



Ipili people attend the dedication of their New Testament in August 2008 - 30 years to complete.

Eternal Treasure continued from page 3 ...

Terry started translating the New Testament into Ipili in 1976. After his first wife died, he married Janet Kunkel in 1998. As she was a member of LBT, the Ipili translation soon became an LBT project.

A helicopter descending from the heavens transported Terry and one copy of the Ipili New Testament to symbolize God's Word coming down from heaven. Then the New Testament was placed into a large white box carried by four men dressed in white looking as if they were bearing the Ark of the Covenant into battle. Clergy in full regalia and other invited officials followed, processing between lines formed by members of local clubs and associations in uniform, waving national flags and banners.

"Much of the proceedings and speeches leading up to the dedication were conducted in Pidgin," commented LBT executive director Marshall Gillam who attended the ceremony, "but when Rev Terry Borchard spoke to the people in their own language, excitement swept through the crowd.

Speaking in Ipili, Rev Borchard said "People want to get earthly gold but that kind of gold causes people to die because they fight over it. If you have an Ipili New Testament and read it often God's Word will cause you to live forever." Then Lutheran Pastor Mandita Kunuma read in Ipili from the book of Revelation, which spoke about how God's Word is like truly pure gold contrasted with gold from the nearby mine.

Of the crowd estimated at about 3,000, eleven different Christian denominations were represented. More than 240 Ipili New Testaments were purchased setting a sales record for all dedication events.

"Our hope and prayer is that they will start reading the New Testament in Ipili so that the Ipili people can really understand what God is saying to them," Janet Borchard said. "We pray it will touch their hearts and change their lives in a way that brings glory to God."

Next, the Borchards are looking into the possibility of translating the Old Testament into Ipili and Enga, the official language of the region.



Ipili people purchased their personal New Testaments.

Your prayer 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.

Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

137 Queen St S, Kitchener ON
N2G 4E3

Toll Free: 1-866-518-7071

Email: info@lbtc.ca

Here is a list of projects listed in this edition of *Messengers of Christ*. Contact our office for details. An envelope has been included with this newspaper for your convenience.

- _____ Project 1: *Translation Staff Salaries*
- _____ Project 2: *Literacy Workshops*
- _____ Project 3: *Literacy Staff Salaries*
- _____ Project 4: *Travel Costs*
- _____ Project 5: *Website Development*
- _____ Project 6: *Copier*
- _____ Project 7: *Rent Costs*
- _____ Project 8: *Computer Upgrades*
- _____ Project 9: *John and Maila Davies Literacy Projects*
- _____ Project 9: *Carol Martin Support in Cameroon*

--- Thank you for your support ---



Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

Messengers of Christ

Winter 2009
Volume 37 Number 1

"...every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." Phil 2:11

Moba New Testament Is Sweet News

On October 18 2008 in the village of Nano in northern Togo West Africa, the Moba-speaking people received "sweet news" from God – the New Testament in their own language. With singing, dancing, worship and feasting, the nearly 1,500 people celebrated and thanked the Lord for this precious gift. They celebrated because they no longer need an interpreter and can learn about Jesus in their own language.

Almost 22 years ago Rev Kombat Bigbi, Rev Joiniim Lanbon and Saka Kombien with Rev Walt DeMoss as their advisor started this translation finding the best Moba ways to express God's Word...touching the people's hearts and bringing glory to God.

At the beginning of this translation process, a group of young Moba men gathered to study for the ministry using materials written in French. At that time, only portions of Scripture were available in Moba. The ministry students would refer to the Moba Scriptures to understand what the French translation was saying - proof that their mother tongue spoke to their hearts and heads ... better than the French Bible!

"At first, all we could do was tell them about the Good News of Salvation," Rev. DeMoss said... "But working with a group of three Moba men, we translated God's word into 'the Sweet News of Jesus'... in written form."

Translation consultants from the United Bible Societies checked the work and suggested revisions when necessary. Introductions to each book of the New Testament were written and a glossary prepared.

After the manuscript was typeset in Nairobi, the translators checked for any errors and then the manuscript was sent to South Korea for printing.

When the Bible Society of Togo learned that the



Walt DeMoss of LBT was thanked by the Moba people for initiating the translation of the Moba New Testament and presented with his personal copy at the dedication service.

printed New Testaments were being shipped to Togo, excitement built and a date was set for the dedication.

On October 18 crowds gathered and by 10:00 am the service began. Enthusiasm kept building until finally Rev Amegah unveiled a stack of Moba New Testaments. Now there was no doubt, the sweet news of Jesus Christ, *Yiesu Labamann Mual Ni*, had arrived.

