



LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS

Messenger

IT'S OFFICIAL. LBT IS FIFTY!

Hundreds Attend LBT Events

It began with a colorful missionary procession and ended with a heartfelt prayer. More than 200 guests were moved, excited, and inspired at Lutheran Bible Translators' kick off 50th Anniversary dinner in Lisle, Illinois.

In the weeks that followed, hundreds more mission-minded individuals gathered at 50th Anniversary dinners around the country. Friends of LBT in Buena Park, California; St. Louis, Missouri; and St. Paul, Minnesota, celebrated LBT's successes in its first 50 years and learned about the organization's vision for the next 50 years.

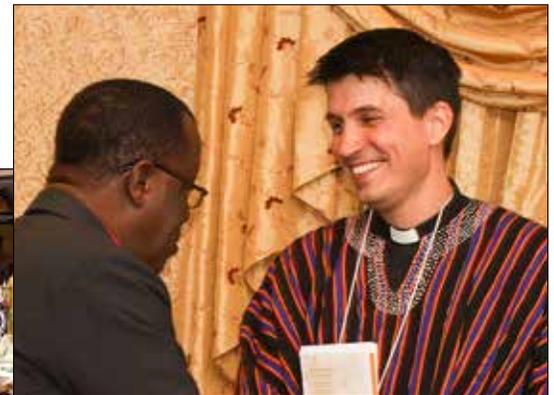
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Paul Kofi Fynn, President/Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, and Rev. Nathan Esala, who assisted with the Komba New Testament translation in Ghana, dynamically addressed the continuing need for Bible translation at the various events.

LBT has been privileged to host former missionaries, board members and staff at each dinner. Long-time supporters of Bible translation, such as Otto Hintze, one of the first LCMS missionaries to Papua New Guinea, joined the celebration in St. Louis. He and his family have been faithfully supporting LBT since 1967. Otto also served as the first secretary for LBT's board of directors. He is but one of the many who have helped to bring God's Word to millions of people through prayer and financial gifts.

LBT was also honored by the presence of members of partner organizations and former co-workers.



LBT has been privileged to host hundreds of people so far this year.



Dr. Fynn and Rev. Esala exchange greetings at the May 2 dinner event.

Rev. Dr. Douglas Rutt, Director of International Ministries for Lutheran Hour and former LBT board chair, attended the St. Louis event along

with Kurt Buchholz, current executive director of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Executive Director of the LCMS Office of International Mission, Rev. Randy Golter, also brought greetings and expressed gratitude for the work of Lutheran Bible Translators. In St. Paul, Rev. Tom Ries, president of Concordia University, welcomed guests and gave the invocation.

During his comments at the various events, new LBT Executive Director Dr. Mike Rodewald posed the question, "If the Gospel is proclaimed but it is not heard, has the Gospel been proclaimed?" LBT missionaries deal daily with that question, making sure that what is proclaimed *can* be heard. Rev. Amos Bolay, President and Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia, unequivocally

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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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LBT Welcomes New Director

God's Word *is* for all people. LBT's new Executive Director Dr. Mike Rodewald believes it. He has seen LBT live it for 50 years. He shares LBT's vision and has helped connect people with Scripture himself. Mike is committed to making God's Word accessible to all people in the language of their hearts.



Dr. Mike Rodewald

In the late 1970s, Mike took his first step toward LBT after viewing the film *From Mojave Sands to African Bush*. He joined LBT in 1979 and spent several years in Liberia. After meeting his wife, Cindy, Mike helped support the Kalanga Bible translation through Scripture engagement. Mike and Cindy researched and helped develop a writing system and literacy program for an ethnic group of over 200,000 Kalanga speakers in Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Mike previously served with the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (LCMS) as regional director for Africa, supervising LCMS missionaries in Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa.

Mike has earned a Master's degree in Linguistics and a Ph.D. in Missiology. For him, higher education turned his 33 years of experience in Africa into something visionary and useful so he could teach others. "Education matures passion, informs it, strengthens it, and helps us focus our efforts for greater effectiveness."

In Mike's view, it is this combination of experiential passion and education that sets LBT apart. "We're always looking for ways to help people understand God's message to us through Scripture. Our first responsibility is to make sure there are good translations. Once that happens, we want to keep discovering which mediums (oral storytelling, literature, drama, movies, etc.) work best to deepen people's understanding of Scripture."

LBT uses Bible translation and Scripture engagement programs to reduce the barriers that prevent the world from understanding God's Word. For the past 50 years, that has meant making New Testaments, plus two full Bibles and many other resources, accessible in over 30 languages. As Mike works with missionaries, donors, and staff, he desires to grow LBT's vision, build capacity, and reach even more people with God's Word.

