

Lutheran Bible Translators Messenger

On the Road Again— Partnership Development Komba Style

by Rev. Nathan Esala



We're back on the Partnership Development road — that's the term we use when we travel around the U.S. to share about our work. However, this time our partnership development is to the Komba here in Ghana! The translation team has come to the point where we want all of the Komba people *personally* informed about what the team is doing. Pastor Samson, Pastor Emmanuel (translator), Elijah (literacy supervisor) and I have visited many interior Komba villages on motorcycle (it's either that or by foot or bicycle). We are also giving people the opportunity to contribute money or gifts, such as grain, that can be used to support the work being done.

When the Komba chiefs gathered together to offer each other support after a monstrous rain storm last year, they also asked the translation team to visit all the villages. It's a huge task, but we came up with a plan. The list of villages was divided up between Pastor Samson, Pastor Emmanuel and Elijah. I travel with one of them depending on the day.

A letter is written and hand delivered to the village we will be visiting. These letters basically ask the people to gather to hear about something that concerns all



The people in the Bimbon area are very supportive.

of the Komba. Normally the letters get there. Sometimes the content is read... sometimes it's not. Word of mouth and meeting face to face are still valued most for passing along information — another reason to *personally* visit.

Our first stop in a village is at the chief's or the elder man's house to find out if he received the message. He is asked to gather the people for a meeting. Once this is done, the group is told about the history of the Komba project from the perspective of the Komba people. They are asked to support the project — to give what they can and what they think will be a benefit. We tell them our plans for literacy classes and for the overall development of the Komba language. They are also told that the chief will soon be asked to send us two people from their village to be trained as literacy teachers and that their help will enable us to reach out to more villages with literacy classes.

Sometimes as many as eight villages are visited in a single day. Almost everywhere we go we are welcomed warmly, receiving gifts from the chiefs. We bring these chickens, eggs, or yams home with us. Because of all the travel time, I can't always get home to Nasuan. I sleep in Gbintiri or one of the villages we're visiting so that we can start again early the next morning. Thankfully, with our volunteer teacher Christina around, Sarah is not left alone with the girls.

The support we received from the Bimbon area astounded us. All the village heads gathered in one place for our visit. About 20 villages were represented, giving gifts of 12 bags

Continued on page 6

The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators [LBT] is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

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Easter People

As you would expect, planning and preparation of each issue of *The Messenger* begins long before you receive your copy. Some of the work for this edition, including this article, was completed during Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday is one in a series of days that lead quickly to the Cross. Jesus has a last supper with his disciples — an event that is, at the same time, warm fellowship and an ominous harbinger of what is to come. The Words of Institution are spoken for the first time; with his hand in the dish, Judas knows that Jesus knows! And soon after dinner, Peter is confronted with his upcoming denial.

The events of this last half of Holy Week are intense, fast paced and dark. And yet, the dark days of Holy Week set the cosmic stage for Easter. On Good Friday, the Father turns His back on the Son. On Easter morning, the Father raises the Son from the tomb. The perfect sacrifice is perfectly complete.

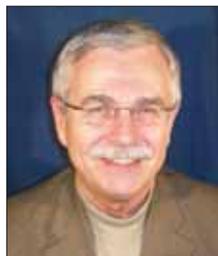
Why does LBT do what it does — **making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts?** Because, as a friend of mine loves to say, we are **Easter People**. And Easter People are compelled to share the Easter message.

LBT missionaries are Easter People — engaged in the vital process of Bible translation, helping speakers of the language to develop tools and strategies that will engage their people with the Word of God. And those who pray and provide financial support for LBT are also Easter People — equally committed to **making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.**

Because as Easter People we know — He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! And we want to proclaim the Good News throughout the world. 📖

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dr. Marshall R. Gillam, CFRE
Executive Director



New Missionaries Welcomed

Two families were appointed to the LBT missionary team in January, 2008. Rev. Rich and Maya Rudowske and Kory and Cara Fay will complete course work at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas, Texas before beginning partnership development.



