

# Messenger

## International Scholarships Pave Way for New Bible Translation Workers

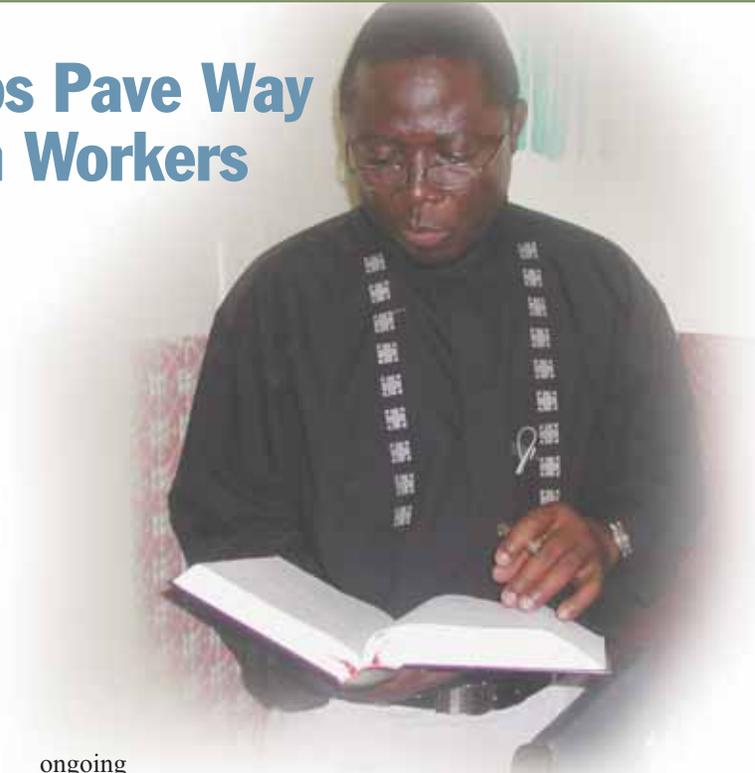
Like most translation organizations, LBT has followed the tradition of training, supporting, and sending North American missionaries to overseas locations for service on the mission field. Lack of educational opportunities and poor or non-existent infrastructure overseas made it difficult for African nationals to gain the skills and tools they needed to begin and maintain their own translation programs. Trained translators and literacy workers needed to come from elsewhere.

But things are changing. In the past 15 years, numerous institutions for training in linguistics, Biblical languages, and translation studies have been created on the African continent. This provides Africans an opportunity to train as translation advisors while staying in their home country or in a nearby region. Graduates of these institutions go on to serve in translation and literacy programs in their indigenous (heart) languages. LBT's International Scholarship program was created to help fund these individuals' education.

There are many advantages to training national colleagues for this work. Fewer North Americans are being drawn to the mission field. But there are many willing Africans eager to bring God's Word to their people. North American missionaries face many challenges — housing, cultural and language adaptation, transportation — that are significantly reduced when indigenous workers carry out the ministry of Bible translation. The



Samuel Cooper will receive his degree in linguistics in 2009.



ongoing expenses of ministry are considerably less with local experts than the costs of sending a North American family to live overseas.

In addition, more is translated in a shorter amount of time with a higher quality of work when trained local personnel are involved in the work. As LBT missionary Ed Rupprecht, who serves in Nigeria, said, "I will never be a Ukele man. I will never be Yala or Bokyi, even though I try my best to reflect and respect the cultures and languages of my hosts." Who better to translate God's Word in a clear, comprehensible, culturally appropriate manner than one who is part of that culture and considers the language his or her mother tongue?

*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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a heart  
for missions

## It's not what you know that counts —

**It's who you know. That was a favorite expression of one of my uncles — and he practiced it faithfully!**

As I reflected on my uncle's philosophy while reading a pre-production copy of the Messenger you now hold in your hands, I was reminded that Uncle Andy's philosophy had more than a grain of truth — and that he missed the real point by a country mile!

