



Messengers of Christ

Volume 39 Number 2 Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

Therefore,
we are
ambassadors
for Christ,
God making
his appeal
through us ...

2 Corinthians 5:20

Lutheran congregations in Canada have always played a significant role in supporting Bible translation through Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada.

Compelled to **share God's** gift of Holy Scripture the responsiveness (and the ingenuity of that response) overwhelms all of us at LBTC.

This edition is dedicated to the efforts of congregations that partner with LBTC.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Faithful Congregation in Pembroke

How do you know if you're achieving your goals? The only way to know is to have some sort of measurable indication that you're accomplishing your goals. The Mission of LBTC 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. One of

LBTC's goals or desired outcomes in the pursuit of that mission is a shared task and vision. We want the people who

"own" LBTC to share the vision expressed by our mission statement and to share the pursuit of that

mission by the investment of their material resources, time, emotion and prayers. LBTC is a corporation. It exists in the collective life of the Board, staff, voting members and supporters of the corporation. Together we constitute LBTC.

So are we achieving the goal of a shared task and vision? The LBTC Annual Meeting and Banquet is one measurable indication that we are. This year LBTC held its Annual Meeting 1-2 April at **St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pembroke, ON. It was a great success. But something that stood out besides the great attendance, the presentation and the different time and place (we always do this in Kitchener at the end of April!), was the realization that so many people at St John's have shared and continue to share the mission of LBTC.**

The LBTC Board of Directors wanted to acknowledge St John's outstanding contribution to LBTC's mission. So at the Annual Meeting it presented the congregation with the LBTC Lifetime Achievement Award. The Board established this award in 2003 to recognize exemplary service to LBTC, leadership in some phase of the mission of LBTC or significant financial ... *Continued on page 6*



Congregation members of St John's Evangelical Church in Pembroke received a surprise at the LBTC Annual Banquet - a Lifetime Achievement Award. It was presented at both the banquet and the next morning following worship.

Photo courtesy of Elaina Landrigan - LaClix Photography



Reflections from LBTC

By David Maffett, Executive Director

Two years ago I attended the LBT US Annual Meeting and Banquet in Aurora, IL. There I met Roy Gesch, former LBT Executive Director. When he learned who I was he asked me if I knew who started the work in Canada. To my shame, I did not. So he told me; Erna Hein. That was a new name to me so a little while later that evening when Roy asked me the same question I struggled to give the answer. He told me again and told me to write it down. A third time that evening he asked who started the work in Canada. That time I said **Erna Hein! (Does this remind you of a certain disciple?) Needless to say I haven't forgotten the name. If I should forget, there's a plaque on the wall of our office commemorating Erna's pioneer work that will remind me. (Wish I had known that before!)**

In Support of Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

Friday July 15 at 6 pm

- Food
- Fun with the Joy Singers
- Meet Rev David Maffett and Jane Ford from LBTC and learn about exciting developments



At Grace Lutheran Church
603 115 St E Saskatoon

*Freewill offering will be matched
in part by FaithLife Financial*

CONTACT GORD MARTENS
gmartens@sentinel.sk.ca
306. 934. 5914

Sizzling Summer BBQ

Like every other aspect of the church, Jesus' words ring true: "I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour." (Jn 4:38) In this edition of *Messengers of Christ*, we have focused on the contributions of a few congregations to LBTC's mission. Obviously we have only scratched the surface with respect to how people and congregations have furthered the mission, but in recognizing that fact we see how we all fit into the bigger picture of God's Kingdom. It is the kingdom of our God, not ours, just as we seek to make his Word, not ours, available to those who do not have it.

It is with deep gratitude that we recognize these contributions. It is also with a sense of pride knowing that LBTC is many people. And it is with a sense of confidence that God will enable us, together, yet to accomplish great things.

May the Lord bless you in your summer activities!
David



Kuhns Leave Calgary Riding on a Wave of Support From Foothills

On the afternoon of Sunday May 15 Foothills Lutheran Church in Calgary hosted a farewell and fundraiser event to say "Good-bye" to Rev Mike, Kara and Tobias Kuhn, and to give them a financial boost as they prepare for a career with Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada.

The event started out with a finger-food luncheon in the fellowship hall. Following lunch was a live auction where gourmet meals, work crews, and weekend getaways were up for grabs. During the lunch and the live auction, those in attendance could also participate in raffles for prize baskets full of goodies and a silent auction with a wide variety of items and services on display. One of the most popular items in the silent auction was a full house-cleaning that Foothills' Director of Parish Services,

Miriam Winstanley, had submitted. It garnered more than 15 bids before the auction closed.

