



Lutheran  
Bible  
Translators  
of Canada

# Messengers of Christ

Volume 38 Number 1

Winter 2010

## LBT Missionaries Share Their Work

*LBTC is pleased to present its first edition of Messengers of Christ for 2010. We have dedicated it to our missionaries who tell us what they are doing whether overseas in various countries or on furlough or preparing for the mission field. We hope you enjoy the news about their work coming directly from them.*

*(Notes at the end of each article indicate how the work described in the article fits LBT's list of Desired Outcomes or goals laid out by LBT US. David Maffett explains Desired Outcomes on page 2 and the complete list is printed on page 3)*

### Cooperative Efforts with Save The Children

*By Alvina Federwitz*

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Prior to my arrival to Liberia (Jan 2), I got a message from LIBTRALO (Liberia Bible Translation and Literacy Organization) that Save The Children wanted the early childhood learning materials that LIBTRALO is developing and printing for them as soon after the New Year as possible. Since I coordinated the design of these materials, **they asked that I return to facilitate this work...**

Pray with me that we can get 200 of the 350-page Listening Story Books done in each language (by Jan 20). Few people in the language groups doing these books have a good understanding of basic grammar rules, so simple things such as where one needs to put periods instead of commas is difficult. Keyboarding on a computer is a newly learned skill by the language association volunteers; they are doing a marvellous job! But sometimes they find ways to use commands that create problems that even the best of our computer people are unable to diagnose and correct!...

In short, pray for all of us who are trying hard to get quality reading materials developed in each of the 16 languages.

*(LIBTRALO also works closely with the Liberian government to encourage mother tongue literacy. The result is that people will be able to read the Bible in their mother tongue.)*

Would you like to read these missionaries' prayer letters in their entirety? Please visit this LBT-US website link:

<http://www.lbt.org/missionaries/>

Alvina's project is an example of LBT's Desired Outcome, 1.2.2 Other materials, as appropriate, which directly support the use and understanding of the Bible, are available.

## Reflections from LBTC

By David Maffett, Executive Director

The Apostle John recounts a long talk Jesus had with his Disciples the night of his betrayal. At one point Jesus tells them that he is going away to prepare a place for them and that he will return for them. Then he says, “And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Jn 14:4 NRS. But Thomas blurts out, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jn 14:5.

I’m glad Thomas said that because Jesus then made one of the most important statements in the Scriptures: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” There’s the way, the plan, the key to making sense of the many diverse things Jesus said and did. And it makes sense of what we now do. We pray in Jesus’ name, we preach and teach in his name, we do works of love and mercy, even miracles in his name; we’re baptized in his name. We do all these different things in his name because he is the way, the truth and the life. He is the one who unifies all of us—diverse as we are—and makes everything we do accomplish God’s plan of redemption.

In a similar way, LBT missionaries and the work they do are pretty diverse. They are scattered about in 17 different countries working in 22 translation projects, 50 Scripture Engagement projects and 4 language development projects. One might reasonably ask if there is plan to all of that.

Do all of these projects tie together and work toward a common goal? Yes they do! As **the saying goes, “there is a method to our madness!”**

*The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators 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.* On the next page we have printed the plan that LBT follows to **accomplish that mission, the “Desired Outcomes” of our work. That’s not as succinct as, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life,”** but it clarifies our purpose and goal.

Just as the Apostle John knew it was important for **us to know Jesus’ goal, so we think it important that you know our goal, in fact, that it be *your* goal.** As you pray for LBT/LBTC missionaries and staff and support them with your time and money, you join in the mission. So you have the right and a need to **know where we’re going and how we expect to get there.** As you read the excerpts from several missionaries in this edition of *Messengers of Christ*, we hope you see how all these diverse activities fit into the big picture and are moving us toward our goal. Thank you so much for working with us!



## Mark Saturday, April 24 on Your Calendar

Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada  
Annual Meeting begins at 5 pm  
At Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
In Kitchener

Translation Encounter 2010 with  
Eshinee and Rob Veith begins at 6 pm  
with a 4-course Dinner and Entertainment

Reservations are Required. Please call 519-742-3361 or 1-866-518-7071  
to reserve your table today.