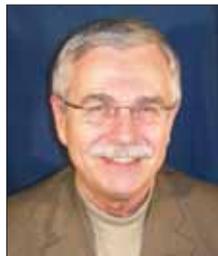
**What you know:** What you know absolutely does matter! In the larger world of missions, LBT is a "technical specialist." So things like Greek and Hebrew, linguistics and anthropology (to name only a few) are critically important. That is why we invest significant resources in the training of new missionaries. It is also why we invest heavily in the training of our national overseas colleagues. Both LBT missionaries and national partners must be proficient with the tools of the trade to be effective as translation or Scripture Engagement consultants.

**Who you know:** But who you know is also vitally important. Most of the stories in this issue of the Messenger mention the names of local people — people who are important to know. These people may be candidates for advanced training or the recent recipients of advanced training. They may be local pastors or community leaders. These people are skilled in the local language — it is, after all, their heart language! But they are also highly skilled in the local culture. They are important "insiders." They command influence in the community. They can pave the way or erect huge barriers! They are important people to know.

**It's not what you know that counts — it's who you know.** Yes, Uncle Andy got it right and he missed the point by a country mile! There is one more "what" and one more "who." The mission and ministry of LBT revolves around the Word of God — the most important "what" of all. We must know it to teach it. We must know it to translate it. We must know it as the Holy Spirit impresses it upon our hearts. And the most important "who" of all is God Himself, whom we serve and in whose name we go! 📖

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Dr. Marshall R. Gillam, CFRE  
Executive Director



## Rev. Roy Gesch Receives Lutheran Bible Translators Lifetime Achievement Award

Rev. Roy Gesch, Lutheran Bible Translators Executive Director from 1976 to 1984, received the organization's Lifetime

Achievement Award at LBT's Annual Dinner held May 1 in Lisle, Illinois.

"We're privileged to recognize and celebrate Roy's faithful service and dedication to

our Lord, bringing God's Word to people overseas as well as here at home," Rev. Dr. Douglas Rutt, LBT Board Chairman said. "His service at LBT started in 1975 as Director of Public Relations and Development. He was voted Executive Director in 1976 and served until 1984. When he opted not to move with LBT from southern California to Illinois, he continued to serve as Associate Director until 1986."

In comments shared with LBT staff, Rev. Gesch remarked how he felt he had done nothing to deserve the Lifetime Achievement award, but gave all honor and glory to God. "I didn't 'get' to do this work," he said. "God prepared the way and provided the opportunity."

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rev. Gesch graduated from Concordia College, Milwaukee in 1939 and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1944. In a 30 year parish ministry career before joining LBT, Rev. Gesch and his late wife, Dottie, served six different congregations in three states, and ministered to all branches of the military.

"Rev. Gesch is perhaps best remembered during his tenure with LBT for recognizing the importance of successfully building solid relationships with church bodies, and linguistic, literacy and translation organizations," Dr. Rutt said. "His vision and commitment were instrumental in LBT's growth as an internationally recognized Bible translation organization."



**Rev. Gesch accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award from LBT Board Chairman Rev. Dr. Douglas Rutt.**

*Continued on page 7*

## International Scholarships:

# A Lasting Legacy

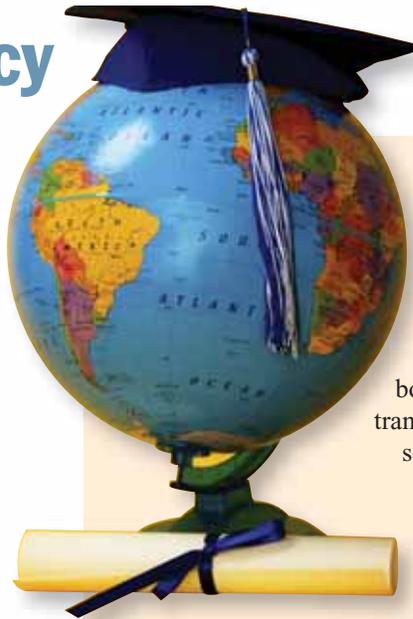
by Karen Campbell

**L**BT has been offering international scholarships since the 1990s. To date, over 50 people have received assistance, ranging from funding for two week courses to four year university programs.

The purpose of LBT International Scholarships is to help equip international colleagues with the skills they need to effectively carry out their assignments. Applicants seeking training in the areas of Bible translation, Scripture engagement, including literacy work and mass media, get primary consideration. Individuals seeking training for support roles, such as computers or desktop publishing, may also apply.

