



# Messenger

## NIZAA LITERATURE CENTRE

### Rev. Mike Kuhn, Nizaa New Testament project

Many of you will probably be familiar with the African proverb “it takes a village to raise a child.” It is a proverb that speaks to the importance of surrounding a small child with a nurturing and supportive community so that it grows to become a responsible and conscientious member of society. In the same way that a nurturing community is important to raising a child, having an engaged community is vital to producing a good and useful translation of God’s Word. When a translation is produced outside of an engaged community, it may end up using language that is not familiar to the language community, or language that the community does not find to be acceptable. What’s more, they may not even take interest in the translation once it is completed if they were kept from being a part of the translation process. However, when the translation project is situated in the midst of the language community and their participation is welcomed – even encouraged – the final product has a much better chance of being welcomed, accepted, used, and even loved!

This dynamic has been on my mind since our family first arrived in Galim in 2013. When we arrived, we found a Nizaa literacy centre next to our house. The problem was that the centre and our house were across town from where the majority of the Nizaa people live; a 30-minute walk. This distance promised to be a real handicap to our work for a number of reasons. Learning the language, nurturing relationships, engaging Nizaa people in using the print form of their language, and – of course – including them in the process of translating God’s Word proved to be difficult due to the distance between our place of work and the Nizaa community. What’s more, after we converted the old Nizaa literacy centre into a house for our volunteers, our team had only one choice for where to work – the little office attached to our house. With four of us in the office, we were very cramped and we frequently had to hop over or duck under electrical cords, and shuffle chairs or dance around each other any time any one of us had to move somewhere else for any reason. In short, we felt a great desire and need to secure a space to work that would more adequately serve our needs and facilitate the involvement of the Nizaa community in the translation work.

I am delighted to be able to report that the Nizaa community and our family have already done a lot to develop a new Nizaa Literature Centre in the heart of the Nizaa quarter of Galim. Starting in January, leaders in the Nizaa community dug and laid a foundation for the centre. The next month, they raised the walls, and after that our family offered to put a



Nizaa Literature Centre



Revisers discussing Luke 1 to 6 in Nizaa

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material to the editor. Thank you! This mailing was assembled by volunteers!*







# BIBLE TRANSLATION

**H**ere at LBTC we are involved in Bible translation—there's nothing unusual about that. Because we do translation work, we spend a great deal of time reading about translation, about the most recent and best computer tools available, the newest projects opened, the political situations of the nations where translation is occurring, and the like. Despite its potential for ugliness, the Internet is still a treasure trove of useful information on translation work from many sources. Without the aid of computers our work would take a great deal longer, making a completed New Testament or full Bible much more expensive and time-consuming. Those who have not heard the Word in their heart language would be forced to wait a good while longer.

We often get questions about our work in Bible translation. One of those is: can anyone who is bilingual be a translator, a consultant, or an interpreter? It's a very astute observation. After all, an above-average grasp of a target language would seem to be all that is needed to express the nuances of meaning found in the primary text. It seems fairly simple, really.

But Bible translation is anything but simple. Nataly Kelly, a Bible translator and researcher in translation issues puts it this way:

The ability to write in English does not make a person a professional writer. The ability to speak English does not make a person a professional speaker. Likewise, the ability to write or speak two languages does not mean that a person can translate or interpret. Plenty of people who are perfectly fluent in two languages fail professional exams for translation and interpreting. Why? Being bilingual does not guarantee that a person will be able to transport meaning from one language and culture to another without inflicting harm in the process.

But what makes Bible translation unlike other ministries that are conducted in two (or more) languages? To say that someone "knows" a language does not mean knowledge at a deep, heart level. Some churches are bilingual, and often have a person or persons capable of translating a Pastor's sermon for use in worship. Often the only requirement for this vital task is that the translator speak both languages. However, the translator receives no orientation or training for the task, nor is his or her interpretation evaluated before or after the translation is presented.

This is not to say that an "amateur" translator is unqualified to produce workmanlike renditions

for use in the Church. On the contrary, translators of this type are knowledgeable and highly sought-after. But when it comes to translating the Word of God, the ability to speak the target and common languages is not enough. The clear Gospel message is crucial and should never be allowed to dissolve into the scenery.