In his sermon, Rev Kombat Bigbi, president of the Lutheran Church of Togo and the head translator, read from Acts 2 where the events of Pentecost Day are related. Two thousand years ago the people gathered at Jerusalem heard the believers declaring the wonders of God in their own language. So also the Moba speaking people heard these same wonders ... *Sweet News continued on page 5*

Reflections from LBTC...

By David Maffett - Executive Director

Our lead article on the dedication of the Moba New Testament brings back a lot of memories for me.

Walt and Helena DeMoss were the missionaries who met Carla and I at the airport when we began our mission service in Togo. I know and have spent many days with the three Moba translators mentioned. I led or attended numerous meetings and classes at the school in Nano where the dedication took place. Nostalgia is an amazing phenomenon!

But what really struck me as I read the article was the complexity of it all. I know all the work that Rev DeMoss and the translators put into this

project over many years. But you forget all the other things that had to happen, the consultant checks, the typesetting and rechecking, the printing and shipping and a hundred other things along the way. And all over a period of 22 years!

When you think about that, you realize that Bible translation - or any other work of the Church - is not a one person effort. It takes many dedicated people in a sustained, concentrated commitment to achieve such a goal.

We all belong to church bodies, synods, and districts in addition to our own congregations.

We do that because there are important things that we cannot do apart from our cooperative effort. Think of our hymnals, liturgies and Sunday school materials; think of world mission and world relief. None of those things can be accomplished by one person. It takes the Body of Christ.



So it is with Bible Translation and Scripture Engagement. Translations, literacy materials and audio recordings will not just spontaneously appear! They are the fruit of the labour, prayers and support of many people. Today is therefore a time to rejoice in the fruit of **our** labour.

It's also a time to plan for the future, so that we continue to produce translations of God's Word. Please continue to

partner with us, and if you are able, join us for our annual meeting in April as we host Rev Walt and Helena DeMoss!

In Christ, David

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ...Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12: 12, 27 (NRSV)

Reserve Seats for Annual LBTC Meeting and Banquet

Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada invites all voting members and others interested to attend the 2009 Annual Voters Meeting and Banquet on April 24.

Guest speaker Rev Walter DeMoss and wife Helena worked among the Moba people and will enlighten those attending the event about the recent dedication of the Moba New Testament. Walt continued his service with LBT-USA as Director of Program Ministries.

While the meal is no charge, a freewill offering will be matched by a FaithLife Financial grant. Contact LBTC for more information and to reserve seats for your group today.



Walt & Helena DeMoss served with the Moba in Togo, West Africa.

Ontario Circuit Retreat Emphasizes Missionary Recruitment



Rev Jacob Quast (Church of the Lutheran Hour, Fort Frances) and Rev Gary Heintz (Redeemer, Kakabeka Falls) attended the Ontario Circuit retreat.

Lutheran Church - Canada pastors have responded to Executive Director David Maffett's request to attend local pastors' gatherings or 'winkels' to talk about the need for missionary recruitment in LCC congregations.

In January, David attended the retreat of the Ontario Circuit (Central District) near Thunder Bay ON. David suggested his colleagues were 'the eyes and ears' in their congregations to identifying and encouraging gifted individuals considering missionary service as a career path. Thanks to all who invited David.



Hmmm - Singing Eggs!

One evening two young village boys brought four duck eggs to sell to us. I suspected that they had stolen them from somewhere, but I took them anyway in my hands to check if they were good. I went to my bedroom where my flashlight was, and started checking each one. As I started, I heard a peeping noise. Sure enough, it was coming from one of the eggs!

My first thought was that this was a trick egg that they had set up to surprise me! No, these were genuine eggs. All were totally dark inside. It then hit me that I was hearing a baby duck inside of one of them! The boys had taken these from some mother duck's nest, and at least one duckling was cheeping already inside the shell. I told them to give the eggs back to their mother, where they could hatch properly as baby ducks.

That was the first time I've ever heard an egg peeping!

Excerpt from Joan & Martin Weber, LBTC translators, Cameroon

Life Back at Rain Forest International School

Rain Forest International School (RFIS) classes resumed on Tuesday January 13. Students leave during Christmas break to be with family in various parts of Cameroon and even neighbouring countries. Their parents are involved in translation and related work.

The Weber children (Martin and Joan's) attended this school. With a student body of 123 this year in grades 7 through 12, this year the largest class ever - 29 in all - will graduate. I continue to thank God for the opportunity to serve Him in this way.

