

they will See and Understand

ISAIAH 52:15; ROMANS 15:21

SUMMER 2017 - RAINY SEASON IN SIERRA LEONE

We are celebrating mid-year, seeing some milestones reached and some in sight. Join us in praising God for His good work here among the Themne, in Sierra Leone, and in our family!



1. **We're expecting #4 in October!** We are excited to meet this precious gift from God. Nanna Hannah is doing such a great job that she deserved the promotion! The kids are thriving in every area, and we plan to stay in Sierra Leone for the delivery. Please keep Ruthie and the baby in prayer.

2. **BibleBoxes!** Josh can't make/configure these little devices fast enough! He's actively training

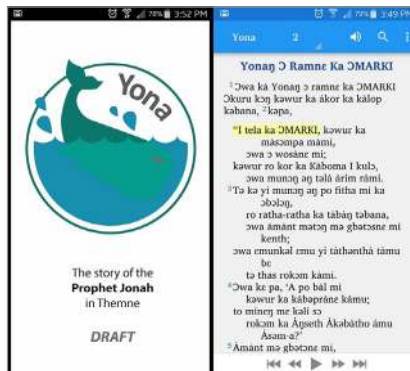
folks here to help make them. A BibleBox is a \$40 device (Josh sells at cost), used to distribute open-license, Biblical and educational resources for free.



3. **Scripture/Reading App Builder.** Josh learned to quickly make this free app at a recent conference. He's already training people here to make their own with content they choose. One guy is making an app to promote local language value and use.



4. **Phone App for the Book of *Jonah* - *Ákáfá ka Yona* (Themne).** While at the conference, Josh asked me for the checked draft and audio file of the book of *Jonah*. By the next day, he sent me an app he made that displayed the text with beautiful illustrations, and it highlighted the text while playing the audio Themne Scripture. I'm going wild with how this will support community testing and literacy efforts!



WHO WE ARE



Josh & Ruthie Wagner, serving with LBT in Sierra Leone, working alongside the Themne people in translation and Scripture Use!

Making God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. (LBT's Mission)

TIMELINE

- APR** Josh at media conference
- MAY** Orientation for Amy Formella, new missionary to Mende translation project, Sierra Leone!
- JUN-JULY** Ongoing orientation for Amy, and Translation Officer comes to Sierra Leone for training. Elijah's 5th BD (6/21), Isaiah's 3rd BD (7/9).
- AUG-OCT** Ruthie's BD (8/6), preparations for delivery (due Oct)
- MID-2018** Home assignment (furlough) in USA, speaking and support-raising

TAKE ACTION

ADVOCATE by inviting friends to join our "Wagner Updates" group on Facebook!

[facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)

GIVE to "Wagner Ministry" online or by mailing a check. Please contact us if you'd like to set up automatic giving.

PRAISE for baby due in October! Praise for another book checked by the team, and for ongoing translation and Scripture engagement efforts.

PRAY for a healthy pregnancy for Ruthie and baby, and for good health for the whole family and Nanna Hannah. Pray for the Themne translation team and for more people to come alongside Josh for training in technology.

CONTACT/SUPPORT

- Josh-Ruthie.Wagner@LBT.org
- [facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)
- GOOGLE VOICE:** 612.208.7680 (text anytime!)
- LBT will forward "Wagner" mail to us.



Lutheran Bible Translators
800.532.4253, www.lbt.org/give
PO Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020
Designate gifts "Wagner Ministry"

If you are new to Wagner Updates, please introduce yourself to us! Also, please contact us if you have any questions about our ministry, how you can be involved, how you can pray in more detail, or how you can support financially.

RECURRING SUPPORT

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

100%

5. Team-checked the Book of *Ruth* - *Ákáfù ka Ruth* (Themne). Both *Jonah* (*Yona*) and *Ruth* (*Ruth*) are ready for the final stages of checking. *Judges* (*Anḡbáká*) is close behind. The translators are drafting *Joshua* (*Yɔsuwa*), *1 & 2 Samuel* (*1 & 2 Samel*), and *Ezekiel* (*Esikel*). It's so exciting to hand over some of these completed drafts to communities for testing, and to Josh, so they get into phone apps for testing and enjoying!

