



the messenger

lutheran bible translators
GOD'S WORD
for every language

A Tale of Three Tillys

[Barb Beermann and Staff Writers]

MEET Orville Rogers. Orville holds 16 world records in the 90-99 year-old category for sprints and distance. And he's certainly gone the distance for Bible translation.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Orville piloted two Helio Courier airplanes to Liberia, at his own cost. These planes provided air service to Lutheran Bible Translators, other mission agencies and a number of governmental organizations of Liberia and other nations. It was a time when communications and transportation was more challenging, especially for missionaries living in remote villages. The Helio Courier was the ideal choice because of its short take-off and landing ability suitable for jungle airstrips.

"It took us up to three days to travel from our village to the capital city of Monrovia, and then a few days to recuperate from the drive," says Rev. Larry Johnson, who served with Lutheran Bible Translators in Liberia. "In fact, there were times when the road was totally impassable. With the plane, we could fly to Monrovia in an hour and a half."

Lutheran Bible Translators' first plane, nicknamed Tilly, began service in 1975 and was piloted by Jay Clinkingbeard. It was irreparably damaged in an accident just two years later. Short though Tilly's career was, it confirmed the need for air service in Liberia.

A survey conducted in 1977 showed the viability of such a program. Estimates were that a pilot would spend 125 hours flying each year assisting Lutheran Bible Translators missionaries and programs. Tilly II—paid for by Lutheran Bible Translators and ferried by Orville—arrived in Monrovia in March of 1979. Its first pilot was Skip Holmberg.

In 1980 piloting duties were taken over by Evan Smith. "Over the course of the next few years, it became obvious that additional staff and a second aircraft were needed," recalls Evan. "Instead of the estimated 125 hours, I was flying in excess of 500 hours a year!"

Pilot Roger Krenzin arrived to help in 1983, then Tilly III and pilot Hal Stone. Over the next several years, as families left on furlough or were reassigned, pilots Roger



Evan Smith was among the first to pilot Tilly II.

Heiniger, Jim Metzler, Jeff Johnson and Lyle Reffey joined the team.

Many translation projects were served directly by the Tillys, including the Bandi, Grebo, Kisi, Kuwaa, Krahn and Mandingo. The planes carried people, cargo, and for some, a break in routine. "It was always so exciting every time a plane came to my village of Fassama, and not just because we got out of school until they left," remembers Paul Federwitz, a Lutheran Bible Translators missionary who grew up with his missionary parents in Liberia. "Those planes were the only way in and out of the village for many years."

Paul has another reason to be grateful for the planes. He, along with others, was able to receive emergency medical treatment that would not otherwise have been available if not for the transportation provided by Tilly II and Tilly III.

Civil war began in Liberia in 1989. The following year Tilly II was taken to a remote location for safekeeping,

Continued on page 6

Inside	Looking Forward.....	2
	New and Improved!	3
	Shoulder to Shoulder	4
	It Takes All Kinds	5
	What Does this Mean?.....	6

Looking Forward

[Rich Rudowske, Director for Program Ministries]

AS WE BEGIN this new year of ministry—the 54th for Lutheran Bible Translators—I want to share just a few of the things I’m looking forward to in 2018.

Kalanga Full Bible: Botswana

With the goal of submitting the Scripture text for publication early this year, the Kalanga Bible translation team scheduled a flurry of checking sessions with community and church leaders to cover all the checks needed to finalize the manuscript. Book introductions and titles, footnotes, the glossary and other “add-ons” are also undergoing final checks. Pray for all to go well and for community planning to come together for a proposed late August launch!



The Kalanga Bible translation project is nearing completion! Proofreading is vitally important during every stage of the process.

Dhimba Audio New Testament: Namibia

We were blessed to participate in a locally driven effort to produce an audio version of the Dhimba New Testament. Lutheran Bible Translators missionary Rob Veith led the technical production team on several trips to the community area and facilitated mastering the final product to be used by partners in Namibia for distribution.


The project required long hours and conditions were not always ideal. “There was a severe drought during one of my trips to Namibia. Our recordings were disturbed by bona fide sandstorms ripping through town,” says Rob. “I’ll never forget that!”

Despite the challenges, Rob and the team were able to complete the project. By the time you read this, the dedication celebration for the Dhimba Audio New Testament will have taken place in Namibia.