God Himself says:

*For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?...But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it." Deut 30: 11–12, 14. ESV*

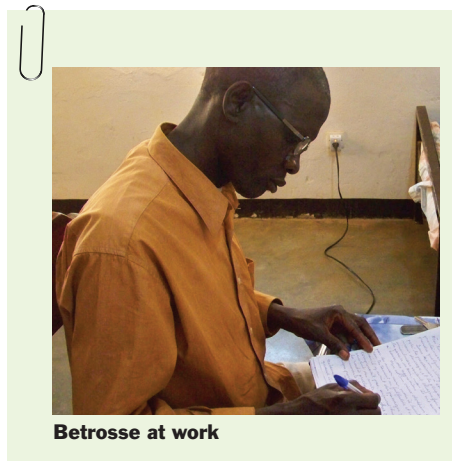
All translations done for and by LBTC are by native speakers of the languages we work with, namely Kwanja, Dowayo, and Nizaa. These native speakers were identified during a period of evaluation when they were observed to determine their gifts. A small group of these were chosen as translators. Very few are gifted by God to translate His Word into the languages of His people.

It doesn't stop there. Bible translators receive specialized linguistics training that is renewed regularly. For example, translating the Psalms

*In His service, and yours,  
Rev. Dr. James Keller*



**Joan with Dowayo team**



**Betrosse at work**

requires competence in interpreting poetry, knowledge that may not be necessary to translate Joshua, a book of history.

We at LBTC thank God for all of our gifted residential translators. They, like ourselves, have dedicated their lives to the task of getting the Word into the hands of His people as quickly, accurately, and beautifully as possible. Please pray for them, and for all our translators whose efforts bring the Good News to all. Thanks be to God!



# WEBERS BACK IN CAMEROON

by Martin and Joan Weber

Since we returned to Cameroon in late June, we have enjoyed being with other missionaries including our son Sammy and family, and the Kuhn family (right) who are working with the Nizaa project in Galim.

We very quickly were thrust back into work with our Cameroonian director and colleagues to advance translation and literacy in their languages. Martin got back into checking translation of Old Testament lectionary readings with the Kwanjas and has also started helping the Dowayos check some of their translation.

Joan has been helping the teams with planning and organizing their work of preparing the Old Testament translations of the lectionary readings in their languages. At right, Joan is planning with Jerome, Kwanja translator. Below, Joan is sharing a work progress chart with the Dowayo team: Alice, Pastor Betrosse and Aubert.

As we work with the different languages, we ask for continuing prayer for wisdom and strength for us and for strength and enablement for the national translators to carry on their important work.

There are so many distractions and things that can hamper their work. For instance, recently the Dowayo team were working with us in Ngaoundéré for a few weeks. During that time, Alice had a swollen jaw from a tooth infection, followed by malaria fevers. However, she was determined to keep on working through it all. Pastor Betrosse is recuperating from a serious lung infection.

Also his computer stopped working, hampering his work for now.

Please pray for the Dowayo team (Aubert, Alice and Pastor Betrosse), for the Kwanja team (Jerome and Emmanuel) and for the Vute team (Alfred and Pastor Paul). Pray that God's presence will be with them, healing and helping them to overcome every obstacle. Pray for God's protection over them and their main tool: their computers.

God's Word in their language is precious to them. As Pastor Betrosse said, "When I hear the words of the Gospel in my own language, it sings the songs of my heart." So they carry on to translate, and we come along beside them to encourage, enable and equip them to do so.

What a privilege we share together with you!







## NIZAA LITERATURE CENTRE

*Continued from page 1*

roof on the structure. In March, leaders of the Nizaa community met in the new centre and discussed how to complete the project. They raised enough funds to pour the cement floor, but asked me to approach our Canadian partners to complete the work. During their spring meeting, the LBTC board agreed to create a Nizaa Literature Centre project to help the community to complete the centre. Since that time, we have been able to make great strides and at the writing of this article, the finishing touches are being put on the Nizaa Literature Centre.

The LBTC part of this project came to \$2500 and it has not yet been fully funded. Would you be willing to come along side us and the Nizaa community to help us with this exciting development? If so, you can send your donations to LBTC specifying that the gift should be directed to the Nizaa Literature Centre project.

We are very excited to begin working in the new centre. The space and layout will enable us to work more efficiently and effectively, but more than that, we are excited about being able to work in the middle of the Nizaa community in Galim. Researching words, testing renderings, sharing drafts and other Nizaa print materials will now be easier to do every time we step out the door of the centre or a Nizaa neighbour pops in to see what we are working on. We look forward to seeing how our “child”, the Nizaa New Testament, will be shaped and influenced as it takes form in the physical context of the Nizaa community. And we thank you for being a vital part of the broader community that will help the Nizaa New Testament become a welcome and useful addition to the lives of Nizaa speakers.



