church on Sunday morning in their own language. We English-speakers take it for granted that there are Bibles in our language. Just imagine experiencing that for the very first time!

We actually had to take a short break for people to clap and cheer after the pastor read the Gospel lesson, Mark 3:31-35, in



Over 500 people attended the dedication.

Nsenga. The people were very happy.

After the service, we remained for at least an hour, greeting people, having them thank us, and selling copies of Mark.

We sold 38 copies, and left 15 more at

the church on consignment. One man promised to go home and read his copy to his two daughters. Another joked that he might need to buy an additional copy, because if he only brings home one there might be "problems."

We will carry the Gospel booklets to other churches, highlighting the work and sharing the power of God's Word with people who are hungry to hear it in their own heart language. (It's also available online!) Please keep praying that the Nsenga Bible will be accepted and used by many people throughout Zambia.

Chris and Janine Pluger and son Sean serve in translation ministry among the Nsenga people of Zambia. 📖



A young man reading the Gospel of Mark after the service.

Krio Bible Dedicated

Continued from page 1

Work continued through the years despite interruptions, including the devastating civil war in the 1990s. At that time it was agreed that the Bible Society should take the lead in the Krio translation work. Mrs. Pearce took her responsibility seriously, working with the Krio community and Christian churches to keep the project moving forward, all the way to completion.



Dedication chairman Mrs. Daphne Pratt and Mrs. Ruby Pearce were featured speakers at the dedication.

In Krio, *pulnado* is a traditional ceremony for naming a newborn baby. Up until the ninth day, the family keeps the baby in the house. At the *pulnado*, the baby is given his or her name and then literally carried out of the house by one of the family elders, being introduced to the community, for all to see and get to know. *Pulnado* was the term used to introduce the Krio Bible to the community and the people of Sierra Leone.

Following the *pulnado* of the Bible, LBT Executive Director Marshall Gillam, Rev. James Maada Coker, the new Executive Secretary of the Bible Society, and I made a short trip to Makeni. The travel coincided with the annual conference of a national church body. Rev. Coker was able to leave a good supply of Bibles with Rev. Kempson Fornah who sold them to pastors, teachers and other leaders during the days of the conference. We witnessed the eager hands wanting to buy, hold and hear the message that speaks directly to peoples' hearts.

"Did you bring the new Krio Bible? I need to have one. I want to buy one." That is how Ruth Ada Kamara of Women of Hope International greeted us. Rev. Coker responded "Yes, we have Krio Bibles for sale!" And Ruth was able to buy her very own Krio Bible. She explained: "We use Krio in our church. It is our common language. We sing praises to God in Krio. We pray in Krio. Now we can hear God speaking to us in Krio!" 📖



Writing Out God's Word

by Rev. Mike Kuhn

While doing my devotional reading recently, I came across this nugget in Deuteronomy: “[The king] shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law...” (Deut 17:18b ESV)

What is the Lord commanding here? Can you picture it? If you're imagining a king of Israel writing out by hand his own personal copy of the Torah of God (the first five books of the Bible), then you're on the right track. That's quite the assignment, isn't it?

This Scripture was given through Moses alongside other instructions that future kings of Israel were to read and follow (Deut 17:14-19). The end goal of these kingly commands is given after these verses in the same chapter: “that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.” (Deut 17:20 ESV)

Executive Director to Retire

Dr. Marshall Gillam has announced that he will retire from his position as LBT's Executive Director as of December 31, 2013.

“Just as I firmly believe that God called me to LBT, I believe that it is in His timing that I step down,” said Dr. Gillam. “It has been my privilege to serve our Lord with LBT for 16 years and to serve as Executive Director for nearly 14 of those years.”

Dr. Gillam began his service with LBT in 1996, acting as Associate Director of Development before being appointed Executive Director in 2000.

“I remain deeply committed to the mission of LBT and have promised the Board of Directors that I would not leave suddenly, but would remain on through the transition,” he said. Dr. Gillam will also act as chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

LBT's Board of Directors has launched a search to fill the Executive Director position.



Do you think that the assignment in verse 18 would help God to achieve this goal in the heart of a king? What effect would writing out every book, every verse, every letter of God's Word have on a king? It would certainly give him an increased awareness of what is in God's Word, and—as God's Spirit worked through the Word as it is read and written by the king—the exercise would certainly also result in the character of the king being shaped for the better.

How would writing out your own copy of the Scriptures affect you? What benefits would such an exercise bring to you if you transcribed every word of every verse of Mark, Romans, the Psalms, and/or other books of the Bible? I can assure you that God would use this kind of devotional exercise to achieve the same results in your mind, heart and life as He intended for Israel's kings; to improve your knowledge of the Scriptures and to send His Spirit to shape and mold your character as you read and write the Word.

The task of translating the Scriptures is quite similar to the assignment given to Israel's kings in Deuteronomy. A translation team has to pour over every word of every verse of the books they are working to translate. Then they strive to write out those words and verses in a way that communicates the intended meaning of the Scriptures in the target language. I am praying that the results of this translation project for me and my team will be the same as God intended for Israel's kings; that it will give us a deeper awareness of what is written in God's Word and that God's Spirit will work in our hearts and lives as we dig into His Word every day. 

Rev. Mike and Kara Kuhn are missionaries with LBT Canada. They and their two young sons recently began their first assignment with the Nizaa people of Cameroon.