Rich served as a pastor in Dayton, Ohio for two years. He received the M.Div from Concordia Seminary in 2005. Maya is an encourager and organizer for the Rudowske crew of five children: Christopher (13); Katherine (9); Matthew (6); Joshua (4); and Rebecca (3). A probable assignment to Botswana is planned.

Kory and Cara Fay are both graduates of Valparaiso University in Indiana. Given Kory's love for Greek and Hebrew, and Cara's heart for Africa, Bible translation in Africa with LBT seemed a natural fit. They, along with son Samuel (1), are tentatively assigned to Cameroon. 📖



Interested in Becoming a Missionary?

Registration for August I.D.I.O.M. Open Now!

Are you or someone you know thinking about serving on the mission field? Consider attending I.D.I.O.M. (In Depth Investigation of Missions). The three day workshop covering a wide range of topics and issues relevant to missionary service will be held August 7-9 in Aurora, Illinois.

There is no cost for the workshop. LBT provides transportation, housing and meals once you arrive in Chicago.

Topics include 21st Century Bible Translation, Is God Preparing Me?, Principles of Cross Cultural Engagement, living standards and expectations, educational options, raising support, translation and Scripture Use activities, and the roles of national co-workers. LBT staff and missionaries are available to talk privately one-on-one with individuals and couples.

"We're interested in identifying, encouraging, advising and, if appropriate, developing individuals and couples to participate in God's Mission," Peter Slayton, LBT Mobilization Coordinator said. But it is common, after listening to how God is working in attendees' lives, for LBT staff to refer potential missionaries, whose hearts are leading them in another direction, to other organizations that may be a better fit.

Interested individuals can register on line at ops.lbt.org. Click on I.D.I.O.M., and go to the registration form. Questions should be directed to Peter Slayton at PSlayton@lbt.org, or 1-800-532-4253 ext. 23. If you can't make the August date, we hope to see you at the next I.D.I.O.M. in May 2009.

Finleys Appointed Eastern Region Representatives

They may no longer have an active volcano within view of their home, but Dan and Kay Finley are excited about their new home and new roles with LBT.

The Finleys served with LBT in Guatemala for ten years. During that time they experienced earthquakes, hurricanes, and minor eruptions from Fuego volcano. They also helped bring God's Word to the Maya of Guatemala as Dan served as Mission Coordinator and Field Director, responsible for encouraging, organizing, and working closely with LBT missionaries and the Lutheran Church of Guatemala. Dan and Kay assisted translation, literacy and Scripture Use teams in Guatemala, using audio and video techniques to stimulate interest within the indigenous churches. They also encouraged use of mother tongue Scriptures to help reach these often oral societies.

In January 2008, the Finleys were appointed LBT's Eastern Region Representatives. Based in Ohio, they will be available to travel throughout the eastern and southern United States, speaking on behalf of LBT. "We look forward to bringing the vision of LBT to congregations and groups that in the past have not heard about its mission and ministry," said Dan.

The Finleys are eager to share their own experiences on the mission field, as well as to talk about the work being done by LBT missionaries around the world. They hope to

educate, excite, and engage people in the work of translation and Scripture Use.

"We've always had a heart for missions," said Kay.

In addition to representing LBT, the Finleys will also use their vernacular media skills. They will spend part of their time working overseas, assisting LBT missionaries and their coworkers in the development of media tools that aid in translation and literacy projects. "We've seen firsthand how people react to the Good News of salvation when they can read it in their heart language or experience the message through DVDs and CDs, audio tapes, radio broadcasts, music, plays and other non written communications," said Dan.

If your congregation is located in the eastern or southern U.S. and would like to learn more about LBT's mission and ministry, please contact Sharon Vega at 1-800-532-4253, svega@lbt.org, or DKFinley@lbt.org to arrange a time for the Finleys to speak. If you know of another congregation interested in missions, please share this information with them. Dan and Kay will be happy to visit!