Mike looks forward to meeting old — and new! — friends of LBT at upcoming 50th Anniversary dinners. 

What *is* Crossroads?

Crossroads is the name we use for short-term discovery trips to visit LBT projects around the world. Why do people go on these trips? If something is at a crossroads, it means it has reached a very important stage in its development, where it could go one way or another. (From the Collins CoBuild dictionary) Each participant is asked to join a Crossroads team if they are at a crossroads in their life, ready to visit the mission field to help them make an informed decision about missionary service with LBT.



Checking Luke 10 and 16 in Lehututu.

Where and how often does Crossroads go?

Locations and schedules vary based on the availability of field personnel.

How big are the teams?

Crossroads teams are usually five to eight participants.

What do Crossroads teams do on the ground?

Each trip is unique, taking advantage of opportunities to observe projects in their current work. Each trip also strives to give the participants a taste of life, food, housing and transportation as they might experience it if they were working in that area of the world.

The most recent trip was hosted by Rev. Rich Rudowski, LBT's regional director for Southern Africa. The team visited the Wayeyi Bible Translation Project in Maun, the Khwedam Bible Translation Project in Shakawe, and the Shekgalagari Bible Translation Project in Kang. During the trip, they were part of the following:

- Checking the Jesus Film manuscript with the Wayeyi team
- Witnessing a village Bible study of Genesis with Khwe people
- Using regular river transportation down the Okavango River to visit the Khwe project office
- A visit to the hometown of a Khwe translator to ask an elder about the suitability of a Khwe word for the



Shekgalagari translator Splash talks about the project with team members.

Continued on page 7

One Bible, One Word

A Bible in the Khwedam language has transformed one of the world's out of the way places. In June, a Crossroads team — four young people interested in career missions plus two LBT staff members — joined LBT missionary Rev. Tim Beckendorf in Shakawe, Botswana. Together they ferried across the Okavango River and drove another 30 minutes over sand roads to the Khwe village of Kapatūra, a place few other foreigners would ever see.

At 10 a.m., the local pastor, Michael, rang a bell, proclaiming, “Come for the Bread” in the Khwedam language. People, donkeys, cattle, and dogs, became intermingled as the Khwe gathered under a tree for the meeting.

The service began a half hour later with singing in Khwedam and Setswana. Between songs, people buried their noses in their Bibles, checking to be sure the lyrics of each song aligned with Scripture. The last song, in Khwedam, was based on Psalm 119: “Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet.” The visiting team sang a song in English based on the same Scripture. “See, in America or in Kapatūra,” the pastor said, “in Setswana, English, or Khwedam, it is one Bible and God’s one true Word.” This fellowship with God’s people across cultures and languages was a meaningful experience for team members.

The meeting continued with prayers for the gathering and for the village children, who would travel 1,000 km the next day to attend school. Pastor Michael then read the children’s lesson for the day: the story of the Tower of Babel. The story was read in Setswana, Afrikaans, and — for the first time ever — Khwedam. The storyteller explained to the children what a tower was, because most had never seen a building

more than two stories tall. Visiting team members were fascinated that they could follow the story by the storyteller’s hand gestures even though they didn’t speak the language.

After the reading, the children got up to wander and the adults continued with the service. Animated discussion took place in four languages as everyone worked together to understand the Scripture passage. A local missionary translated so the team could follow the discussion.

The Crossroads team saw God working in the language the people knew best. They witnessed the Khwe people’s remarkable diligence to cross-reference with other Scripture to help them understand the passage at hand. They observed a church, guided by their Khwe pastor, working together to understand Scripture.

Pastor Michael closed with a short sermon and prayer. Those in attendance were encouraged to share the story of the week with their friends and family members. This would make it possible to reach even more people with God’s Word in the Khwedam language.

After the service, everyone shook hands and said goodbye: ‘Shaka kara oo’ (go well), returned with ‘Shaka kara ee’ (stay well). The team left the village with many new friends and a much deeper understanding of why God’s Word is so much more powerful in the heart language of the people hearing it.

For more information on missionary service opportunities or to support your fellow Lutherans who do this work, email recruiter@lbt.org, call 800-532-4253, or give online at LBT.org/give. 





What Happens When You Make a Mistake?

It's happened to many of us: Delivery Status Notification (Failure). Your email didn't go through. Why? It could be a matter of just one letter or symbol being incorrect. One mistake prevented your message from being received.

