



**Rev. Chuck and
Karen Tessaro**
Karen Rose, John David

Translation and Literacy Consultant, Nigeria

Chuck and Karen Tessaro first set foot in Nigeria in 1985. Since then, they've been helping to get God's Word into people's hands and hearts by working with local nationals to successfully translate the New Testament into the Eleme language. They serve with local translation teams to translate the Old Testament into the Yala, Kukele and Gokana languages and promote literacy and serve in their local community as teachers and helpers.

Along the way, their children, Eric and Karla, grew up in Nigeria, completing their primary and secondary education there before moving on to college in the U.S.

*"Our joy is at its height when we see the Holy Spirit
at work in the hearts and lives of people we've helped train,
reading the Bible in their local language
with confidence and familiarity,
and discussing what it means and how it applies to their lives,"*
Chuck Tessaro says.

"We're always trying to find a part to play in encouraging people in their personal relationship with Christ," Karen says. "To do that, it's important to spend as much time as possible visiting with the local people and reading Scripture with them."

The Tessaros met and married at Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Mich. By the time Chuck had graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., their family had grown to four. Called to serve on a translation team in Nigeria, the Tessaros spent a year at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Texas before heading for Africa.

Since finishing the Eleme New Testament in 2002 and assisting with the consultant checking of the Ikwerre New Testament in 2010, Chuck and Karen are principally responsible for mentoring LBT's International Associates in Nigeria and training and consulting with various Old Testament translation teams.

Lutheran Bible Translators

Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) makes the Word of God accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

LBT is committed to the Scriptures as God's primary means for bringing about life-changing encounters with Jesus Christ. To be effective, the Word of God must be accessible in a language and media that people most readily comprehend.

There are more than 6900 languages in the world. More than 400 million people who speak 4500 of these languages can not read Scripture in the language of their hearts. Most can not read at all. So on going literacy programs play a large part in our ministry.

To accomplish our goal, LBT partners with individual Lutherans, a wide range of Lutheran church bodies, Bible translation organizations in North America and around the world, many other Christians, and service and educational organizations and ministries.

LBT recruits missionaries and then trains, equips and helps support them. Thousands of individuals and hundreds of volunteers provide support to individual missionaries and to LBT through prayer and through their generous, ongoing financial donations.

Since our founding in 1964, through the grace of God, LBT missionaries have helped complete over 30 New Testament translations.

These translations bring Christ's Good News of Salvation, and literacy, to more than 7 million people. Nationals and local churches in host countries play a vital, ongoing role in this work.

At present, LBT missionaries are serving in 15 countries working on 31 Bible translation and 54 Scripture use or linguistic programs.

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS, INC.

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