The Finleys will continue to use their vernacular media skills to assist LBT missionaries on the field.

JAARS Celebrates 60 Years of Service

The acronym may not be familiar to most people, but in mission circles JAARS (formerly known as Jungle Aviation and Radio Services) is a well-respected, integral partner in Bible translation.

Founded in 1948 by Cameron Townsend as the aviation branch of Wycliffe Bible Translators, the organization's primary purpose was to provide safe air transportation for missionaries serving in South America. As translation efforts spread worldwide, JAARS broadened its services to include wireless communications, information technology, construction, vernacular media, buying, shipping and transportation services.

Incorporated in 1963, JAARS located its international center in Waxhaw, North Carolina.

Today, associate missionaries Jon and Carol Shaneyfelt serve at JAARS. Jon is helping to develop **Translation**

Editor, computer software that will not only speed Bible translation but will also make sure the translation is more accurate.

JAARS also offers training in vernacular media services. Several LBT missionaries have benefited from this program, Dan and Kay Finley being the most recent.

"When we attended the Vernacular Media Specialist training course, we were very impressed with the high quality facilities, training classes, fellowship, and acceptance we enjoyed during the entire 14 week period," said Dan. "The joke 'JAARS stands for Just About Any Request for Service'" is accepted by the talented and professional staff throughout the JAARS center."

LBT congratulates JAARS and gives praise for 60 years of service, helping missionaries bring God's Word to the farthest reaches of the world. For more information about the organization and its mission, visit www.JAARS.org. 





Called to Glory

Stan McMillen, our friend and co-worker in the service of Bible translation, passed away on March 7. Stan bravely endured much pain and suffering through several surgeries and painful treatments following the diagnosis of colon cancer in the summer of 2005. His wife, Margie, was at his side with support and care every minute of the journey.

While Stan still had strength of health he wrote the following:

“If you are reading this, I have started my new beginning. Many, many times throughout my days here on earth I stated that This new day is the first day of the rest of my life. I say that because Scripture tells us to be thankful for God’s Forgiveness which is new every morning, just as we are to be thankful in the evenings for His Mercies which are new everyday. On March 7th, our Loving Lord flipped the switch for my new and eternal beginning.”



A memorial service was held in Longview, Texas, on March 15. You can read more about Stan and Margot, their lives and ministry, in the next edition of the Messenger.

Racing to Spread the Word

by Rick Allmon

My brother is a runner. You know, one of those people you see jogging down the street early in the morning, or pacing themselves through the park. Not so uncommon these days. What I find amazing is that he started this journey not so long ago, and he’s nearing retirement age. He started off slowly, walking briskly each morning and evening. Gathering momentum (no pun intended), he decided to run in a local 5K charity fun run. In February he ran in a 10K event. Now he has enrolled in running classes to help him improve his time and technique. He has added running to his list of interests — writing, music, teaching — and is enjoying it.

Giving habits often develop the same way. We may start off slowly, especially when we’re going to school, starting a family, saving for a house or car, or paying for the kids’ college education. But just like a runner in training, we can improve our performance by being good stewards of the gifts God has given us.

We all have our races to run. I can think of no better race than the one supporting missionaries who take God’s Word to the farthest reaches of the earth. We run together, hand in hand. And the finish line never looked so appealing. Making Scripture available to people in the language of their hearts wins souls for Jesus Christ. What better prize could there be than that of eternal life?

Thank you for running with us; for participating, cheerleading, praying, and donating your dollars.

What joy to experience victory with people around the world as they come to faith and run beside us as brothers and sisters in Christ. ☺

Need More Information?

