

Encouraging Word

news from the Rudowske family serving in the ministry of Bible translation



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www.rudowskes.com

No longer acting by Rich

Greetings friends. As of January 1st, my acting career has come to a close. I have been named Director of International Program Ministries for Lutheran Bible Translators. In this position, I am now responsible for oversight of all our international programs and personnel and discerning vision for expansion of our work, both in countries we already work in and in new countries.

In light of that, I will be traveling by the time you receive this note. First stop will be Tanzania, where I'll meet with Bishop Andrew Gulle (goo-lay) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, (ELCT) a church body with 6.3 million members. Bishop Gulle leads the East of Lake Victoria Diocese (ELVD) and has invited us to explore the possibility of translation work among speakers of Kerewe (ki-ray-way) I find this invitation exciting because it has come at the request of ELVD leaders who recognize the need for translation work in this area as part of their evangelism plan. The language is spoken on several islands in Lake Victoria, so the location is remote and presents challenges. As the Lord leads, we look forward to seeing how we can work with the ELCT to help make God's word accessible and equip their pastors and evangelists with the tools they need to reach out with the gospel! Find out more about the ELCT at www.ELCT.org.



A Tanzanian Lutheran Pastor and his family at the 25th Anniversary of the Diocese in 2014 (photo by Jo Ann Megahan)

The next stop will be to Ethiopia, where we have just recently sent Dr. Jim and Susan Kaiser to assist the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia – called the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) – with several Bible translations.

The EECMY, a 5.6 million member church, has grown exponentially since its founding just a few decades ago, and they credit that growth to an emphasis on scripture in the local languages in their evangelism approach. LBT Executive Director Dr. Mike Rodewald and I will be attending an event that EECMY holds for their mission partners in February. We hope to sign a working agreement with the church leadership that will enable us to work together to help EECMY with their evangelism plan through further translation and scripture engagement work. To learn more about the EECMY, visit www.EECMY.org.

I appreciate your prayers for Dr. Rodewald and me as we travel to these new (to me) places. I look forward to seeing where the Lord leads with respect to working with these new partners.

Moreover, I am thrilled to be at the helm of our International Programs department and thankful for the opportunity to continue serving our missionaries and program partners around the world. To learn more about where we work visit <http://us.lbt.org/our-work/>.



Dr. Jim Kaiser (back-right) and the Dirayta team at their checking session for the book of Acts in December

Meanwhile on the homefront...

When our family returned from Botswana in June, we rented a town home in Sugar Grove, Illinois. Since that time, the building was sold, and our lease expires at the end of May. So, another move awaits us. Recently, Lutheran Bible Translators' executive management made the decision to sell the office building in Aurora, Illinois and locate elsewhere. The building is much bigger than needed for our organization's work and is becoming significantly more expensive to maintain and operate. We are currently exploring alternative locations to relocate the office, which will impact where our family moves. At this point, we ask for your prayers for wisdom as our leaders seek to make important decisions about how (and from where) to best serve our missionaries and support our overseas programs. Also pray for peace for our family as we navigate the uncertainty of not knowing exactly where (or when) we're going next. As we have said many times during our time with Lutheran Bible Translators: We may not know where we're going, but we always know who we're following. Thanks for your continued partnership in the gospel.



Katherine started high school at St. Paul's Lutheran High in Concordia, Missouri. She's pictured here with her roommate Lucia from Liberia.

Who pays for that?

Lutheran Bible Translators is an independent Lutheran mission agency and is not funded by any of the Lutheran denominations but solely by voluntary gifts from organizations, congregations, and individuals like you. We thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support during the season that we lived in Botswana and ask for you to prayerfully consider continuing the same in this new season where we engage in God's mission from a different perspective as Rich begins serving in a leadership role in the organization. Gifts designated to Rudowske ministry may be sent to Lutheran Bible Translators as the address below. Thanks, Rich & Maya



Where in the world?

Tanzania and Ethiopia are in East Africa, eight hours ahead of Eastern Standard time. Rich and Dr. Rodewald will fly into Nairobi, Kenya from Chicago with a stop in Amsterdam (Holland). Nairobi will serve as a home base with travel to Mwanza, Tanzania and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The national language of Ethiopia is Amharic, which uses a very different writing system than the Roman script we use for English (see inset on map above). The national language of Tanzania is Swahili, which uses Roman script and is distantly related to the Setswana and Shekgalagari languages that Rich learned in Botswana. The currency of Ethiopia is the Birr, which exchanges with the dollar at 20:1. The currency of Tanzania is the Shilling, which exchanges with the dollar at 1820:1. These countries are much more populated than Botswana, which has 2 million people. Ethiopia has 94.1 million and Tanzania has 44.9 million. It will be a different Africa than I am used to. LBT does not yet have missionaries in Tanzania and has just sent Dr. Jim & Susan Kaiser to Ethiopia.



Tanzanian flag (left) Ethiopian flag (above)

CONTRIBUTIONS

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Please make check payable to Lutheran Bible Translators and designate 'Rudowske Ministry' on the memo line.

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