Consider the consequences of such an error in Bible translation. Using the wrong spelling, the wrong punctuation, the wrong tone, can change the meaning or emphasis of a word or sentence. God's Message will not be received clearly or accurately.

As Chris Pluger, advisor to the Nsenga Translation team said, "One wrong letter is enough to make a big difference in a Bible verse. Upon proofreading, we discovered that Romans 8:14 said 'Wonse otanguliliwa na Nzimu wa Mulungu ni wana a Mulungu.' It's supposed to say 'Mzimu wa Mulungu.'" What's the problem? *Mzimu* means spirit. *Nzimu* are bees. Being led by the bees of God might seem humorous to us — we can figure out what it's really supposed to mean. But what if you were totally unfamiliar with Scripture, knew nothing about Christianity?

The Nsenga team also discovered other errors in their original draft copy. The word *chosamvwa* means trespasses or disobedience. *Chosamwa* means drinking beer. So in Ephesians 2:1, because *chosamwa* was used, Paul's words in Nsenga read "you were dead because of not drinking beer." Again, humorous for some, totally confusing and misleading for others.

God gave us Holy Scripture so that we might know His plan for our salvation. He tells us who we are, where we came from, and how to get to our heavenly home. Further, He commands that we share this Good News so that others might believe. It is essential that the integrity of His Word is not impaired. That is why LBT missionaries are highly trained. It's the reason mother tongue speakers serve on translation teams on the field and why draft portions are painstakingly checked and tested for accuracy.

Mistakes are inevitable. We all make them, as individuals, families, even organizations. You may have received a mailing from LBT in June that was addressed incorrectly. We apologize to those who received it. We have taken steps to prevent a recurrence of the error. Maintaining our integrity is imperative. Accuracy in communication is essential. This is foundational to our mission as Bible translators. It applies to our interactions with donors and prayer partners as well.

Yes, it's frustrating when an address is wrong or your email doesn't make it through. But how small that is compared to God's Word never reaching all people everywhere, or being misconstrued by those most in need of His saving grace. His Message must be sent, received, and understood. And to be understood, it must be translated into the heart language. 📖

Need More Information?

Return this coupon to:

Mike Ferguson
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: mferguson@lbt.org

Your Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone with Area Code _____

- Please send me a free subscription to your quarterly estate planning newsletter, **INSIGHTS**.
- I would like information on making a gift of stock by electronic transfer.
- Please contact me.

Making a Gift?

Your tax-deductible gift can be made by check or credit card. Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Credit Card:
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Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Signature: _____

- 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

What Makes Bible Translation So Difficult?

Even when they are available, translation software and dictionaries are not enough to make the message of the Bible clear and understandable to those who have never had God's Word in their own language.

LBT missionaries use original Greek and Hebrew Scriptures and many other Biblical resources during the translation process. They factor in knowledge of the local culture, and translate phrases and concepts as well as individual words.

But it is challenging to render unknown (or seemingly unknown) items. Rev. Michael Megahan, translation advisor to the Kalanga project in Botswana, knows first hand how difficult it is to find effective cultural equivalents for certain concepts.

The Kalanga, along with many other cultures, are unfamiliar with olives. In such cases translations often use a transliteration of the English such as *olivi*. But before resorting to a loan word or transliteration of the English, research is made to determine if a local item can be used. Years ago, a decision was made in the Kalanga project to use a local tree known as the *ntoba* (its fruit is called *toba*) for translating the concept of the olive tree. However, the term was never firmly accepted by many, even though Michael pointed out that there is a wild olive tree that grows in Botswana.

On Palm Sunday, Michael brought olives to church. "When an elderly woman saw the olives and tasted them," he recounted, "she got excited and exclaimed, 'Toba!'" He had to relinquish the floor to the woman for about five minutes as she explained gathering [wild] olives in her home village, eating them, and others pressing them for oil. The young people were transfixed by the woman's story and this discovery that Jesus ate the same kind of fruit that grew near their homes. Suddenly, Kalanga speakers had a personal connection to the Bible. *Ntoba* and *toba* were confirmed as appropriate translations of the original text.

Bible translators must also consider how they name books of the Bible. Although we do not often think about it, the English names for Bible books are also a translation! Michael asks, "How many English speakers know what 'Deuteronomy' means and why the book was given that name?" In order for Kalanga readers to truly understand each book's meaning, Michael says, they need to know each title's meaning. In Hebrew, the name Deuteronomy means, "These are the Words." The translation team chose the Kalanga word *Matama*, which translates in English to *words* or *commands*.