The event wrapped up with an hour-long program in the sanctuary where greetings and well-wishes were given by representatives of every segment of the congregation, the circuit, the District and LBTC Board of Directors Chairman, Rev Dr Glenn Schaeffer. A slideshow of photos and greetings from members at Foothills was shown, and gifts of maple-leaf-clad jackets, hooded sweatshirts and golf shirts were given to the Kuhn's before they said their farewells. Mike and Kara shared some of their fondest memories from their time at Foothills and gave thanks to the congregation and to God for how blessed they had been to serve in and with the congregation.

The Kuhns began their training for a career with LBTC in mid-June at the Canada Institute of Linguistics (CanIL) on the campus of Trinity Western University in Langley, BC. The funds raised at the Foothills farewell and fundraiser event will help pay for the Kuhns courses and living expenses during their year of study. If you would also like to partner with the Kuhns as they prepare for a career in Bible Translation, please send your gift to LBTC noting that it is for the Candidate Training Fund.



Top: Kara Kuhn, Donna Unterschultz and Rev Mike Kuhn. Donna was one of many who helped to organize this very special event. (LBTC thanks all who were involved! Great job!)

Left: Rev Dr Glenn Schaeffer with Rev Mike.

Right: Friends from the Foothills party say their farewells to little Tobias Kuhn and Rev Mike.



Lutheran Congregation Activities in Yimbéré Cameroon

Like congregations in North America, church gatherings in Yimbéré include prayer-filled celebrations and end in worship with communion.

Of course, no one will soon forget the one-time, historic event - the dedication of the Kwanja New Testament in 2006. But other special days for the Church in Yimbéré coincide with the church year.

The biggest celebration is the Thanksgiving Harvest Festival or Fête de Récolte. A Sunday after harvest time is chosen, and everyone prepares for this celebration.

Various quarters of the village collect money for their offering for Thanksgiving. The three church choirs prepare songs and collect their special offerings. Families often outfit themselves with new clothes, even more than at Christmas. They prepare meat - beef is considered an expensive treat - for their family dinner which can include extended family members. For others chicken or duck are the option (the village poultry population is reduced rapidly during this preparation!) Poor families settle for dried fish. Corn couscous called fuu-fuu, a thick corn porridge, and/or rice, another treat, rounds out the meal.

Often visitors from another village will come to the Thanksgiving service which can last for 3 hours or more. Usually a school classroom substitutes for a North American church fellowship hall to feed these guests. Dancing and singing is heightened by corn beer served near the chief's compound though this tradition has been diminished in recent years. Secular dances which the young people participate in involve loudly-amplified music and

often extend into the night.

Other church gatherings include district church meetings. Each year, these are rotated to different host villages which provide meals and lodging.

This year the annual district Femmes pour Christ meeting was held in Yimbéré. This annual three day



Congregational life centres around God but secular activities are appearing more often today.

district women's gathering was challenging because transportation is difficult and expensive for them. Women in Yimbéré divided the work, so that half of them prepared the first day and the other half the second day. On the Sunday, they worked together for the final meal for Sunday after church. Preparation included collecting firewood and carrying

water from wells in large pots for cooking and for washing dishes afterwards. Meals were prepared in large pots set on 3 level stones or bricks over fires. Each night someone boiled a large pot of water to insure clean drinking water for the next day.

When someone dies, village women will deliver extra couscous and sauce to the place of mourning. Mourning time is 3-4 days. The widow or widower is subjected to rituals and taboos that they must follow until the "satiga", rituals that close the full time of mourning ranging from 40 days up to a year later. The widow or widower cuts the cord - a string worn around the neck during mourning - and is released from the taboos of mourning, and freed to marry someone else if they desire.

*Update from Martin & Joan Weber
LTBC translators to the Kwanja Translation
Program, Yimbéré, Cameroon*

Church in Botswana Influenced by European roots

*Update from Eshinee & Rob Veith
LTBC translators to the Shiyeyi Translation
Program, Maun, Botswana*



Left: Rob and Eshinee Veith pose in front of this colourful wall at a favourite park.

Below: At a Shiyeyi hymn translation workshop in 2009, Sarah Sase, a checker of the Shiyeyi Gospel of Mark (far right) and Lydia Nyati-Saleshando, Eshinee's colleague, is beside Sarah.