Applicants must be working with a partner organization of LBT, and be recommended by that organization and by an LBT missionary who knows them and agrees to mentor the scholarship recipient through his or her schooling.

- 1** Applicants must be Christians who are involved in a Bible translation, literacy or Scripture engagement project.
- 2** Applicants must be committed to the work of Bible translation and literacy.
- 3** Scholarship recipients agree to serve in their projects at least two years for every academic year of training. They will serve for one year for a partial year of training, with the home organization's approval.



**Four scholarship recipients are currently attending universities.**

**Rev. Kierien Ayugha** of Nigeria is attending The Theological College of Northern Nigeria. He is working toward both his B.A. and M.A. in Bible translation. Kierien is a Boyki man who served among the Bokyi people as a literacy instructor and Scripture Use teacher. He hopes to use his education to return to his home in Cross River State to be more effective in preparing literacy materials and to help complete Bible translations in other Ogoja

languages. Of the 58 Ogoja region languages, only two have the complete Bible.

**Lamin Kargbo** is working on his B.A. in Adult Education at the Evangelical College of Theology in Jui, Sierra Leone. He continues to be instrumental in the work of The Institute for Sierra Leonean Languages (TISLL) while he attends school. Following graduation in 2011, he will use his education “for the promotion of literacy and Scripture Use programs in churches and in the community.”

**Eugène Kpengapsé** will receive a degree in Bible Translation from the Faculte de Theologie Evangelique de l’Alliance Chretienne in Côte D’Ivoire. After his graduation in 2011 he will return to work as a translator with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon. “It is with a full heart that I address to you my sincere thanks for the privilege Lutheran Bible Translators has bestowed on me. I do not know how to express my joy for this gift,” he said.



**Pastor Linus Otrony** recently began studying at the University of Calabar in Nigeria.

**Pastor Linus Otrony** is just beginning his B.A. in linguistics at the University of Calabar in Nigeria. He plans to use his degree to more effectively carry out Bible translation ministry in the Yala language, and, like Rev. Ayugha, help in other language translations as well.



## reflections

# Translation 101

by Rev. Tim Beckendorf

As the first step in the translation process, I “chart” the text to be translated. That means I provide a fairly literal rendering of the Hebrew, any background information or cultural contextual information that a person would need to know in order to understand the text, and other linguistic information and observations that would no doubt put most people to sleep in a hurry.

This gets me very familiar with the text so that I can help the translation team understand it as well. Once we’ve discussed the piece to be translated, Moses, one of the team members and my translation assistant, writes a rough draft on the chalk board. Then we make word order adjustments, discuss the layers of meanings of some of the words, and sometimes look for different options of words to use.

After a bit of “tweaking,” we read the text out loud to find out if it sounds natural. If we are pleased with it, I write the draft in a booklet with a quick back translation underneath and type it into our editing program on the computer. Then we move to the next verse. At the end of the session we read the whole section out loud for another check and I listen for any hesitations, stumbling over words, etc. We usually have some corrections to make at this point as well.

הָאָרֶץ:	וְאֵת	הַשָּׁמַיִם	אֵת	אֱלֹהִים	בָּרָא	בְּרֵאשִׁית
the earth	and obj mkr	the heavens	obj mkr	God	created	In the beginning
Nyamoko	Khyanima	Famkx'eima	nu	xomkx'eima	ta	nlgbhl.
Beginning in	God	heaven all	and	earth all	mkr	created.

This example above shows the initial draft of the opening verse of the Bible in the Khwedam language. The original Hebrew is printed above it.