Konso Full Bible: Ethiopia

The Konso team finished the last of the Old Testament checking in 2017 before beginning a harmonization revision of the New Testament for full Bible publication. The revision has turned out to be more substantive than originally envisioned, so we have decided with our partners to have a translation consultant check the New Testament once more before publication. Consultant schedules are currently tight in Ethiopia, but we ask you to join in prayer that all checking can be completed in 2018 so that the full Bible launch can occur late in the year or early in 2019. Pray for the typesetting and layout checking. This text will be published in two different scripts to allow wider usability among social classes and geographic areas of the language community.

LIBTRALO headquarters: Liberia

The Liberian Translation and Literacy Organization (LIBTRALO) is a nationally run organization that works in literacy and Scripture engagement in multiple language communities of Liberia. After a windstorm blew off a large section of the roof of the newly constructed headquarters last spring, local initiatives repaired the damage. We are moving forward with the next phase to complete the administrative offices so that the organization can move to the site in the second half of 2018. Please pray for good workmanship by the construction crew and contractors. Please prayerfully consider a gift designated to LBT’s **partner infrastructure fund** so that this and other partner property improvement projects can move forward. 

New and Improved!

[David Snyder, Director for Development]

LBT.ORG has been updated! It has a new look and is easier to navigate. Giving is easier than ever for those who choose to donate online. And there are new and developing sections on prayer and news.

Want resources for your church? You can get a bulletin insert, our monthly prayer calendar, our annual Bible reading guide, and every issue of *The Messenger* that was published in the past few years—including all the articles about missionary lives, cultural insights, and the impact of Scripture in the lives of the people we all serve.

The entire website is secured with the highest industry standard protections. This includes all the donation pages.

Now you, the donor, can create your own login to the website and see all your web donations. Receipts will be emailed immediately to you. You can access and reprint all web receipts at any time if you have an account on the website.

By setting up a login and creating an account through the new website you can also set up and manage recurring credit card donations easily. Your gift will recur

The home page has a new look.

- ▶ For pdfs of *The Messenger*, LBT Bulletin Insert, and 2018 Daily Bible Reading Guide visit lbt.org/contact
- ▶ Find links to the latest news on the home page or visit lbt.org/blog
- ▶ Find links to prayer requests and a downloadable pdf of the current monthly prayer calendar on the home page or at lbt.org/prayer

Interested in Charitable Bequests?

For more information, return this coupon to David Snyder, Lutheran Bible Translators, PO Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020 or visit www.lbt.org/legacy.

Your name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Making a Gift?

Your tax-deductible gift can be made by check or credit card. Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope for checks.

To protect your credit card information, either use our secure online donation forms or call us at 800-532-4253 to make your donation.

Additional giving opportunities are available at lbt.org/donate.

every month based on the day you made the original gift. Creating an account eliminates the need to call our staff to adjust your recurring monthly donations. (If you have not created an account, you will need to continue to contact Gift Records to make adjustments.)

To make a donation or create a login, visit lbt.org/donate/.

There is a lot more to the website—check it out!

For questions or comments, please contact giftrecords@lbt.org or david.snyder@lbt.org.

Shoulder to Shoulder

[Rev. Andrew Olson]

ATTENDING the Bible Translation Conference in Dallas last October was an incredible opportunity for several Lutheran Bible Translators staff members and missionaries, myself included. It was a wellspring of inspiration and useful information related to this important field of work. Several of my co-workers—Martin and Joan Weber, Dr. Jim Kaiser, Rev. Chuck Tessaro, Rev. Nathan Esala, Rev. Linus Otronyi, and Rob and Eshinee Veith—presented papers.

Over 400 people from all parts of the world who are professionally involved in translation work gathered together to share and learn from one another. My wife, Alexis, and I were greatly encouraged through numerous conversations with the other participants. Missionaries shared stories of how God had been working powerfully among them, moving mountains to prepare the way for translation work to begin. Such uplifting conversations were happening throughout the common areas and in the breakout sessions as well.


To me, one of the most exciting things at the conference was the presentation about new technological advances. The tools used in Bible translation are constantly being evaluated, updated, and improved. For example, Paratext—a program which translators use extensively in their work—has been equipped with new time-saving features in its latest version, that both enhance cooperation, and make essential tools more easily accessible.

One of the things I had a chance to experiment with was a new feature in Paratext that pairs a translation project with a digital dictionary to import Bible related words into a list of Biblical terms. This list then shows where each of these terms might appear in a completed Bible translation. Some of the technological advances which have been made will certainly improve the speed of translation work, and prayerfully, ensure its quality as well.