January 2009 Prayer Letter by Carol Martin, LBTC volunteer, Cameroon

MEMORIAL GIFTS Sept 24-Feb 3 09

BIESENTHAL, Flora and Art
 DERBY, Minnie
 FELSTEAD, Helen Lydia
 FISCHER, Stan and Esther
 GUEBERT, Paul
 HEIMPEL, Walter
 IKERT, Adolf and Mae
 KALBFLEISCH, Henry
 KELLER, Ken
 KLUNDER, Thekla
 KURTZ, Rev Wilmer
 LETKEMAN, Barbara
 LINCZ, Robert
 MOTHER of Judy Hagen
 NAGORA, Arthur
 PAKRUL, Debbie
 POLZIEHN, Bruno
 PUESCHAL, Robert
 (father of Liz Link)
 REDDEMANN, Otto
 REGEHR, Warren
 REIMER, William
 ROBINS, Aurelia

SCHIEMAN, Victor
 SCHMITT, Art (father of B Schmitt)
 SCHULTZ, Ray Harold
 SIMPSON, George
 STUMPF, Earl & Hildegard
 SWALLOW, Bill
 WUKASCH, Sylvia
 ZADOW, Dorothy

IN HONOUR GIFTS Sept 24-Feb 3
 HOSSACK, Paul & Anne (Christmas)
 KALBFLEISCH, Marion (Christmas)
 KOEHLER, Margaret (88th Birthday)
 MARTIN, Carol (Commissioning)
 MAUTHE, John & Adeline
 (60th Wedding Anniversary)
 ROPP, Doug & Betty
 (50th Wedding Anniversary)
 SCHULZ, Horst & Eugenie
 (for service with LBTC)
 SCHULZ, Horst (80th Birthday)
 SIMPSON, Audrey (80th Birthday)
 WILCH, Rev Gerhard & Tingyu
 (Christmas)
 WITTIG, Karl & Marie (Christmas)

Christ's Life As A Ransom for Many

Some years ago Neil Anderson was struggling to translate Mark 10:45 to give his life as a ransom for many into the Folopa language in Papua New Guinea. There is no notion of slavery in their culture and he was unable to find an appropriate word for *ransom*. "This is the heart of the Gospel", he thought, "We must get this right."

One day one of his Folopa friends told him of a time when one of their clan was felling a tree and despite warning her to get out of the way, a woman from another clan failed to move and was accidentally killed. The clansmen of the dead woman were determined to take retribution on the tree cutter for the harm done to their clan.

Desperate to appease the angry clansmen of the dead woman, the extended family of the tree cutter brought valuable gifts and piled them in front of the longhouse. Cloth, axes, even pigs were brought until eventually someone from the woman's clan cried, "Enough!" At that point the

leader of the men's house said "Duputapo."

That did it, the Folopa man was released and they called it a "trade." Neil asked if that might be a good word for *ransom* and his friend agreed. One of the old men had been listening intently. He leaned forward. "That's hard to believe," he said.

"What is?"

"That duputapo was a person. In the past we've been given a great deal to trade for a clan brother. A great deal. But we've never given a person. And a person would never give himself!"

He looked around at the others, the whites of his eyes flaring in deep-set sockets. He leaned back with a sigh as if it were beyond his grasp. Then he said what they always say when things hit them at the deepest level: *Kotone fo feline sukutapo od* - literally, "We are dying of the deliciousness of their talk." [eager for the message of Christ]

Excerpt from December 2008 Prayer Letter by David & Ruth Snyder, Wycliffe Translators in PNG

Peace That Passes All Understanding

This year the number of young men attending our Teacher Training Courses rose to 89. The Lord is expanding the work, bringing boys and girls, and men and women to Himself and changing hearts. People from three language groups who were previously bitter enemies are now working together in the Living Word schools. When the Kobon received their New Testament in

2006, the Haruai and Minimimb enthusiastically joined the celebrations. When the Minimimb receive their New Testament in 2009, the Haruai and Kobon will rejoice with them. ...People are learning to forgive as they have been forgiven.

Excerpt from December 2008 Prayer Letter by John & Maila Davies, LBT translators in PNG

Comings & Goings

Different Meanings In The Dhimba Language

Here's an expression I hear almost every day, "I am coming now." The first time I heard this was when I first arrived in my village in Otjovanatje and I was conversing with someone who knew a bit of English. Ending the conversation he looked at me and said, "I am coming now". Then he left. How strange he should say that as he was leaving! I assumed he was confusing his verbs since I've done this myself with Dhimba verbs.

It turns out that 'I am coming' really means, 'I have to leave for a second to attend to something else but I will be right back.' To us, it sounds as if he'll be right back; in fact, a Dhimba's return could happen much later.