Hebrew is read from right to left and Khwedam, like English, is read from left to right. You may notice a couple of slight differences between the Hebrew and Khwedam (aside from the direction and characters that is). Word order in Hebrew is typically *verb* first, then the *subject*, and then the *object*. In Khwedam the typical word order is *subject* first, then *object*, then the *verb*. The words we call prepositions in English, like *in*, *at*, and *on*, are actually postpositions in Khwedam. In other words, they follow the noun rather than precede it. All of this is fascinating to linguists and translators! 📖

*Rev. Tim and Lisa Beckendorf and family serve among the Khwe people of northern Botswana.*

# There's No Place Like Our Heavenly Home



Rick Allmon

by Rick Allmon

**T**he arts can profoundly draw us into a fictional world through compelling story lines that speak to our hearts.

Over the years, we’ve experienced those sentiments through many books, plays, and movies. A 70 year old classic expresses it best as a scarecrow, a tin man, a lion, and a farm girl from Kansas named Dorothy search for the things that

will make them whole. We get caught up in the story, backing their quest as they seek what is most important to them — a heart, a brain, a sense of courage, and a return to family and home.

Magical departures from reality can often satisfy the whims of our imagination. But the fact remains that we live in a very real world where over 350 million people search for so much more — they search for God’s love. In a sense, LBT missionaries are like Dorothy, taking a passionate interest in

those in need. They help those without Scripture gain the knowledge, and sometimes the courage, to come to faith in Jesus Christ by providing the Word of God in languages people can truly understand. They help people become whole as they learn about God’s love, grace, and redemption.

This is no fictional story. Our mission is very real. It is you who provide the prayers, gifts, and encouragement that make LBT’s Bible translation and Scripture Engagement programs possible.

As you know, the story of *The Wizard of Oz* ends happily. Each character achieves his or her goal, learning about themselves and the power of friendship and love during their perilous journey. With your help, many thousands of people across the world can find life in Christ through God’s Word, facing their earthly journey secure in the promise of God’s eternal love.

Thank you for participating in LBT’s real life story. Together, we are helping people find the road to eternal life. 📖

# Multi-Media Comes to the Komba

by Valerie Federwitz

**P**rint media remains the focus of our work among the Komba people. In addition to the literacy primers that teach a person how to read the Komba language, David and our national colleagues collected traditional stories that were recorded as they were told by an elder or other storyteller. These stories were then transcribed by hand, typed into the computer, then read and re-read for editing purposes.

In total there are around 30 traditional stories that will be published in the form of small pamphlets. The purpose of these pamphlets is to give the people studying and learning their language something interesting to read after they complete the primer series so they do not lapse back into illiteracy.

These stories also hold great potential for moral teaching, working in Biblical concepts. Some stories are told just for fun but many contain vice and virtue aspects that can teach right and wrong behavior in Komba culture. What's missing is a link to the Word of God, our ultimate guide to moral behavior. We hope to develop these stories into a Bible teaching tool.

What about non-readers? Many Kombas will not learn to read their heart language. How do they gain access to God's Word? Possible options include radio, audio cassettes and videos. Television and videos are still pretty

sophisticated media options here in Ghana; virtually inaccessible to people without electricity. So right now we are pursuing the possibility of producing audio dramas in the Komba language that can be played on cassette or listened to over radio stations.

David recently gave the guys in the office a rudimentary lesson in creating an audio drama. Elijah, our literacy coordinator, had caught a cow thief and was telling the story to everyone he met. David suggested that the story be re-enacted.

This re-enactment was done, adding in sound effects like running and the sound of a motorcycle. Our day watchman played the part of the thief, so there were two distinct voices on the recording. David pieced these parts together on the computer along with a section of Scripture that speaks about stealing. He played it back for the office staff. They loved it and were very excited to hear even this quickly-executed, two-minute episode! Of course, there is much more to producing audio dramas. But this successful little experiment may eventually lead to something new and bigger for the Komba. 📖

*David and Valerie Federwitz and family serve in literacy and Scripture Engagement ministry among the Komba people of Ghana*

## 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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- 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](http://www.LBT.org)



## Ways Your Gifts to the LBT Scholarship Fund are Used



LBT personnel and international colleagues work side by side in Scripture projects throughout Africa and in other parts of the world. Your gift to LBT's International Scholarship Fund equips colleagues to do higher quality work and to sharpen their skills for long term service in their home county.

### Short Term Workshop Costs

**\$600** pays for a project worker to participate in an intensive two week workshop or seminar directly related to the work they are doing.

**\$1200** enables a Bible translator to attend an in-depth three week workshop in another region. These workshops bring translators of different projects together where they can learn from each other, share insights and information, and encourage one another.