As new missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators, it was exciting to see such an atmosphere of cooperation within the global Bible translation community. It is a great honor to serve shoulder to shoulder (Zephaniah 3:9) with a team called by God for such a time as this. While we continue to work together to accomplish our goal of zero Bible-less people groups, may we ever be mindful of our need for prayer, cooperation, and the grace of God to guide us forward.



BACK ROW: Rev. Michael Megahan, Rob Veith, Dr. Jim Kaiser, Rev. Andrew Olson, Elliot Derricks, Rev. David Federwitz, Rev. Chuck Tessaro
FRONT ROW: Joan Weber, Eshinee Veith, Rev. Rich Rudowske, Alexis Olson, Rev. Kierien Ayugha, Martin Weber, Rev. Nathan Esala

Thank you for your support of our family as the newest addition to the team at Lutheran Bible Translators, and for allowing us the opportunity to attend this conference. 

Rev. Andrew and Alexis Olson are attending the Graduate Institute for Applied Linguistics in preparation for missionary service with Lutheran Bible Translators. To learn more visit lbt.org/project/rev-andrew-alexis-olson/.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES Mission Mobilization Schedule

Are you or someone you know interested in missionary service? Visit with Emily Wilson, mission mobilization coordinator, at one of the following locations, or email recruiter@lbt.org.

Feb 21	Concordia University St. Paul
Feb 22	Association of Free Lutheran Bible School—Plymouth, MN
Mar 1	Concordia Seminary St. Louis
Mar 6	Concordia University Ann Arbor
Mar 8	Concordia University Wisconsin
Mar 9-10	Concordia University Chicago
Mar 13	Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne
Apr 3-6	Concordia University Nebraska
May 24-25	Mission Exploration Conference—Concordia, MO
Jun 13-30	Crossroads: West Africa
Jul 8-14	Concordia Mission Institute Mission Exploration—Concordia, MO
Aug 9-10	Mission Exploration Conference—Concordia, MO

It Takes All Kinds

[Barbara Beermann]

DID you ever wonder what missionaries did before they were missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators?

A few of our current missionaries were inspired to follow in their parents' footsteps. Jonathan, David, and Paul Federwitz, along with their sister, Becca DeLoach, grew up in Liberia where their parents served as translation and literacy advisors. Mical Hilbert was born to missionary parents in Guatemala. Ruthie Wagner is actually a third-generation missionary who grew up in Bangladesh. "The Lord took my heart and called me to love the unreached people of this world by working among them," she says.

But people from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds feel the call to serve on the mission field.

Some of our missionaries earned theological degrees and served as pastors before joining Lutheran Bible Translators. Their training in Greek and Hebrew and Biblical concepts is certainly helpful as they work with translation teams. For Rev. Tim Beckendorf and Rev. Ken Bunge, missionary service is actually a third career. Before attending seminary, Tim was a pork producer and Ken an Arabic and Hebrew linguist in the Air Force.

You might be surprised to learn the backgrounds of a few of our other missionaries. Lisa Beckendorf holds a degree in Aeronautical Administration, Jim Kaiser in Mechanical Engineering. Jo Ann Megahan was a medical transcriptionist and Sarah Esala a registered nurse. Rob Veith worked as a freelance graphic designer and musical album producer. Associate missionary Jon Shaneyfelt has a degree in Scientific Instrumentation.

While a specific missionary ministry requires additional professional skill building and training, it doesn't hurt to already have management and organizational skills, know how to work with a team, or be detail oriented while serving in translation and literacy ministry. Medical skills are certainly an asset when living on the mission field. What missionary parent doesn't wish to know how to treat bug bites and cuts, fevers and upset stomachs while living overseas where the environment, food, and diseases differ?

Jon Shaneyfelt's area of expertise had a more direct application for the mission field. He had 20 years of industry experience working with computers, most of which was spent developing software. Upon joining the technical arm of Wycliffe Bible Translators, he was asked where he would like to apply his skills. His response?



Rob Veith has used his audio production skills for many mission related projects.

"I'd like to work on what is most urgently needed!" Following that first assignment—developing and testing specialized word processing software—he went on to research and develop a computer power system monitor for use by Bible translators who work in remote locations with unreliable electricity. He continues to work on engineering electrical power systems for translation teams.

As for Rob Veith, his musical skills and audio production experience is a great fit for his role in mission work. He has developed materials in the cultural style of local artists in Namibia and Botswana using traditional media forms to present the Gospel message, inspiring more powerful worship. He recently attended the dedication of the Dhimba Audio New Testament in Namibia, a project he helped facilitate.