**March meeting**

## TRANSLATION CHECKING – A joy working with the Kwanja team!

*by Martin Weber*



**W**hat a joy it is to work with a team who has done a really good translation – to make it even better – like my work with the Kwanja team, Jerome and Emmanuel last month! They really had done a good job of translating the remaining Old Testament selections to complete the Old Testament lectionary readings for Year B. They did careful exegetical research (finding out what the text in Hebrew really means), comparing several French translations. Then they read and weighed the translation guides and other sources. Then they worked together, trying out different ways of casting this meaning into their heart language. Finally they asked other speakers in their language group what it means to them, how they would say this naturally in their dialect. When all this was done - and done well - they brought it to me for exegetical checking.

Yesterday we were checking Ruth 3:1-5. We read a couple verses of the Kwanja translation, vv. 3-4, then I asked them point-blank “When Kwanjas hear that, is Ruth acting like a prostitute?” They were a little embarrassed, but said “Ahh... Yes.” We had to do a lot of word-work before we came up with a way to make it clear in the text that she was NOT offering her body then and there to Boaz, (although marriage to him was not far from her mind! But NOT starting with sex.)

Sometimes a text we translated seems like it really shouldn’t pose any difficulties... until you get into it. See if you can guess what the challenge was in this verse!

2 Sam 18:33 And the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went he said, “Oh my son Absalom...”

ANSWER: Kwanjas can easily imagine a chief going into his courtyard or house via a door or gate. And some have seen and been in multi-story buildings. But traditional chiefs’ houses do not have multiple stories! How could he be in a room above the gate?!

Translation checking gets us engaged in God’s Word, which was written within the cultures of Bible times, to communicate in the language and culture we are translating into. I love the challenges when all goes well. As my work has expanded beyond the Kwanja people, I am also learning the challenges of mentoring (through French) other translators working in languages that I have not learned. The Dwayo translation team needs exegetical checking from outside the team. It is again a challenge to help a team to better express God’s Word to communicate to their own people. Yes, a challenge - and a joy!



## THE BIBLE HOUSE - GROUNDWORK SO FAR

by Martin and Joan Weber

We serve the EELC (Cameroon Lutheran Church), working under Pastor Daniel Touka, the Director of its Translation and Literacy department. When we returned to Ngaoundéré, Pastor Daniel eagerly showed us the area of land proposed for the building of the Bible House. A few days later, we heard the loud sound of a chain saw, cutting the trees at the approved building site.

But there still is a lot of work before the Bible House will be done and ready to serve its purpose as a place for national translators to come and work when we are mentoring them in Ngaoundéré.



Again a few days later, the wood was cleared out. Then a tractor front-end loader was hired to clear the land, so it is flat for the next stage—let the foundation be dug!

Our prayers: that the work will begin effectively, and continue until the Bible House becomes a reality and a center of sharing God's Word in the languages of the people in the Cameroon Lutheran Church based in Ngaoundéré.







## **LBTC Messenger Announcements**

### **Thanks be to God for the service of Eshinee and Rob Veith**

LBTC Missionaries to Botswana since 2011  
The Veiths will soon return to North America  
where Eshinee has accepted a position  
as a translation team development instructor  
and consultant-in-training with  
Lutheran Bible Translators—USA  
Well done, good and faithful servants!  
Blessings on your future endeavours.  
We miss you!



### **Thanks be to God for the service of Mackenzie Kure**

Provided to the Kuhn Family and LBTC  
As a volunteer missionary to Galim, Cameroon  
Well done, good and faithful servant!  
Blessings on your future endeavours.  
We miss you!