### Typical Costs of Long Term Studies Programs

**\$3,000** pays for one year of studies at a national theological college or university for a Scripture project worker. These workers are often able to continue their project work while engaged in a degree program.

**\$5,000** pays one year of tuition and fees for a national worker enrolled in a university degree program in Africa.

**\$10,000** pays for one year of tuition and residence for a family enrolled in an African theological college course for Bible translators.

## International Scholarships Pave Way

*Continued from page 1*

The point is not to choose between North American missionaries and indigenous translation personnel. It is to acknowledge the need for both to participate together in God's mission. LBT's International Scholarships pay tuition for those individuals who want to receive the formal training needed to administer and serve translation and literacy programs for their heart language group.

Samuel Cooper of Liberia, who serves in the literacy department with the Liberian Translation and Literacy Organization (LIBTRALO), will soon receive his B.A. in linguistics from the University of Ghana. "Samuel has an advantage because he speaks several Liberian languages. He knows from personal experience the issues a community is dealing with to develop their language," Jim Laesch, LBT's Associate Director for Language Programs, said. "His intuition on what might work and what is not practical surpasses that of a missionary from North America. His education will equip him to interact with other Africans and linguists, LBT personnel included. He will be able to improve his skills while contributing to translation and literacy efforts in various Liberian language communities."

If you would like to help support international scholarships, donations should be made to Lutheran Bible Translators. Designate "International Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of your check.

For more information, contact [KCampbell@LBT.org](mailto:KCampbell@LBT.org) or 1-800-532-4253. 

## Coming in the Next Issue:

**Kalanga Bible Translation Report from Botswana**

**48 Years of Bible Translation... LBT's first missionary and newest intern**

**Fays and Rudowskes Head Overseas**

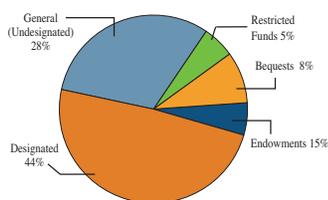
**Report on IDIOM 2009**

## LBT Partnership Support

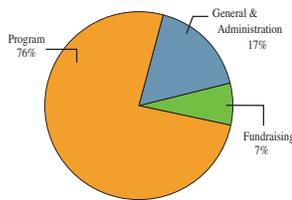
April 1, 2009 — June 30, 2009

	Unaudited 2nd Quarter	Unaudited Year-to-date
<b>INCOME</b>		
Designated	\$437,126	\$805,655
General (Undesignated)	281,649	522,856
Restricted Funds	47,285	124,742
Bequests	80,853	245,662
<u>Endowments</u>	<u>155,842</u>	<u>136,109</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,002,754</b>	<b>\$1,835,025</b>

2nd Quarter Income



2nd Quarter Expenses



## EXPENSES

Program	\$694,455	\$1,464,027
General & Administration	156,105	308,643
<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>64,547</u>	<u>125,422</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$915,107</b>	<b>\$1,898,092</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$87,647</b>	<b>(\$63,067)</b>

NOTE: During the second quarter of 2009, LBT was able to purchase one missionary computer and two missionary vehicles. The total of these purchases were \$84,639. These costs are not reflected above.

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Continued from page 2

Reminiscing about his service at LBT, Rev. Gesch said, "When I came on board it was as if LBT was a teenage organization, trying to find ourselves. We got to know our amazing, dedicated missionaries and their families personally on the field, and shared their stories with others. We came to truly appreciate and respect them. And I always will."

He and his late wife co-authored 16 books... primarily devotionals...intended for various audiences. Some have been translated into other languages. Several, including "Confirmed in Christ" and "Made for Each Other", are still in print. Rev. Gesch also wrote "Silver Reflections", a history of the first 25 years of LBT's ministry.