Not everyone is called to mission work early in life, nor to medicine, farming or the arts. But God has a plan for each of us, and the tasks He has assigned to us are important. Every missionary who serves with Lutheran Bible Translators has one thing in common—a faithful team of partners who regularly pray for them and support them through financial gifts. When people from all walks of life who believe that everyone should have access to Scripture in their own language work together, God's kingdom grows. **LBT**

Is God's Spirit prompting you to look into mission work? Emily Wilson will be happy to answer your questions and help you explore the possibility of serving with Lutheran Bible Translators. Contact her at recruiter@lbt.org.

What Does this Mean?

[Staff Writer]

The word is *kagin*.

Know what it means? Neither did Michael Erslund, who is serving with the Komba Old Testament translation team in northern Ghana. *Kagin* is a Komba word he learned during a session with his language teacher. And when Michael fully understood it, tears came to his eyes.

"I was trying to understand the word without English being spoken. My teacher was using *kagin* in different Komba language sentences to see if I would understand it based on context," says Michael. "I was still drawing a blank, because most of the sentences were making sense apart from this one word. He then described it in English to me. It basically means that you want something very, very much."

After that explanation, the teacher's example sentences began to click. Sentences that meant "I want the Bible very much" and "I have the Bible, but you want the Bible very much so I give it to you."

"I was humbled that he used these particular sentences to demonstrate the meaning of *kagin*," says Michael. "It was clear that he really wants people to translate the complete Bible so he can have it. Tears didn't fall, but they found a home in my eyes."

"This is real life," Michael says. "These are real wants and desires of people. Bible translation is not an abstract theory or hypothetical idea that *might* make a

difference. It *does* make a difference. We are all a part of something beyond our understanding that God is composing and orchestrating."

For Michael, living and learning in another language and culture is one of the best of all things. "Yes, there are many challenges and frustrations, but there is also beauty beyond reckoning. It is here, as I learn another language and about another culture, that I am growing to better understand parts of Scripture that have been with me my whole life. Depth is added as I see God's Word from another pair of lenses. I try not to fool myself into thinking that 'now I understand completely' because I know that living and interacting in another culture would provide yet a different set of lenses from which to see and experience the world."

Learning the meaning of this Komba word was more than just an academic exercise. It not only showed Michael how deeply the Komba people want the complete Bible. It reminded him that *God* wants us very much. He wants us, as He desires us to want Him and His Word.

"God loves us very, very much. He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not die, but have life that has no end," says Michael. "May we very much want God's Word, and may God give us all strength in our vocations as we try to help others also have Scripture in their languages." **LBT**

For more information visit
lbt.org/project/missionary-michael-erslund/.

A Tale of Three Tillys

Continued from page 1

but was still looted and damaged beyond repair as warring factions came through the area. An attempt was made to restart the air service program with Tilly III, which had remained in Monrovia, but the continuing war made it impossible.

The Heiniger family evacuated Liberia in 1992, flying Tilly III to Cote d' Ivoire, where it remained for the next four years. Roger Heiniger flew the plane back to Liberia in 1996 to be broken down and shipped back to the U.S. He returned to Kenya—hand-carrying the completed manuscript of the Bandi New Testament for delivery to the printer—just a short time before fighting again escalated and the offices of Lutheran Bible Translators were ransacked and missionaries evacuated.

Though the war ended in 2003, serving in Liberia still has its challenges. But the foundation laid by the first

missionaries led to enduring partnerships that are still strong and growing today. Several New Testaments have been completed and Lutheran Bible Translators is assisting with translation and Scripture engagement programs in 12 Liberian languages. All this through God's grace, the dedication of several pilots and their families, and because Orville contributed his skills as a pilot to bring two small planes to a small African country over 40 years ago.



Dr. Mike Rodewald with Orville Rogers, 100 years young. Rogers ferried two planes to Liberia on behalf of Lutheran Bible Translators during the 1970s and 80s.

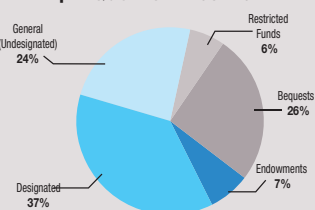
Continued on page 6

LBT PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

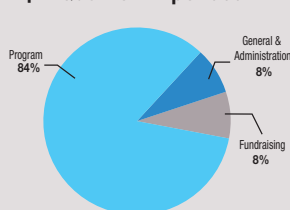
October 1— December 31, 2017

	Unaudited 4th Quarter	Unaudited Year-to-date
INCOME		
Designated	\$ 753,034	\$ 1,875,138
General (Undesignated)	484,871	1,633,846
Restricted Funds	132,611	237,516
Bequests	538,350	2,567,364
Endowments	141,308	411,322
Total Income	\$ 2,050,173	\$ 6,725,187