Return this coupon to:

Rick Allmon, CFRE
Associate Director for Development
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: Rick@LBT.org

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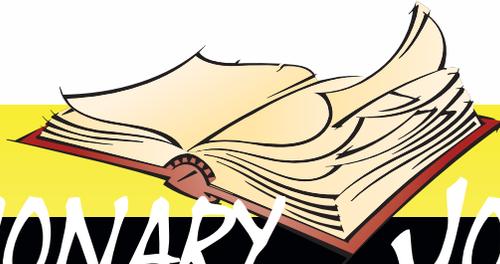
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- Additional on-line giving opportunities and information about LBT are available on our web site: www.LBT.org



MISSIONARY JOURNAL

Of Mice and Me – A Lesson from the Mission Field

by Christina Riddle

I was baking bread one Thursday and went to the drawer for a measuring cup. A very cute mouse and I were very surprised to see each other! It scrambled to flee and I emitted a very loud, and amazingly high-pitched, yelp.

I retrieved and washed my measuring cup, but I left the drawer open (because who wants that kind of experience twice?) and proceeded with the bread. I was almost to the kneading stage with my hands caked in dough when Little Mouse tentatively crept toward the front of the drawer, nose and ears twitching, and rose on his hind legs to peer at me. If I decided to kill things or not based on how cute they were, he would've been saved. But that's not how I operate.



Christina and Karissa Esala go over an assignment.

out my drawer and wash the dishes, and that's when I discovered the poop on the counter (NOT where I was making the bread—the OTHER counter) and learned one of the many interesting things I've discovered since coming to Ghana. Mouse poop sweeps right up, no problem!

I tripped down the treacherous path toward the Esalas' house, calling to Karissa, who was outside. She quickly passed word to Sarah, who was in the house. They came at a sprint with some of Sarah's house help, but by the time they arrived Little Mouse had wisely fled. They helped clean

Christina is serving as a volunteer teacher for the Esala family in Nasuan, Ghana.



THE LORD



KIDS



TO TEACH

LBT is seeking tutors for missionary children in Africa. Two families are located in Ghana. David and Valerie Federwitz have four children ages 5, 4, 2, and 3 months. They are praying for a teacher this fall. Rev. Nathan and Sarah Esala have three daughters ages 7, 4, and 2. They have had a wonderful experience with their current tutor, Christina Riddle, but will need a replacement at the end of 2008.

A third family is also in need of a tutor. Rev. Rich and Maya Rudowske plan to locate in Botswana in southern

Africa for their first field assignment mid 2009. Their five children range in age from 3 - 13.

There are two ways to serve:

1. **As an LBT missionary tutor.**

This position requires the candidate be a certified teacher, complete the missionary application (info@LBT.org), and receive training on learning another language and adjusting to a new culture. The missionary would speak in churches and to individuals generating support to

sustain the ministry for a three year assignment.

2. **As an LBT volunteer.**

Candidates need to either be a certified teacher, or have considerable teaching experience in a Sunday school setting. References are required. The candidate agrees to finance the one year volunteer assignment through personal funds and sharing the need with family, friends and church contacts.

For more information contact Peter Slayton at PSlayton@lbt.org or 1-800-532-4253 ext. 23.



I Love to Tell (and Hear!) the Story

By Rev. Larry Johnson

Whenever Easter comes around I'm reminded of one of the most memorable events in my life. It happened one Easter season in Monrovia during the war in Liberia. I was sitting around visiting with some displaced people from Booya, the village our family had lived in for many years. We started talking about the Easter story. In our midst was Yawah, a woman I had known since our first arrival in Booya. She was not literate and not a Christian. She hardly ever went to church, possibly once or twice each year at the most. During our conversation, without prompting from anyone, Yawah began to narrate the Easter story!

As I sat listening to her, I could hardly believe what I was hearing! She told the story with such detail, it confused me. How could she know this story when she never went to church? How could she know it so accurately? Where had she heard it? When she finished narrating the Easter story, I asked her how she had learned it. Her answer showed me how relevant it is to have Scripture in a non-print format. She said a church close to where she was living had shown a video of Jesus in Kisi and she had gone there to see it. That is where she had heard the story.