Rev. Gesch is retired and lives in Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. 📖

## 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	29	NOVEMBER
2 <b>Marshall Schultz</b> United States	<b>Jacob Rodewald</b> (1994) South Africa	2 <b>Rebecca Rudowske</b> (2004) Botswana
3 <b>Peg Seitz</b> United States	<b>JOEY</b>	13 <b>Michaela Federwitz</b> (2002) Ghana
4 <b>Karissa Esala</b> (1999) Ghana	3 <b>Joel Miller</b> (1994) Thailand	14 <b>Dianne Eckermann</b> Papua New Guinea
7 <b>Mark Konrad</b> Service Center Staff	8 <b>Jim Laesch</b> Service Center Staff	21 <b>Marshall Gillam</b> Service Center Staff
10 <b>Paul Schroeder</b> Nigeria (LOA)*	10 <b>Cara Fay</b> Cameroon	22 <b>Leah Federwitz</b> (1999) Papua New Guinea
11 <b>Carrie Federwitz</b> Papua New Guinea	10 <b>Chuck Speck</b> United States	23 <b>Joel Kaiser</b> (1990) United States
13 <b>Ethan Kinney</b> (1992) United States	11 <b>Martin Weber</b> Cameroon	23 <b>Christopher Rudowske</b> (1995) Botswana
14 <b>Rachel Boylan</b> (1989) Namibia	12 <b>Sharon Vega</b> Service Center Staff	26 <b>Jim Pindras</b> Service Center Staff
21 <b>Luke Kinney</b> (1989) United States	14 <b>Rob Veith</b> Botswana	26 <b>Sarah Esala</b> Ghana
24 <b>Carl Knight</b> Botswana	14 <b>Jonathan Federwitz</b> Papua New Guinea	
26 <b>Caleb Rodewald</b> (1992) South Africa	15 <b>Dan Finley</b> United States	
27 <b>Rebecca DeLoach</b> Papua New Guinea	18 <b>Paul Kinney</b> Service Center Staff	
27 <b>Kedra Larsen Kinney</b> United States	18 <b>Bill Eckermann</b> Papua New Guinea	
29 <b>Sarah Weber</b> (1988) Cameroon	26 <b>Linda Gari</b> Service Center Staff	
	30 <b>Chuck Tessaro</b> Nigeria	

\* Leave of Absence

## 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 the **Rev. Rich and Maya Rudowske family**, who began their ministry among the Kgakagari people in July.

### ECUADOR

■ Pray that the **Cañar Bible** will be ready for publishing by 2010.

### CAMEROON

■ Praise God for the birth of **Lucy Fay** to parents Cara and Kory and big brother Sam. Give praise that the family has safely settled in France to begin French language learning in preparation for their ministry in Cameroon.

### GHANA

■ Pray for **Greg Meier**, who began his missionary internship in Ghana in June.  
■ Praise God for the service of **Christina Riddle**, volunteer missionary kid tutor for the **Nathan and Sarah Esala** and **David and Valerie Federwitz** families during 2008 and 2009.



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*Messenger*

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Comments and inquiries are invited. Correspondence may be directed to the Messenger Editor.

Executive Director:  
Dr. Marshall R. Gillam



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**This mailing was assembled by volunteers!**

A Canadian edition of this newspaper is published by Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada, Box 934, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4E3.

Lutheran Bible Translators is an independent mission group, founded in 1964, which is dedicated to helping 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. 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.

**Want more information about translation, Scripture Engagement, 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.**



■ Pray for safe travels and productive visits as **Paul and Ali Federwitz** share about their ministry during Partnership Development beginning this Winter.

**NAMIBIA**

■ Pray for **Rev. Shawn and Jill Boylan's** Partnership Development activities this Fall.

**NIGERIA**

■ Pray for LBT's newest International Scholarship recipients, **Rev. Kierien Ayugha** and **Pastor Linus Otronyi**, as they begin their studies in Nigeria.

**UNITED STATES**

■ Pray for God's direction in future ministry for **Ruth Lee and Ed and Mary Fox**, who resigned earlier this year, and for **Margie McMillen**, who retired at the end of June.

■ Pray for **Jim Kaiser** as he works toward his Doctor of Ministry degree through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

■ Pray for LBT missionary candidates **Chris and Janine Pluger**, who began their studies at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas, Texas in July.



■ Praise God that Northern Illinois District LWML president **Sherrie Smith** was able to travel to Nigeria this summer to learn firsthand about Bible translation work there. Pray that her experience will enable her to more effectively advocate for missions.

■ Pray that God will call missionary kid teachers to the Botswana and Ghana fields.