## LBT DESIRED OUTCOMES

### 1.1. Bible Translation

#### 1.1.1. The Bible is translated into the languages of people's hearts.

- 1.1.1.1. The Bible is translated accurately, beautifully, and clearly.
- 1.1.1.2. Bible translations are completed in a timely fashion.

#### 1.1.2. LBT allocates its resources giving priority to languages in which no Bible translation exists.

### 1.2. Scripture Engagement

#### 1.2.1. Translated Bibles are used for worship, spiritual growth and evangelism.

- 1.2.1.1. People are enabled to read the Bible with understanding in the language of their hearts.
- 1.2.1.2. **God's Word is used by people in media which are locally appropriate.**

#### 1.2.2. Other materials, as appropriate, which directly support the use and understanding of the Bible, are available.

#### 1.2.3. LBT allocates its resources giving priority to projects which use Bible translations it has helped to produce.

### 1.3. Shared Task/Vision

#### 1.3.1. Speakers of host languages (\*) share ownership of and responsibility for the mission.

- 1.3.1.1. Speakers of host languages share the vision for receiving the Word of God in their heart language.
- 1.3.1.2. Speakers of host languages share the tasks of Bible Translation and Scripture Use.
- 1.3.1.3. Speakers of host languages use the Word of God in an appropriate medium.

*\*Definition: The phrase "speakers of host languages" refers to those in selected language groups who partner with LBT in Bible Translation and/or Scripture Engagement work.*

#### 1.3.2. The owners of LBT (\*\*) share ownership of and responsibility for the mission.

- 1.3.2.1. The owners of LBT share the vision of bringing 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.
- 1.3.2.2. The owners of LBT support the mission of LBT by the investment of their material resources, time, emotion and prayers.
- 1.3.2.3. The owners of LBT are informed about its progress towards the accomplishment of the desired outcomes.

*\*\*Definition: "Owners of LBT" are those who invest material resources, time, energy, and emotion with some conscious risk, in order to carry out the mission of Lutheran Bible Translators. The Board recognizes that no individual or group is the sole owner of LBT. The main responsibility of the Board of Directors is to represent the owners of LBT.*

## Shiyeyi in Texas?

By Eshinee Veith, on furlough from Botswana

One of the great things about spending some time back in North America is access to greater resources. Today, I made the trip to the library at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics that I had been planning for months. There were books and journals on the Shiyeyi language that I just couldn't find in Botswana, even at the university libraries. I went from one end of the library to the other and walked out with a canvas bag full of linguistic treasure. It's ironic that I had to fly halfway around the world to access information about a language

Eshinee's educational upgrades is an example of LBT's Desired Outcome,

1.1.2. LBT allocates its resources giving priority to languages in which no Bible translation exists.

spoken by people that I sat at a worktable with just last week in Botswana. It is one of the functional flaws of the academic world; researchers do their research in foreign countries but the results of their study often don't make it back to the people from whom the data was collected. I'm just thankful that at least I get the opportunity every few years to come home and access what I can, while I can.

## Nigerian Obe Language Survey Presents Its Findings

By Ed Rupprecht

During a meeting of 3 groups of chiefs representing 6 Obe languages, it was determined that :

◆ The most ideal solution would be that 2 translations are needed.

◆ One translation could be possible if - and that is always the question - all groups can work together and accept the language difference of the other groups, and are willing to make it work.

◆ Regarding the social factors, with whom do each of the various entities involved want to work?

◆ Regarding viability, what are the available resources? Who would be the translators and how would they be supported (they have to eat too!)

Ed's meeting with the Obe leaders is an example of LBT's Desired Outcomes, *1.3.1.1 Speakers of host languages share the vision for receiving the Word of God in their heart language.*

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## “Keeping” the Resources Given For the Work

By Chuck Tessaro

The Yala translation group chose the week between Christmas and New Year's to hold a workshop to work on translation principles and reading. The next week was the Lutheran Church of Nigeria Synodical Convention. So on Dec 27, I began a 2-week trip that would cover 300 miles.