Another expression, 'He is in the way' is used to inform you that someone is 'on his way' to his destination. In North America, it means someone is blocking our view or path. What a difference one letter in a preposition can make!

New Testament Pharisees felt Jesus was 'in the way' or an obstacle to them and they tried to remove him. The disciples on the other hand were convinced that after his ascension, Jesus was 'on his way' back to them.

Is Jesus 'in the way' or 'on the way.' In fact, He is the Way, the only way to the Father and to eternal life!

Excerpt from December 2008 Prayer Letter by John Strasen, LBT Translator, Botswana

In Depth Investigation of Missions Slated for May and August

If you, or people you know, are interested in the possibility of becoming missionaries, consider attending one of Lutheran Bible Translators' three day workshops.

Workshops are scheduled for May 20 - 23 and Aug 5 - 8 2009 in Aurora IL. The seminar is called IDIOM - In Depth Investigation of Missions and there is no cost for the workshop. LBT provides transportation, housing and meals once you arrive in Chicago. LBT concentrates on long term mission projects. Missionaries who serve Christ through LBT generally focus on Bible Translation, Scripture Engagement and literacy efforts among people groups who do not yet have God's Word translated into their mother tongue.

LBT staff take time getting to know participants and how they might fit into LBT's mission. "We're interested in identifying, encouraging, advising and, if appropriate, developing individuals and couples for service with LBT," Peter Slayton, Mobilization Coordinator said. But, if LBT's requirements do not match the interest and skills of an individual, attendees will be guided to other organizations where there is a better fit.

In addition to covering a wide range of topics and issues relevant to missionary service during the

three days of meetings, LBT staff and missionaries are available to talk one-on-one with individuals and couples privately.

Topics covered 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 engagement activities
- Roles of national co-workers

Are you interested in attending IDIOM? Assistance with travel costs from Canada is available.

Please contact Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada and ask for David Maffett.

Participants of IDIOM travel from all parts of Canada and the United States. Some may eventually serve in mission field work together or remain linked by friendship when different paths are chosen.



There are Two Kinds of Gold"..... And Why One is far more Valuable than the Other

Heart Language New Testament Reveals Its Eternal Treasure To Ipili

Ipili people live in an isolated, mountainous province in western Papua New Guinea. Over the years their economy has been influenced by the gold mined near their community. However now they can begin



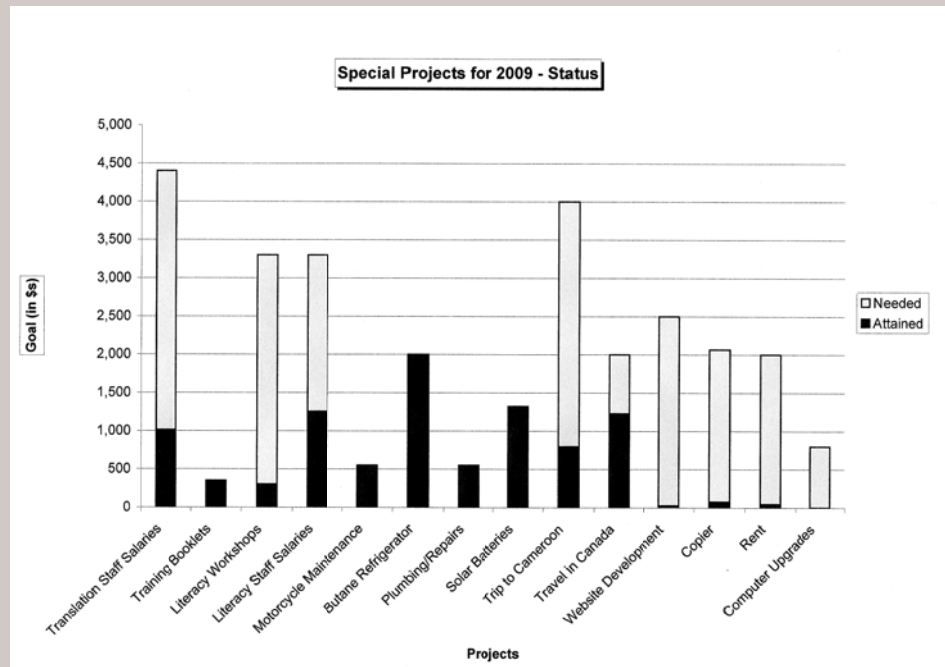
Terry Borchard (with hat) and church leaders carry Ipili New Testament into the dedication service.

to read and understand for themselves why the gold of God's Word with its message of Christ's love is more prized than all the metal in the mine.