Kere Ruthán ɔ pa, “Te fosar mi tɔ kɛ tɛy mu thalɔm tɔ kɛ kálanɛ kámá l tɛ tarɔ mu; tɔ kɛ yi ro maŋ kɔ-e rɛ mɛ kɔ, ro maŋ yiyane-e rɛ mɛ yiyane; aŋfɔm amu aŋ tɛ yi afɔm ami, ɔwa Ɔkuru kámu ɔ tɛ yi Ɔkuru kámi...”

- Ruth 1:16, Themne, recently team-checked

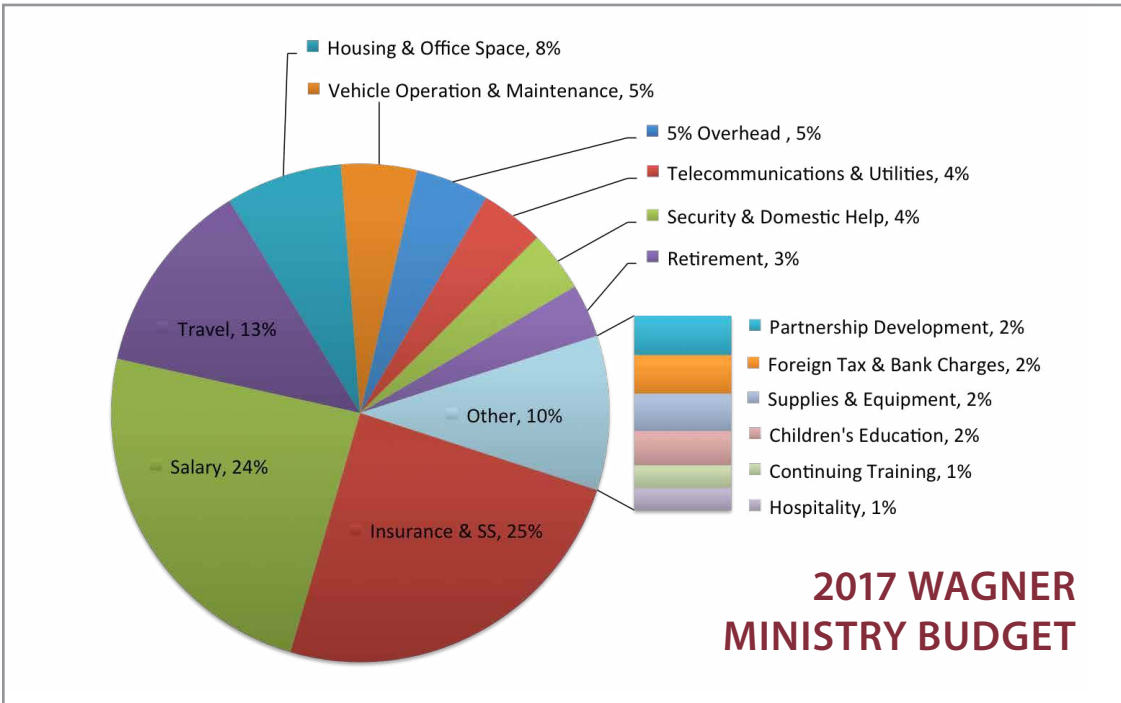
But Ruth said, “Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God...”

- Ruth 1:16, RSV



6. **Housing Improvements.** It feels amazing to be making improvements to our house here. Rusted out bars are getting rewelded, broken things are getting fixed, and our spaces are expanding and becoming more useful. After living here for a few years, we have discovered what's needed in order to make life and work flow smoothly and productively. With a full house, working from home, endless streaming of people in and out, and a baby-on-the-way, we are tremendously grateful for the gifts that made these improvements possible. *Our project goal has been met. Here's to several more years living, working, and thriving in Makeni!*

7. **Mid-year financial update.** Thanks be to God for making it possible for us to be here. Though it's been a few years since we've visited most of you, our support is stable, and we are thankful to stay put in the work. You all and the staff of Lutheran Bible Translators are amazing! We haven't broken down percentages in a letter before, so we figured it may be helpful. Let us know if you have any questions, especially if it's: *How do we set up or increase monthly support?* :) Oh, and Nanna Hannah is FULLY FUNDED for her second year with us. Thank you for your support and prayers for her ministry.



Full of gratitude,
 ❤️ *Josh & Ruthie Wagner*
Elijah (5yo), Isaiah (3yo), Josiah (1.5yo), & Baby

Photos by Hannah: Isaiah & Elijah with their best friend (above), Hannah & Josiah (below)