Since cheques and credit cards are not widely accepted here, it was necessary to carry cash on a trip like this. I also helped to transport equipment for one of our Ogoja language teams which means in the car were 2 computers, 2 printers, 2 voltage stabilizers and a generator, in addition to the books and papers for the Yala workshop. Drinking water, clothes and buckets to wash the clothes were par for the course too.

About halfway through the trip, in the city of Lafia, the car gradually lost power. After checking the rotor, breaker points, coil, fuel pump - and yes, there was fuel in the tank - I had to **wonder what to do with a full car that doesn't move. I finally** learned the choke should have been fastened open, but in fact had blown shut. While the car was only on the side of the road for 15 minutes, it was a powerful reminder of who is in control.

Chuck's transportation of valuable equipment through dangerous territory is an example of LBT's Desired Outcome *1.1.2 LBT allocates its resources giving priority to languages in which no Bible translation exists.*

## Listen to the Kono New Testament

By Jim Kaiser

You can now listen to the Kono New Testament! The production of the audio version was recently completed by Faith Comes By Hearing. You can listen to a sample of it on their website: [www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/ambassador/free-audio-bible-download](http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/ambassador/free-audio-bible-download).

At the bottom of this page - “Listen Now to the Streaming Bible” - click on the words, “English-English Standard V...” to open the menu of language recordings. Scroll down to select “Kono-Kono Audio Drama New Testament”. Then you can select the book and chapter ... Please pray that the recording will soon be available for the Kono people.

The audio recording is an example of LBT's Desired Outcome, *1.2.3 LBT allocates its resources giving priority to projects which use Bible translations it has helped to produce.*

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## The Bible Took Place in This World

By Tim Beckendorf

In the process of translation after we've completed a significant section of Scripture and the team has checked it, we take it to one of the villages either here in Botswana or up to the Caprivi Strip in Namibia for village checking...

On one occasion, we were working through Genesis 12 and the call of Abraham. One of the people present asked about where Abraham was when God called him and told him to go to Canaan - and where in the world was Canaan?

So I brought out a map that showed the travels of Abraham. Someone noticed Egypt on the map and asked, "Is that Egypt in the Bible the same one that is in Africa?" I assured him that yes it was.

"Now I can believe in God! I thought that all those place in the Bible were a different world, not a real one." Wow!...Please pray that through this work, the Holy Spirit will transform many lives.



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Tim's village checking is an example of LBT's Desired Outcome, 1.1.1.1 The Bible is translated accurately, beautifully and clearly.

Projects	Goal	Received to Date
Project 1-Translators' Salaries	\$ 4,400.	\$310
Project 2-New Laptop	650.	0
Project 3-Phonecards	130.	0
Project 4-Salaries for Literacy Staff	3,085	302
Project 5-Weber Retreat	1,650	(completed) 2,150
Project 6-Home Renovations	1650	125
Project 7-Communication Costs	2,750	0
Project 8-Scholarship for Sarah Weber	1,000	(no more funding needed) 350
Project 9-Weber Health	10,000	3,980
Project 10-Fay's Truck	5,000	630
Project 11-Veith's Trip to Canada	1,600	80
Total	31,265	7,927

## Special Projects 2010 Update

By Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

We have received a very good start to the projects listed in our Special Projects brochure for 2010. Thanks to all who have given so generously. Some projects will begin mid-year so there is still time to help these happen.

If you would like a copy of the brochure, please contact LBTC at

1-866-518-7071 or at [info@lbtc.ca](mailto:info@lbtc.ca). Or down-load it directly from this LBTC website link, <http://www.lbtc.ca/resources.shtml>

If you would like to support one of these projects today, please see the return devise on the back page of this newspaper.

LBTC's update about Special Projects 2010 is an example of LBT's Desired Outcome, 1.3.2.3 The owners of LBT are informed about its progress towards the accomplishments of its desired outcomes.

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## Tuesday, January 26 - A Day in the Life of Martin (M.) & Joan (J.) Weber

By The Webers



6 am - M. -**Rise, make coffee, “Turn on air-conditioning”** or in Yimbéré ...open the windows. Personal devotions.