On Aug 13, 2008 the Ipili New Testament, a 30-year translation project, was dedicated. Ceremony, pageantry and celebration surrounded this joyous event overflowing into the athletic stadium where the dedication took place.

Rev Terry Borchard began serving as an evangelistic missionary among the Ipili people in 1970. At that time, some Ipili men tried to translate the Scripture readings into their own language during church services, but the quality of their translation was very low, so ... *Eternal Treasure continued page 8*

2009 Special Projects - Here's An Update on Funding Status



In an effort to raise funding for future projects, Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada presented its supporters last fall with projects that will help accomplish its mission in 2009.

Since God is good and provides supporters who respond in a very generous way, LBTC is now enabled to move forward on several of these projects. On the other hand, the remaining ones are still underfunded as of the end of January.

With LBTC right in the midst of developing its new website, funding is needed now for this project. Understanding the urgency of website construction can be puzzling for some. However more and more supporters are acquainted with the advantages of internet communications like the reduction of paper and postage costs. They prefer to access information electronically by downloading resources, and to give their financial support

online. In order to stay connected to these supporters and expand our relationship with new potential supporters who learn about LBTC via the internet, we remain committed to keeping website management a priority.

Regarding another project, computers are part of offices today and upgrading them can be costly. For example, if a program requires an upgrade due to some external or unexpected reason like a new mandate from the government, often other programs are affected requiring more changes. LBTC expects to make necessary upgrades later in the year.

Financial assistance on any remaining projects is greatly appreciated. Please see the listing on the last page of this *Messengers of Christ* if you wish to respond...and thank you in advance for supporting all of LBTC's work.

Announcing a New Way to give to LBTC Online

Master card and visa gifts to LBTC may now be made through the online donation portal called CanadaHelps.

This public foundation simplifies the donating process, making it easy, quick and secure. Visit www.canadahelps.org to learn about this process or to obtain more details from LBTC regarding online donations, contact info@lbtc.ca

LBTC Presentation and Taste of Africa Luncheon Fit Perfectly



Left to right: Executive Director Rev David Maffett with event organizer Sharon Schoenhals, Pastoral Assistant Becky Klages and Rev Paul Hartig stand in front of the LBTC display.

Over 100 members and guests participated in a special event at St John Lutheran Church, Waterloo ON to learn about the work of Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada.

Chair of the Outreach and Mission Committee Sharon Schoenhals and many volunteers organized the event. Sunday school children learned about Togo the country in Africa where David Maffett and wife Carla served. Food included traditional West African dishes.

Want to plan an event at your church? Please contact LBTC today!



Left: Kitchen volunteers from St John and Carla Maffett worked to prepare the luncheon for guests.

Right: Members and guests enjoyed the meal and African atmosphere created by authentic wooden figurines and other decorations.

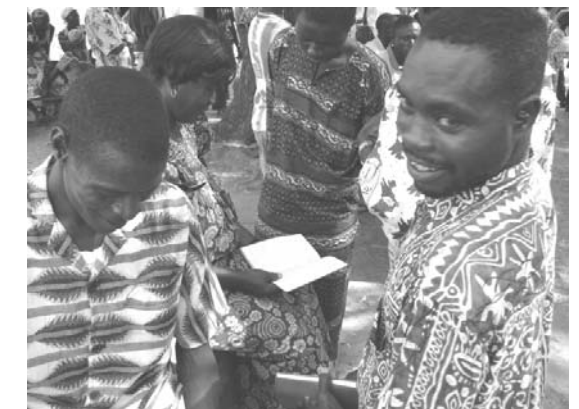


Notice to Voting Members - In the mail this month is your ballot for electing three directors for the Board of Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada. Deadline to return your ballot is March 6 2009. If you have not received a ballot, please contact LBTC as soon as possible.

Sweet News continued from front page...

in the language of their hearts. "We no longer needed an interpreter," Rev Kombat said. "We can now read and hear Good News of free salvation through faith in Jesus Christ directly in our own language." From the beginning of the project 22 years ago until the dedication in 2008, there was one hope, "To God be the glory!"

"Helena and I are blessed to have spent ten years living and working with the Moba people in Togo," Rev Walter DeMoss said. "God used us as instruments not only helping meet the physical needs of the people but ministering to them spiritually as well. Many have already passed on to heaven having received the Gospel orally. At first, all we could do was tell them about the Good News of Salvation. Now, through the printed Word, many more are being reached in a new way in their heart language and are being led to salvation in Christ Jesus. We thank God and give Him the glory!"



The Moba people now read and bear the Good News in their own language.