Imagine only having heard God's Word on a video and being able to repeat it almost word-for-word! The power of God's Word can't be underestimated. Today Yawah is a very strong, committed Christian — dare I say because of God working through His Word in a Scripture video. God is at work through His Word. Praise God for His message of a risen Savior, shared in so many ways, reaching people everywhere. 📖



The village of Booya.



Those who cannot read have access to God's Word through hearing.

Rev. Larry and Mae Johnson lived and served in Liberia for over 20 years. Now based in the United States, Larry serves as a translation consultant, traveling to Africa several times a year to work with numerous language projects.

On the Road Again

Continued from page 1

of grain. That's worth around \$400 — a substantial amount. Another group that showed encouraging support is a community of Komba people who migrated to central Ghana for better farmland. Before Christmas, Pastor Emmanuel and Elijah were able to visit 12 villages and gather 14 bags of grain from this area.

The team and I pray that this literacy outreach will do more than gather money. We hope to spark people's interest in reading and writing their language for their own development, pride and well being. The Komba are dearly loved by God. We pray that meeting this practical need will be another way to share His love. 📖



Nathan and the team received gifts, like this chicken, from the chiefs they visited.

Rev. Nathan and Sarah Esala serve in translation ministry among the Komba people in Ghana.

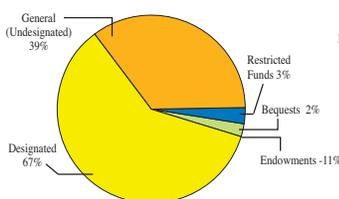
LBT Partnership Support

January 1, 2008 — March 31, 2008

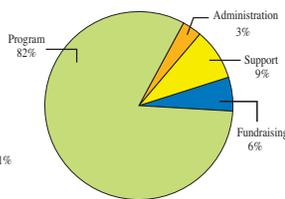
INCOME

	Unaudited 1st Quarter	Unaudited Year-to-date
Designated	\$463,590	\$463,590
General (Undesignated)	269,016	269,016
Restricted Funds	21,805	21,805
Bequests	15,060	15,060
<u>Endowments</u>	<u>(79,333)</u>	<u>(79,333)</u>
Total Income	\$690,137	\$690,137

1st Quarter Income



1st Quarter Expenses



EXPENSES

Program	\$898,253	\$898,253
General & Administration	35,334	35,334
Support	98,726	98,726
<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>61,919</u>	<u>61,919</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,094,232	\$1,094,232

NOTE: During the first quarter of 2008, LBT was able to purchase two missionary computers and a cassette duplicator. In addition, the Service Center purchased a Water Pump and plumbing service. The total of these purchases was \$6,521. These costs are not reflected above.

CUT HERE

Missionary Speakers Available

Several LBT missionaries will be available to speak in a variety of U.S. locations this fall.

Kory and Cara Fay, along with little Sam, complete pre-field training in June and are focusing on Francophone West Africa for assignment. That means French study first! Kory will serve as a translation advisor.

Dan and Kay Finley, Eastern Region Representatives, are available to speak in the eastern and southern United States. See page 3 for more details.

Ruth Lee is a pre-field missionary pursuing her first assignment to Nigeria, working in the area of translation.

Rev. Rich and Maya Rudowske, and the Rudowske Five (Christopher, Katherine, Matthew, Joshua and Rebecca) are preparing for life and translation ministry in Botswana.

Ed and Wilma Rupprecht will be on furlough this fall and look forward to sharing about their Scripture Use ministry in Nigeria.

For more information, or to schedule an engagement, please contact Sharon Vega at 1-800-532-4253 or svega@lbt.org.