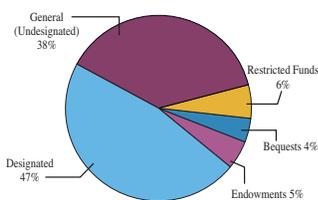


LBT Partnership Support

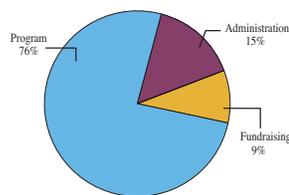
April 1, 2013—June 30, 2013

	Unaudited 2nd Quarter	Unaudited Year-to-date
INCOME		
Designated	\$ 356,385	\$ 793,094
General (Undesignated)	291,722	571,062
Restricted Funds	46,791	118,527
Bequests	32,084	160,262
Endowments	35,815	138,516
Total Income	\$ 762,797	\$ 1,781,461

2nd Quarter Income



2nd Quarter Expenses



EXPENSES

Program	\$ 776,838	\$ 1,575,034
Administration	150,192	296,821
Fundraising	90,115	167,335
Total Expenses	1,017,145	2,039,190
Net Total	\$ (254,348)	\$ (257,729)

NOTE: During the second quarter of 2013, LBT purchased a used vehicle for a missionary at a cost of \$6,350. This cost is not reflected above.

CUT HERE

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
2 Marshall Schultz United States	3 Joel Miller (1994) Thailand	2 Rebecca Rudowske (2004) Botswana
3 Eden Federwitz (2010) Ghana	8 Jim Laesch Service Center Staff	2 Rob Hilbert Sierra Leone
3 Peg Seitz Cameroon	10 Chuck Speck United States	13 Michaela Federwitz (2002) Ghana
4 Karissa Esala (1999) United States	11 Martin Weber Cameroon	14 Dianne Eckermann Papua New Guinea
7 Mike Ferguson Service Center Staff	12 Sharon Vega Service Center Staff	21 Marshall Gillam Service Center Staff
7 Mark Konrad Service Center Staff	14 Rob Veith Botswana	22 Leah Federwitz (1999) Papua New Guinea
11 Carrie Federwitz Papua New Guinea	14 Jonathan Federwitz Papua New Guinea	23 Christopher Rudowske (1995) Botswana
17 David Snyder Service Center Staff	18 Bill Eckermann Papua New Guinea	26 Jim Pindras Service Center Staff
26 Caleb Rodewald (1992) South Africa	25 Becky Grossmann United States	29 Sarah Esala United States
27 Rebecca DeLoach Papua New Guinea	26 Linda Gari Service Center Staff	
29 Jacob Rodewald (1994) South Africa	30 Chuck Tessaro Nigeria	

FOLD

Annual Fall Dinners

LBT will host several lunch and dinner events this November.

November 4	Phoenix, Arizona
November 6	Knotts Berry Farm, Buena Park, California
November 8	Seattle, Washington
November 10, 11	Denver, Colorado

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

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.

CUT HERE

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 two new translators who have joined the **Wayeyi Bible Translation Project**. Pray that they will be effective workers in the team.

ETHIOPIA

- Pray for rain for southwest **Ethiopia** as they fear facing drought conditions and significant food shortages.

CAMEROON

- Pray that their experiences at CAMBO, a five week orientation course, will be of great benefit to **Mike and Kara Kuhn** as they adjust to life on the field.

GHANA

- Pray that God would continue to prepare the hearts of the **Komba people** to receive the completed New Testament early next year.



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Comments and inquiries are invited. Correspondence may be directed to the Messenger Editor.

Executive Director:
Dr. Marshall R. Gillam



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Lutheran Bible Translators is an independent mission group, founded in 1964, dedicated to making the Word of God accessible 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?



LIBERIA

- Pray for **LIBTRALO** (Liberian Translation and Literacy Organization) as it continues to move toward being a self-sustaining organization.

NAMIBIA

- Pray that as the **Dhimba New Testament** is dedicated this fall, the Holy Spirit will transform those Dhimba who hear the Word of God in their heart language.

NIGERIA

- Pray that the plans for the recording of the New Testament in four Ogoja languages will move forward.

- Pray for **Rev. Kierien Ekpang** and his family as they move from Jos to Obudu to work in Bible translation and Scripture Engagement with the Utugwang and Bette languages.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Pray for the children of **Jonathan and Carrie Federwitz** and **Danny and Becca DeLoach** as they readjust to life in PNG after furloughs in the U.S.



SIERRA LEONE

- Pray for **Josh and Ruthie Wagner** and **Rob and Mical Hilbert** and their children as they begin their first overseas assignment in Sierra Leone among the Themne and Mende language groups.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Pray for **Tim and Michelle Miller** as they return for another term of service after a time of furlough in the U.S.

UNITED STATES

- Pray for **Marshall Gillam** as he retires at the end of this year as LBT's Executive Director. Praise God for his many years of faithful

service. Pray also for wisdom in the process of searching for a new Executive Director.

- Pray for LBT staff and missionaries traveling in the western U.S. this fall for the **LBT Fall Dinners**. Pray that through these dinners, more people will partner with LBT in reaching those without Scripture in their heart language.

ZAMBIA

- Pray for the Nsenga community as they assist the **Nsenga Translation Project** in assessing draft versions of books of the Bible. Pray for God's blessing and guidance as they begin to integrate Nsenga Scripture into the worship life of their churches and into their daily lives.