The Lutheran Church in Botswana is heavily influenced in style by its European roots and doesn't vary much from what you might see on an average Sunday morning anywhere in North America. There is some difference in the starting time - often seems to relate more to the convenience of the majority of members than the official starting time. The duration of a church event likewise runs as long as it takes to complete anything that people decide they want to have happen in the run of that event; it's a rare Sunday morning that is as short as an hour in length. Where the local church seems to stand out is in its funerals.

A funeral is a week long event. Each day, sometimes twice a day, everyone connected to the family of the deceased meets at their home for prayers and words of comfort. This begins on a Monday and continues through Friday, when there is a standard church service.

After the service, those in attendance and others travel to the cattle post, the traditional family plot where livestock are kept and, for many, where family members are buried. As the sun sets, another service begins. An evening meal is served to those sitting now in the dark. At this point, the older women begin an all-night vigil in the room where the body is being kept. Outside, the rest of us prepare for a night of singing hymns and choruses, speaking and prayer.

At the first signs of fatigue, around midnight, fresh magwinya (think deep-fried, semi-sweet Timbits as big as your fist) are served with hot tea and coffee. The singing then continues through the night until just before dawn, when everyone prepares for the procession to the burial place. The service at the grave site is

much like I'm used to from home in Newfoundland with one notable exception; I'm completely exhausted. It seems that we have come to a point where we are too tired to even cry. But we go on and complete the burial, returning to the main house on the cattle post. There, another large meal is served, with plenty of pounded meat and boiled corn or sorghum meal.

After the meal is over, all gather for the official death announcement, in which the circumstances of the death are explained. Members of the surviving family and special funeral guests are introduced. Then, the funeral is complete and people begin to return home.

The physical effects of this event continue for a few days and there is something special and unifying in this shared fatigue. We can never truly feel the loss that those close to the one who has just experienced death. But, together with them, we can go with them on a journey that makes us share some of the other feelings of life: the biting cold of midnight in the **Kalahari... the beauty of harmonious voices joined in praise to God as they echo through the dark... the sweetness of enjoying the fresh magwinya together...** the point on the day after the vigil when you can feel only fatigue that has seeped down into your bones, overpowering even the pain of loss. Through this self-imposed ritual of endurance, we become truly one – one totally exhausted but totally unified body.



Congregational Legacy of Outreach Lives On At LBTC

Tough decisions about the future of their congregation were recently made by members of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Calgary.

They chose to commit an unrestricted legacy to Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada and presented a cheque to local LBTC representative Frank Pachal.



In the photo to the right, Rev Gary Aicken (left), member of the LBTC Board, presented a plaque to Mount Calvary council Chair David Wong (middle) and congregational member Edward Abraham (right). Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada commends all congregations for supporting Bible translation and related literacy, Scriptural engagement and media and for considering LBTC as a trustworthy agent to continue their outreach priorities overseas.

Lifetime Achievement continued from page 1

support for the mission. Members of St John's have done all those things as they have shared LBTC's mission for all of the 37 years that LBTC has existed!

Erna Hein, from St John's and now at home with the Lord, was the first staff worker for LBTC. She also served as secretary/treasurer of the LBTC Board of Directors and on various committees over a period of 19 years. Her pioneer work is commemorated in a **book on the first 25 years of LBT's history by former LBT Executive Director Roy Gesch.** "On May 15, 1974, Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada became an official entity... Mrs Erna Hein of Pembroke, Ontario, was invited to become its office manager as well as its secretary-treasurer. A 'granny flat' or guest apartment attached to the Hein home in Pembroke was to serve as the Canadian head quarters for seven and a half years." (*Silver Reflections*, p. 47.)

Besides Erna, at least two others from St John's, Richard Kramer and David Trautrim, have served many years on the LBTC Board of Directors and/or its committees. **And we couldn't begin to name or count all the members of St John's who have prayed for LBTC**

missionaries and staff and financially supported the mission all these years!

We recognize the people of St John's are not alone.

We could tell a similar story about many others who have shared the mission for the past 37 years. Shirley Witt from Grace Locksley, who attended the Annual Meeting in Pembroke, was one of the original directors when LBTC was incorporated 15 May 1974! Bill Straby of Christ Petawawa served on the Board and Board committees over a period of 18 years. So LBTC has, to some degree, realized its goal of a shared task and vision.