Michael proofreading Genesis and Leviticus with the Kalanga team.

Some synonyms often cannot capture emotion expressed in the original Hebrew and Greek. There is a vast difference, for example, between the disappointment, sadness, and grief on the emotion spectrum. It's imperative that translators communicate the nuances of emotion when translating the Bible.

For example, when translating the book of Ezekiel into Kalanga, the translation team originally used neutral language. In an English translation of the first Kalanga draft, God is reprimanding the Israelites for child sacrifice using non-inflammatory language, something like, 'and you *give away* my first-born to idols.' In Hebrew, however, Ezekiel uses a much stronger word meaning *slaughter* to illustrate the gravity of Israel's actions. *Give away* is very different from *slaughter*. God intentionally used emotionally strong words to create strong reactions. Both phrases indicate the Israelites were disobedient and should repent, but *slaughter* better captures the depth of their sinfulness.

The process of Bible translation isn't easy, even for linguists. Martin Luther wrote "I have learned by experience what an art and what a task translating is." (LW 35:193) The task, however, is essential, Michael says, so people around the world have access to God's Word in their heart languages.

Pray for the Megahans and the Kalanga translation team as they continue to progress in the translation of the Kalanga Old Testament.

To learn more about the Megahans and the Bible translation process, visit www.LBT.org. 



More Than the Written Word

What do Pentecost, the Reformation, and Lutheran Bible Translators have in common? All three have made God’s Word available in the vernacular so it can be heard, read, and understood.

The spread of God’s Word has never been limited to the written Word. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out so the apostles might proclaim God’s Word in many languages (Acts 2:6-11). During the Reformation, Martin Luther translated not only the Bible into German, but also wrote hymns so people could sing of God’s glory. LBT uses the written Word, but also audio and visual tools, to communicate the Gospel message to all people.

LBT missionaries Rob and Mical Hilbert use written, audio, and visual tools in their work among the Mende people in Sierra Leone. Like many African countries, Sierra Leone has a relatively low literacy rate. The opportunity to learn to read is considered an invaluable resource, bringing Christians and Muslims into the classroom even though the Mende language literacy team uses the Bible as reading material. These classes present God’s Word in a non-confrontational way to Muslims who have a desire to read and write their heart language. As Islam spreads, Mical urges, “Now is the time to reach out to those whose eyes and ears are ready and willing to hear God’s message of saving grace through our literacy classes where we use the New Testament.”

Local language resources like *The Jesus Film* also provide an excellent introduction to the Gospel, especially to the not yet literate. There is great interest in the Mende literacy classes held before film showings. Villagers in Bo, where the Hilberts live, will rarely miss an opportunity to see a movie. Some come for entertainment; others recognize the film has



The Hilbert family with members of Devotional Lutheran Church in Bo.

deeper significance. All, however, are amazed there is a film in their own language.

Many people in Sierra Leone remain spiritually lost. Even though the Mende translation team completed the printed New Testament in 2003, many Christians have not had the opportunity to read or hear the Gospel message. That’s why the Hilberts’ ministry is so important.

The apostles at Pentecost, the reformers in the sixteenth century, and our missionaries dedicated to Bible translation have worked to make God’s Word known in the heart languages of all people. The challenges that one faces on the mission field can be great, but Christ’s commission to His people is greater — “Go and make disciples of all nations!” (Matthew 28:19)

To learn more about the Hilberts, read their bio at www.LBT.org. You can also visit their website at <http://robertandmicalhilbert.blogspot.com/>.

Hundreds Attend LBT Events

Continued from page 1

stated that people truly hear the Gospel *when it is in their own language*. Rev. Bolay brought greetings from the church to those gathered in St. Louis, followed by a reading of John 3:16 in his own Bandi language. The Bandi New Testament is one of 39 translations completed by LBT, available to the Bandi people since 2000.



A procession of flags and translated Scripture was greeted with enthusiasm by guests at the kick off anniversary dinner.

“As Lutherans, we understand that though we may serve in mission, God is the initiator of Mission. He calls all of us to participate in what He is doing in the world,” said Dr. Rodewald. “This is the time we have been given to serve. This is our time to point to Christ in thankfulness for what He has done for us.”

For more information about LBT, upcoming dinners, and how you can serve, please visit www.LBT.org or call 800-532-4253.

Mark your calendar!