CUT HERE

Birthdays

JUNE

- 2 **Don Fox** (1989)
Guatemala
- 2 **Eshinee Veith**
Botswana
- 6 **Sarah Konrad**
(1999)
United States
- 6 **Margot McMillen**
Guatemala
- 6 **Seth Rodewald**
(1997)
South Africa
- 8 **Ed Rupprecht**
Nigeria
- 12 **Dean Mehl**
United States
- 15 **Jason Konrad**
(1997)
United States
- 16 **Susan Malone**
Southeast Asia
- 18 **Maya Rudowske**
United States
- 28 **Joshua Rudowske**
(2003)
United States

JULY

- 1 **Mary Holman**
Ghana
- 5 **Mary Blake**
Service Center Staff
- 5 **Aili Esala** (2006)
Ghana
- 6 **Judi Behrens**
Service Center Staff
- 7 **Jim Kaiser**
United States
- 10 **Joshua DeLoach**
(2006)
Papua New Guinea
- 10 **JoAnn Hanson**
Service Center Staff
- 11 **Vanice Schultz**
United States
- 11 **Peter Megahan**
(1992)
Botswana
- 12 **Nathan Esala**
Ghana
- 12 **Josiah Federwitz**
(2004)
Ghana

AUGUST

- 19 **Grace Closius**
United States
- 1 **Valerie Federwitz**
Ghana
- 4 **Tim Miller**
Thailand
- 6 **Ruth Lee**
United States
- 8 **Rachel Federwitz**
(2004)
Papua New Guinea
- 8 **Sarah Miller**
(1997)
Thailand
- 10 **Rich Rudowske**
United States
- 14 **Cheryl Jensen**
United States
- 15 **Lindsey Konrad**
(2002)
United States
- 30 **Paul Closius**
United States

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!

CAMEROON

■ Pray for peace in Cameroon, which has recently experienced serious civil unrest, including rioting, strikes, and disruption of government services.

GUATEMALA

■ Pray for **Allen and Sheri Larsen** as they complete their Guatemala assignment and consider their next ministry opportunity.

GHANA

■ Praise God for the March 3rd birth of **Levi Federwitz**, son of Paul and Ali.

NIGERIA

■ Pray for **Ed and Wilma Rupprecht**. They will begin their Partnership Development furlough in June.



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Executive Director:
Dr. Marshall R. Gillam



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Want more information about translation, Scripture Use, or LBT's ministry in a specific country? Sign up to receive one or more prayer letters from LBT missionaries. Call Karen Campbell at 1-800-532-4253 for more details.

SIERRA LEONE

■ Thank God for the June 4th and 11th dedication ceremonies for the **Kono New Testament**.

■ Pray that God will bless the **Jim and Susan Kaiser family, Marshall Gillam**, and retired LBT missionary **Judy Olson** as they travel to participate in the celebrations.

SOUTH AFRICA

■ Pray for **Mike and Cindy Rodewald and family**. Mike has begun his assignment in South Africa, serving with LCMS World Mission. The Rodewalds remain associate missionaries with LBT.

UNITED STATES

■ Pray for the **Stan McMillen family**. Stan passed away on March 7, following a long battle with colon cancer.

■ Continue to pray for **Rev. Terry Borchard**, who began an experimental treatment for his multiple myeloma in March.

■ Pray for LBT as it sets long-range goals and objectives in preparation for its 50th anniversary in 2014.

■ Praise God for LBT's two new missionary teams: **Rev. Rich and Maya Rudowske**, and **Kory and Cara Fay**. Praise also for **Matthew and Cheryl Hedlin**, new missionaries serving with LBT-Canada.



■ Praise God for the February 8th birth of **JoyAnna Federwitz**, daughter of David and Valerie Federwitz.

■ Pray for **David and Valerie, Martin and Joan Weber**, and **Michael and Jo Ann Megahan**. These teams are returning to the field following furlough.

■ Praise God that the rainy season brought much-needed relief to many of the drought-stricken areas served by LBT. Pray that the local people will have good harvests to meet their food needs during this year.