**You are cordially invited to Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada  
Annual Meeting and Banquet**

**May 4, 2018  
Historic St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
137 Queen Street South Kitchener, ON N2G 1W2  
519-745-4891**

Special Guest Speaker: To Be Announced  
Meeting: 5:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:00 p.m.  
Freewill Offerings will be gratefully received



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Pray for the Bible Society of Botswana, and <b>Rob and Mical Hilbert</b> , as they continue to translate God's Word into the Shekhalagari language.	<b>2</b> Pray for all the unique collaborative translation projects continuing in Nigeria under the auspices of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria.	<b>3</b> <i>PRAYER DAY</i> Praise God for the service of <b>Tim Kuhl</b> , Chair of the LBTC Board of Directors.	<b>4</b> Praise God for LBTC Board member <b>Earl Keller</b> . May the Lord grant him wisdom and joy in this important work.	<b>5</b> Pray for <b>Dr. Luc Gnowa</b> , head of the Cameroon Bible Society, as he works to identify new translation consultants.	<b>6</b> Pray for <b>David Federwitz</b> , LBTC's regional director of projects in Cameroon, as he offers support and advice to LBTC projects in western Africa.	<b>7</b> Pray for <b>Rev. Mike and Kara Kuhn and their children</b> and the entire Nizaa translation project in Galim, Cameroon.
<b>8</b> Thank God for the Kwanja lectionary project that will continue toward completion in 2018. May it be a blessing for the Lutheran Church in Cameroon.	<b>9</b> <i>THANKSGIVING</i> Give thanks and praise to God for the nation of Canada and the blessings of freedom and plenty we enjoy.	<b>10</b> Pray for wisdom and discernment for <b>Rev. Dr. Jim Keller</b> , Executive Director of LBTC.	<b>11</b> Praise God for <b>Rev. Touka Daniel</b> as he coordinates LBTC translation projects with the local Cameroon Lutheran Church.	<b>12</b> Give thanks that the Konso people of Ethiopia now have more than 80% of the Bible translated into their language.	<b>13</b> Pray that God will continue to reduce the time it takes to bring a new Bible translation to print.	<b>14</b> Pray for <b>Dr. Michael Rodewald</b> , Executive Director of LBT-USA. May God grant him wisdom and energy in his work.
<b>15</b> Pray for all those victims of terrorism in Cameroon, Africa, and around the world. May God grant us peace and joy.	<b>16</b> <i>ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST</i> Praise God for the service of <b>Rev. Phil Washheim</b> , Secretary of the Board of Directors of LBTC.	<b>17</b> Praise God for LBTC Director <b>Pauline Huth</b> , that she would serve the cause of Bible translation with joy and hope.	<b>18</b> Pray for wisdom and discernment for <b>Kpengapse Aubert</b> and the entire Dowayo project from Poli, Cameroon.	<b>19</b> Praise God for the contributions of volunteers <b>Harry Drews</b> and <b>the LBTC mailing team</b> that helps keep the Church up-to-date on LBTC activities.	<b>20</b> Pray for <b>Martin and Joan Weber</b> as they move forward on translation projects among the Kwanja and Dowayo people of central Cameroon.	<b>21</b> <i>ST. JAMES OF JERUSALEM</i> Pray for <b>Tim Kuehn</b> , Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of LBTC, that he may exercise his office with wisdom.
<b>22</b> Give thanks to God that He has blessed the Nsenga (Zambia) translation efforts which has led to publication of the New Testament in 2016.	<b>23</b> Praise God for the contributions of <b>Tara Bradley</b> , Accounting Supervisor and Office Manager.	<b>24</b> Praise God and pray for the service of <b>Gord Martens</b> , a member of the Board of Directors of LBTC.	<b>25</b> <i>SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES</i> Pray that God would use the newly-translated gospel of Luke in the Shekhalagari language (Botswana) to change minds and hearts.	<b>26</b> Pray for all those who will see the Jesus film in Kusaal (Ghana). May the Lord speak to them and touch their hearts with the Gospel.	<b>27</b> Pray for the <b>Bible House</b> project ongoing in Ngaoundéré, Cameroon. May God provide time, talents and treasures.	<b>28</b> Pray for <b>Tobias, Gideon, and Gloria Kuhn</b> , that they would continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
<b>29</b> Praise God for the service of <b>Darryll Holland</b> , member of the LBTC Board of Directors.	<b>30</b> Pray that the 400 million people who have no Scriptures in their heart language will soon hear the Gospel speak directly to them.	<b>31</b> <i>REFORMATION</i> Give thanks to God for the 16 <sup>th</sup> century reformers who risked harm so that the pure Word could be preached and taught everywhere.	<p><b>Want more information about translation, Scripture Use, or LBTC's ministry in a specific country?</b></p> <p><b>Sign up to receive one or more prayer letters from LBTC missionaries.</b></p> <p><b>Call Dr. James Keller at: 1-866-518-7071 for more details.</b></p>			



