

Encouraging Word

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

lutheran bible translators
GOD'S WORD
for every language



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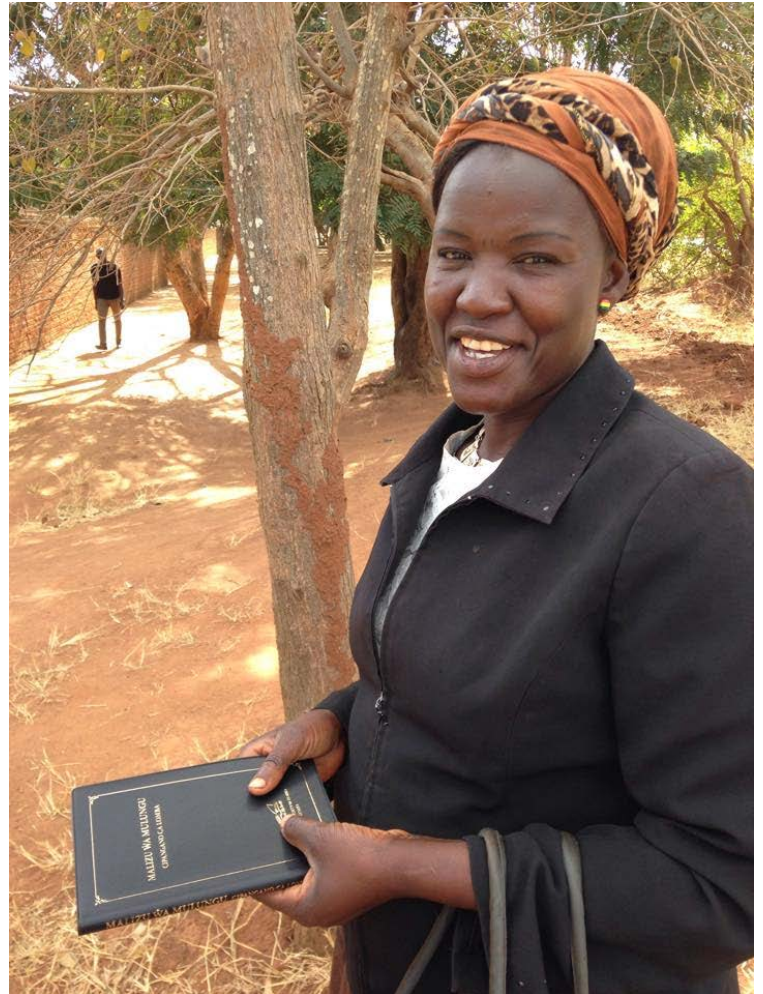
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How we spent our summer

In June, 37 LBT missionaries, staff members, and their families joined together for the first LBT-U, a weeklong conference designed to bring missionaries together for worship, recreation, missiological and theological discussion and technical training. Among the missionaries gathered together were Rev. Larry & Mae Johnson, who have served with LBT since 1968, and brand new missionaries Serena and Elliott Derricks and Rev. Carl and Kelsey Grulke, who were recently named new missionaries and were on their way to begin linguistic training in July. The conference was held on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia Missouri, where LBT's office relocated last fall. Rich taught sessions entitled 'How to cope when worship is lacking', 'Theology of Risk & Suffering', and 'Cross Cultural Conflict'. Towards the end of the week we were joined by four new prospective missionaries at our annual In Depth Investigation of Mission (IDIOM) event, where Rich teamed up with colleagues to lead simulations on cross cultural service and translation issues. Maya attended all of the sessions and found the fellowship to be wonderful and refreshing. Our daughter, Katherine, also attended some of the missiological sessions with fellow missionary kid, Karissa Esala. LBT's administration, past and present, has been calling for and expressing the need for an event like LBT-U to gather our missionaries together for a time like this. It was a real privilege to be part of pulling it off for the first time. Thanks to all of you who continue to pray for and support our ministry for helping to make it possible so to train and send out the best missionaries to engage in God's mission through the work of Bible translation.



*The LBT-U crew in front of the international offices in Concordia.
(Photo by Michelle Griffith)*



Nsenga NT Dedicated in Zambia

On July 14, LBT dedicated the 42nd publication that the organization has helped to complete, the Nsenga New Testament. Nsenga is spoken by over a million people in the eastern part of Zambia. Missionaries Chris and Janine Pluger and their son Sean lived and worked among the Nsenga people for six years to help with this great work. I had the privilege of being their regional director before becoming director of international programs. Executive Director Dr. Mike Rodewald and Associate Director of International Programs Jim Laesch attended the dedication on behalf of LBT, accompanied by photography and videography intern Michelle Griffith. What a privilege to see God's word in the hands of the Nsenga people for the first time! We pray that the Lord will use it to speak to their hearts as it comes into use in the churches and devotional life of the Nsenga people.

LBT makes a splash at the NYG

22,000 high school youth from Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations across the country gathered in New Orleans with another 5,000 college age Young Adult Volunteers. LBT was there manning an exhibit station, an interest session called Truth AND Dare, a Bible translation / reformation game show and translation station at Wittenberg Castle in the experiential learning center. Thousands stopped by the booth to collect a carabiner with a tag on it requesting prayer for one of the more 4,000 language groups with inadequate access to scripture in their heart language. I (Rich) ran the game show most of the time and was able to draw in lots of participation in a very noisy and full experiential learning center. I might have missed my calling, but I'm not sure. At any rate, it was a nice break from the rigors of administration. LBT launched its snapchat channel at the gathering and significantly multiplied the folks connecting with our ministry through that medium. Youth Gathering was a chance to begin to nurture a relationship with some mission minded youth even now, but also a chance to give back to the church and share some of the experiences that we have gained as LBT missionaries working at the ends of the earth.



Above: Good times at the Youth Gathering game show,
Below: The Translation Station, teaching students how to say 'God loves all people' in the Shekgalagari language



Family Updates

Rich – will begin his third year as LBT's director of international programs in September. He plans to visit Botswana that same month to work with partners on starting work in the Chikuhane language there. Work continues to formalize an agreement to work in Ethiopia with the Mekane Yesus church, the largest Lutheran church in the world, and new project work is developing in Tanzania and Madagascar.

Maya – continues to work part time in LBT's gift records office. She has been training two new staff members and working with LBT's IT coordinator to develop an improved tool for missionaries to report on speaking events and donations collected on partnership development.

Chris – has been working at a local coffee shop here in town and is exploring college options.

Katherine – is about to begin her senior year of high school.

Matthew – is beginning his freshman year of high school and is playing on the Saint Paul High soccer team.

Joshua – will begin his 8th grade year in a couple weeks and is looking forward to the new school year and to the upcoming soccer season.

Rebecca – will begin 5th grade and is excited to get a new laptop that the school provides for all 5-8 grade students. She will play volleyball in the fall.

We praise God for:

- A great summer
- The privilege to participate in mission
- The dedication of the Nsenga New Testament

We ask God:

- To bless Maya's work in gift records
- To guide Christopher in college preparation
- For a successful school year coming up
- For an increase in financial support
- For wisdom in all matters