7 am - M. -Finalize preparations to teach, make and gobble down an **omelette. “Turn off air-conditioning”.**

J. -Wake up, pray, make and drink fresh OJ Go to Hermeneutics class.

8 am - M. -Teach Hermeneutics (Bible Study methods) at the missionary training school to prepare couple from the area to evangelize to neighbours through life-style evangelism. J. -Assist Martin in his teaching (try to keep him on track) and write on the blackboard.

9 am - M. -Debrief teaching with Joan, meet with Jerome and Emmanuel (Kwanja translators) to discuss our Old Testament translation work. Plan for visits by Rev Touka Daniel in March and Rev David Maffett in May. J. -Breakfast of fresh papaya and yogurt. Instruct house worker for lunch prep. Correct homework pages.

10-11:30 am - M & J. -Meet with Dr David Zeitlyn, anthropology prof from UK who sends students to villages near us to work on languages related to Kwanja.

11:30-1 pm - M. -Email LBTC/LBT US, supporters. Research water wells - we need a new well. J. -Back to correcting homework pages and working on hermeneutics course.

1-2:15 pm - M. -Lunch, siesta which includes reading a couple of pages of *Mexico* by James Michener and a nap). J. -Make lunch of stew beef, carrots and rice. Fold and put away laundry, correct more homework pages.

2:15 pm - M & J -Email. Snack of dark Cameroonian chocolate and coconut.

3 pm - M. - Continue email. Talk with village man about life-saving surgery. J. -Plan hermeneutics course.

4-5:30 pm - M & J. -Work together on hermeneutics course.

5:30-6 pm - M. -Discuss Bible and Culture course with Rev Roger M, the professor from Yaoundé. J. -Supper prep (cabbage rolls-yummy!)

6-6:30 pm - M & J. -Walk up the mountain road, telephone conversations with mission and church partners.

6:30-7 pm - M & J. -Supper and more discussion with Rev Roger.

7-8 pm - M. -Talk and contract with well digger. Back to email. J. -Clean up after supper. Organize a meeting at church.

8-10 pm - M. -Develop and printing hermeneutic course material. J. -Attend church meeting. Finish hermeneutic course.

10-10:30 pm - M. -Play computer game *Spider Solitaire* while printing. J. -Devotions.

10:30 pm - Good night!

Martin and Joan's Hermeneutic Course instruction is an **example of LBT's** Desired Outcome, **1.2.1.2. God's Word** is used by people in media which are locally appropriate.

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## Dual Meanings in Dhimba Language

By John Strasen

The Dhimba language has its share of words that carry dual meanings with the clearest examples occurring in nature. For example, the word *etango* which can mean “sun” or “day” or *omwedhi* which can mean “moon” or “month”. The dual nature of these words can best be explained by considering the periodic nature of the sun and the moon. Other words offer little or no explanation regarding their duality. *Ohi* for example can mean both “fish” or “earth”. **Is there a connection? Perhaps historically there is, but maybe not. This example gives rise to a rather interesting translation issue. How does one translate Matthew 12:40?**

*For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

If the Dhimba word *ohi* is used for both fish and earth in this sentence, how will it be understood by a Dhimba audience? Context does not seem to help here. The proximity of the two words will in all likelihood suggest to the audience the same use for both words - either fish or earth. If the Jonah story is well-known, it would then be understood that the Son of Man will be three days and three nights inside a fish. Footnotes might help to explain **it, but most people don't read footnotes and if the passage is read aloud as the Gospel reading, the footnote would not be read anyway.** This is how the problem has been resolved in the Dhimba language.

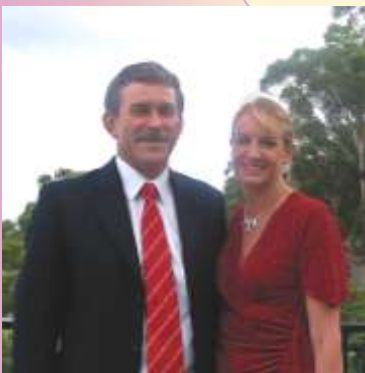
John's focus on language anomalies is an example of LBT's Desired Outcome, 1.1.1 *The Bible is translated into the languages of people's hearts*

*For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge ohi of water, so the Son of Man will be buried and stay three days and three nights in the ohi of soil.*

*Ohi* of water will suggest “fish” and *ohi* of soil will suggest “earth” to the Dhimba people.