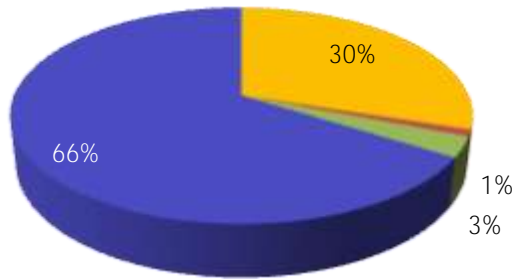
The accomplishment of that goal may be just what LBTC needs to accomplish its other goals. The current Board of Directors has asked for a Strategic Plan for the next 3-5 years. Rather than this plan being the thought of just one or two people, it would seem wise to call upon the collective wisdom and experience **of those who share LBTC's mission. Why not meet together, pray together, and together develop a Strategic Plan?** So the Executive Director is considering inviting former Board members and current voting members, who are able, to join him for a Strategic Planning Task Force. That would be truly shared mission!

How Canadian Congregations are involved with LBTC

Sources of Revenue

Based on Dollars Received Jan 09 - Jun 11

■ Congregational ■ Grant ■ Bequest ■ Individuals



Other Statistics from Jan 2009 - Jun 2011

- 12% of the total number of gifts received in the period are due to congregation gifts
- 10% of all congregations receiving LBTC publications have a volunteer who deliver these publications to members or help organize events.
- 6% of congregations in Canada have participated in Bible Translation Sunday or hosted an LBTC event or meeting

Still time to celebrate Bible Translation Sunday in your congregation

Bible Translation Sunday is an opportunity to introduce the members of your congregation to Bible translation worldwide.

Each year, Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada develops new resources that explain a **specific aspect of translation. Each congregation receives notice by mail about this year's** resources usually in June so the material might be considered for worship during the summer and fall. However, BTS resources are available all year to request from LBTC or download from the LBTC website.

If you plan to celebrate Bible translation in your congregation, you may wish to invite an LBTC representative to address your congregation for your event. The resources are adaptable to fit whatever your setting is and include: a sermon, prayer and litany, bulletin insert, bulletin cover, activity pages for children or adults, offering envelopes, bulletin message, current congregational resources and a multi-media presentation.

Interested? Visit the LBTC website -www.lbtc.ca - or contact LBTC office toll free at 866-518-7071.

VBS VBS VBS VBS VBS VBS



Share the work of LBT with your VBS children and help plant the seed of missions by exposing them to **God's work around the world.** The Rev Rich and Maya Rudowske family have prepared a series of five short (2-5 minute) videos talking about different aspects of their work in Botswana. They shot the videos last summer around the village of Kang. These are now available to view on the Rudowske website www.Rudowskes.com under the 'Video Album' tab. Rich is working at making them available as mp4

downloads from the site, and when he accomplishes that, he will note on the video album page how to access them. Please contact LBTC for more information: info@lbtc.ca



National Conventions

A Great Opportunity for Supporters in Canada to Connect with LBTC

Rev David Saar (left), St John's in Mount Forest ON was the winner of a wooden carving from Cameroon. Rev Maffett (right) presented it to him at the Lutheran Church Canada convention in Hamilton June 3.

Attending the ELCIC National convention from July 14-16 in Saskatoon? LBTC will have a display there and would like to connect with you. Please drop by our display just outside the main convention assembly room.

Remembering and Honouring Our Loved Ones February 2 to June 14, 2011

MEMORIALS

APPELT, Natalie
BAUER, Ada & Len
BOCK, Manfred
BRENNEMAN, Miriam
DELVILLE-PRATT, Lena
DEXHEIMER, Milton
ECKERT, Willie
ERIKSSON, Margaret
FISCHER, Richard
GETZINGER, Lydia

HEISE, Wilbert
KNEBEL, Tobias
KOEHLER, Karl
METZGER, John
PORTER, Eileen
PROWD, Linda
SCHMIDT, Clayton & Clara
SUNDBO, Shirley
TIMM, Olga
WENTZELL, Rev Clyde William
WITTIG, Marie

HONOURS

BIEBER, Alice
(90th birthday)
PASTUCHA, Rev Rudy
(50th birthday)
SCOTT, Dorothy
(80th birthday)
SCOTT, Russell
(80th birthday)
ZOLLER, Elizabeth
(80th birthday)



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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.

Please apply my/our gift of support for Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada \$_____ in the following way(s):

_____ Wherever needed (3001) _____ For Candidate Training (3104) *See the article on page 3 about the Kuhn family at CanL*

_____ For the Kwanja Language Program (Martin & Joan Weber) (3301) *See article on page 4 about congregational life in Yimbéré*

_____ For the Shiyeyi Language Program (Eshinee & Rob Veith) (3954) *See article on page 5 about congregational life in Botswana*

_____ I would like to learn more about becoming a Congregational Volunteer. Call me at _____

_____ I would like to be added to your news update list. My address is _____

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 receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.