September 5, 2014

Ann Arbor, Michigan

September 7, 2014

Frankenmuth, Michigan

October 12, 2014

Centennial, Colorado

October 13, 2014

Northglenn, Colorado

November 12-13, 2014

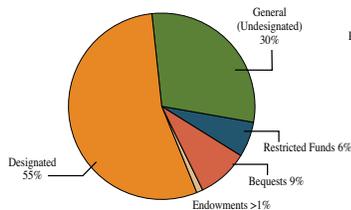
Buena Park, California

LBT Partnership Support

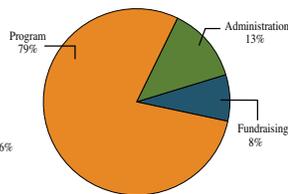
April 1, 2014—June 30, 2014

	Unaudited 2nd Quarter	Unaudited Year-to-date
INCOME		
Designated	\$ 497,575	\$ 926,992
General (Undesignated)	278,057	746,220
Restricted Funds	54,671	82,454
Bequests	81,214	311,642
Endowments	4,286	36,349
Total Income	\$ 915,803	\$ 2,103,657

2nd Quarter Income



2nd Quarter Expenses



EXPENSES

Program	\$ 762,167	\$ 1,520,767
Administration	126,183	248,350
Fundraising	75,691	170,516
Total Expenses	964,041	1,939,633
Net Total	\$ (48,238)	\$ 164,024

NOTE: During the second quarter of 2014, LBT purchased 2 computers at a cost of \$2,377 and new donor software at a cost of \$16,896. These costs are not reflected above.

What is Crossroads?

Continued from page 2

translation and to record a traditional Khwe story for later study

- Experiencing a game drive and safari
- Visiting a museum recognizing the San people and their culture and history
- Playing soccer with village kids
- Sharing dinner with the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Botswana
- Hearing about LBT missionaries' experiences and dialoging about what a future with LBT might look like
- Checking Luke 8 with the Shekgalagari team
- Participating in a community checking of Luke 10 and 16 in Lehututu, a Shekgalagari village

To learn more about LBT missionary service, email recruiter@lbt.org.

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

CUT HERE

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
2 Marshall Schultz United States	3 Joel Miller Thailand	2 Rebecca Rudowske (1994) United States
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	22 Leah Federwitz (1999) Papua New Guinea
7 Mark Konrad Service Center Staff	14 Rob Veith Botswana	22 Rob Hilbert Sierra Leone
11 Carrie Federwitz Papua New Guinea	14 Jonathan Federwitz Papua New Guinea	23 Christopher Rudowske (1995) United States
17 David Snyder Service Center Staff	18 Bill Eckermann Papua New Guinea	29 Sarah Esala United States
27 Rebecca DeLoach Papua New Guinea	25 Becky Grossmann United States	
	26 Linda Gari Service Center Staff	
	29 Chris Johnson Service Center Staff	
	30 Chuck Tessaro 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

- Pray for **John Strasen** and the **Shekgalagari Bible Translation Project team** as they hold a workshop with community leaders in late September.
- Pray that churches will begin using the portions of the Old Testament being launched in the **Kalanga language**.
- Pray for quick adjustment for the **Rudowske family** as they relocate to the U.S. Rich will continue his role as Regional Director for South Africa,

working from the LBT Service Center in Aurora, Illinois.

CAMEROON

- Pray for peace and normalcy to return to **northern Cameroon** as people deal with the threat of Boko Haram from northeastern Nigeria.



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Executive Director:
Dr. Mike Rodewald

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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.

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Did you know we're on Facebook?



ETHIOPIA

- Pray for **Jim and Susan Kaiser** as they begin living and serving in Ethiopia. Jim will serve as translation consultant to several language projects.

GHANA

- Praise God that the **Komba New Testaments** have arrived in Ghana! Pray that plans for the Komba dedication celebration this November will continue to progress.

NAMIBIA

- Pray for the **Dhimba New Testament Audio Project** as recording begins with the assistance of LBT Scripture Engagement Coordinator **Rob Veith**.

NIGERIA

- Pray that the **Luke partnership workshops** in Ogoja languages lead to more engagement with the Word.

LIBERIA/SIERRA LEONE

- Pray for those who have suffered loss during the devastating **Ebola outbreak**.



UNITED STATES

- Pray for missionary candidate **Michael Ersland** as he begins training at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas, Texas.
- Praise God that we have been able to celebrate with so many people across the United States at **LBT's 50th anniversary dinners!** Pray that we will be able to share about God's mission through LBT with many more in the coming months.

ZAMBIA

- Pray for the **Nsenga Bible Translation Project team** as they test sections of completed translation in villages this Fall.