Will this translation stay as it is now? I can't say. But it will stay until a better suggestion comes along.

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## Checking, Checking, Checking

By Bill Eckermann, LBT Australia

June saw me once again off to Vanuatu for some translation consultant checking with translators working with SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics). This took me first to Tanna Island where some of you may recall I did some checking last year... **I first worked with the Nehrbass family who live in a village about a mile as the crow flies from Mt Yasus. It is a unique location and occasional larger eruptions were clearly audible from time to time.** I checked the books of Revelations, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Peter, Colossians and Jude.

After this, my next stay was with the Stapleton family, with whom I had worked last year. **There we checked Galatians, James and 2 & 3 John....**

Bill's consultant checking is an example of LBT's Desired Outcome, 1.1.1.2 *Bible translations are completed in a timely fashion.*



## Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

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Web: www.lbt.ca Email: info@lbt.ca Toll Free: 1-866-518-7071

*Your prayers and financial support of Bible translation and literacy to God's people through Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada is greatly appreciated as well as your comments or questions regarding this publication.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we would like to support the work of Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we would like to support 2010 Special Project # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we would like to support a specific project mentioned in this edition of *Messengers of Christ*

Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

Spending of funds is confined to programs and projects approved by LBTC. Gifts for approved projects are used as designated. When the project is fully funded, surplus funds will be applied to other projects as needed. Gifts are received with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

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### Fine-Tuning French

By Kory Fay



*Cara and Kory Fay are currently learning French in Chambéry, France, in preparation for translation work in Cameroon.*

Today in French class, our professor gave us the word *poisson* which means 'fish' and told us to define it in French without using a dictionary. Of course, in order to define a term like *poisson*, you have to know the word for 'gills', 'fins', and 'scales', things that define precisely what *poisson* is. No one in the class knew these terms, so we had to find ways to explain it. Of course, descriptions can only go so far. They may give an idea of what *poisson* is, but it can also create misconceptions. For instance, we said that it lived under water and could only breathe under water, people keep them as pets, they live in groups, they do not have feet, we can eat them, and they lay little eggs. Our professor said that from our description, she pictured a legless chicken which lives under water. Not exactly what we wanted her to picture. Precision is essential in defining terms and will be important as we go about translation work in Cameroon. Without it, the Word of God may easily be misunderstood and misconstrued. Thus, we must strive to translate not only beautifully and accurately, but also clearly. May God guide us and all others involved in Bible translation to ensure that His Word is understood.

## Memorials & Honour Gifts

*for Sept 25, 2009 to Jan 29, 2010*

### MEMORIALS

BEIDERWIEDEN, Rev Carl  
BIESENTHAL, Art & Flora  
DREWS, Willi  
FELSTEAD, Helen Lydia  
FLEISCHAUER, Esther  
HAYCOCK, Jack  
HEIBERG, Andreas  
HENDRICKSON, Caroline  
HILLYER, Helen  
KELFORD, Chuck  
KNIPFEL, Fred  
MAIN, Harold  
MARTIN, Carol  
POLZIEHN, Bruno  
STARLING, Leslie  
STRANDHART, Robert  
STUMPH, Earl & Hildegard  
VIHINEN, Anja

### HONOURS

BIBERDORF, Dagmira (99<sup>th</sup> Birthday)  
HAMMOND, Georgina (90<sup>th</sup> Birthday)  
HOSSACK, Paul & Anne (Christmas)  
JARMUSKE, Rudy & Frieda (60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
JOHNSTON, Doris (Birthday)  
KALBFLEISCH, George & Sandy (Christmas)  
KALBFLEISCH, Marion (Christmas)  
MALESKE, Rev Al (Retirement as East District President)  
OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH, Owen Sound (75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
RENNER, Eugene & Nada (60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
WILCH, Jonathan (3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday)  
WITTIG, Karl & Marie (Christmas)  
ZOLLER, Elizabeth (Christmas)

*Memorial and In Honour Card sets are available from Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada. Please contact our office.*