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

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- ☐ I would like to make a regular monthly donation by major credit card
- ☐ Please send me a form to set up pre-authorized donations
- Additional online giving opportunities and information about LBTC are available on our website: [www.lbtc.ca](http://www.lbtc.ca)

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## NOVEMBER 2017 – Prayer Calendar Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada • 137 Queen St. S., Kitchener, ON 519-742-3361

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Want more information about translation, Scripture Use, or LBTC's ministry in a specific country?</b></p> <p><b>Sign up to receive one or more prayer letters from LBTC missionaries.</b></p> <p><b>Call Dr. James Keller at: 1-866-518-7071 for more details.</b></p>						
<p><b>5</b> Pray for LBT-US Executive Director <b>Dr. Mike Rodewald</b> and his family. May he serve the cause of Bible translation with joy.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Praise the Lord for the work <b>Rob and Mital Hilbert</b> are doing in Botswana among the Shekgalagari people. Thanks for all progress and success.</p>	<p><b>7 PRAYER DAY</b> Pray for all those considering a career in Bible translation and literacy. May God bless their deliberations toward this important work.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Pray for wisdom and discernment for <b>Kpengapse Aubert</b> and the Dowayo project team from Poli, Cameroon.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Pray that the new translation teams in Liberia will grow in their computer skills to enhance their abilities to do translation work efficiently.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Pray that God would continue to provide all that <b>LBTC missionaries</b> require, to permit them to do their important work in Bible translation and literacy.</p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b> Give thanks and praise to God for those whose courage and sacrifice defended our freedom in the past, and protect us today.</p>
<p><b>12</b> Praise God for <b>Rev. Touka Daniel</b> as he coordinates LBTC translation projects with the local Cameroon Lutheran Church.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Pray for progress on the distribution of the Gokana Psalms, which was the first Old Testament portion made available in the Gokana language (Nigeria).</p>	<p><b>14</b> Pray for <b>Martin and Joan Weber</b> as they continue their translation efforts in the Kwanja and Dowayo languages.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Pray <b>Pastor Mandita Kunuma</b> and other Iplili leaders in Papua New Guinea as they encourage people to read or listen to God's Word in their language.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Pray that God's Word will become accessible to the millions around the world who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Pray for the <b>Board of Directors of LBTC</b> as they meet in Thunder Bay, Ontario (Christ Lutheran Church) this weekend.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Praise God for the service of <b>Tim Kuhl, Chair</b> of the LBTC Board of Directors.</p>
<p><b>19</b> Pray for <b>Mike Kuhn</b> as he continues to train qualified persons to assist in bringing LBTC Bible translations in Nizaa to print.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Pray for those who travel for mission work, for business, family, or vacation, especially those planning to attend the LBTC retreat in January. May God protect them as they go.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Pray for the <b>Bible House</b> project in Ngaoundéré, Cameroon. May God bless the workers, planners, and all those working to finish the project soon.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Pray that <b>LBTC's international partnerships</b> will flourish with insightful discussions, mutual accountability, and collaboration.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Praise God for the contributions of <b>Tara Bradley</b>, Accounting Supervisor and <b>Harry Drews</b>, LBTC Home Office volunteer.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Pray for LBTC volunteer <b>Deanna Hautz</b> who is helping the Kuhn family in Galim, Cameroon until Christmas. May the Lord bless and keep her.</p>	<p><b>25</b> Pray for energy and joy for those involved in building the <b>Nizaa Literature Centre</b> in Galim, Cameroon.</p>
<p><b>26</b> Pray for the <b>seminaries and colleges</b> of the Church, and their commitment to producing pastors, teachers and Bible translators.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Pray for <b>Eshinee and Rob Veith</b> who have returned to North America for consulting work with LBT-USA. Well done, good and faithful servants.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Pray for <b>Rev. Nathan and Sarah Esala</b> as they serve remotely in the United States.</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>ANDREW, APOSTLE</b> Praise God for <b>St. Andrew</b>, who made the good confession that Jesus Christ is Lord.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Pray for <b>David Federwitz</b>, LBT's regional director of projects in Cameroon, as he offers support and advice to LBTC projects in western Africa.</p>	<p><b>Would you prefer your Prayer Calendar in Large Print? Please email us at:</b></p>	<p><b>tara@lbtc.ca or call us at 519-742-3361</b></p> <p><b>Thanks be to God!</b></p>