4th Quarter Income



4th Quarter Expenses



EXPENSES

Program	\$ 899,867	\$ 3,123,411
Administration	82,716	357,382
Fundraising	89,518	370,671
Total Expenses	1,072,101	3,851,464
Net Total	\$ 978,072	\$ 2,873,722

A Tale of Three Tillys

Continued from page 6

Sometimes the greatest blessings come from unexpected places. What seems insignificant now can become life-changing in the future. As each of us gives of his or her best, wonderful things happen. "It is amazing how God uses His people to accomplish His purposes. He takes small moments and weaves them into something beautiful and bigger," said Dr. Mike Rodewald, executive director of Lutheran Bible Translators.

As for Orville, he still supports Bible translation through financial gifts. He turned 100 in November, and he's looking forward to setting a few more sprinting and distance records in the age 100 and over category! **LBT**

Special thanks to all who contributed to this article, especially Evan Smith, who serves as Assistant to the Coordinator of Initial Flight Training with JAARS, and Roger Heiniger, Jim Metzler, and Jeff Johnson. They and their colleagues were instrumental in helping a fledgling organization establish its presence as a vital and effective Bible translation ministry, growing from a few initial programs in Liberia to a worldwide mission impacting over twelve million people.

Gift Designations We make every effort to honor donor designation preferences, however, all gifts are subject to the discretion and control of Lutheran Bible Translators.

CUT HERE

CUT HERE

Birthdays

March

- 1** Lisa Beckendorf, Botswana
- 2** Levi Federwitz*, Ghana
- 9** Maila Davies, Papua New Guinea
- 22** Hannah Federwitz*, Ghana
- 24** Danny DeLoach, United States
- 26** MaryJane Grulke*, Botswana

April

- 13** Tim Beckendorf, Botswana
- 17** Annaka Esala*, United States
- 20** Dennis Malone, Asia
- 25** Tom Holman, United States
- 26** Nancy Burmeister, United States

May

- 6** Carl Grulke, Botswana
- 10** Maria Brutkiewicz, International Offices
- 11** Mike Rodewald, International Offices
- 12** Tobias Kuhn*, Cameroon
- 13** Nathan Federwitz*, Papua New Guinea
- 13** Julia Federwitz*, Papua New Guinea
- 15** Janet Borchard, Papua New Guinea
- 15** Michelle Miller, Southeast Asia
- 15** Emily Wilson, International Offices
- 17** Ali Federwitz, Ghana
- 19** Wesley DeLoach*, United States
- 22** Angela Tayloe, International Offices
- 25** Mike Kuhn, Cameroon
- 28** Ken Bunge, United States

*missionary kid

missionary currents

Prayer partnership is the backbone of this ministry. Here are several prayer concerns for which we ask your support. May God bless you abundantly!

CAMEROON

- Praise God for the **Nizaa literature** center and a new home for Bible translation in the heart of the Nizaa community.
- Pray for **Rev. Daniel Touka**, director of the Lutheran church's department of translation in Cameroon.

on the full Bible. Tentative dedication is late 2018/ early 2019.

- Pray for **Pastor Berhanu Kambro**, Bible translation coordinator for several partner projects with the southwest synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus.

ETHIOPIA

- Pray for the **Konso translation team** as they put the finishing touches


GHANA

- Pray for the **Komba translation team** as they continue to translate Old Testament lectionary

Lutheran Bible Translators PO Box 789 Concordia, MO 64020

the messenger
Volume 45, Number 1
WINTER 2018
Dr. Mike Rodewald, Editor
Editorial management by Linda Gari
Printed at Kelmscott Communications, Aurora, IL
The Messenger is the official quarterly periodical of Lutheran Bible Translators, 205 S. Main St., Bldg 5, PO Box 789, Concordia MO 64020. 1-800-532-4253.
Website: www.lbt.org E-mail: info@LBT.org
Standard A Non-Profit postage paid at Aurora, Illinois. Printed in the U.S.A.
Comments and inquiries are invited. Correspondence may be directed to *The Messenger* Editor.
©2018 Lutheran Bible Translators, Inc. Permission is granted to excerpt from this publication. Please send a copy of your use of material to the editor. Thank you!
Volunteers assisted with the assembly of this mailing!

A Canadian edition of this newspaper is published by Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada, 137 Queen St. S., Kitchener, ON N2B 1W2.
Lutheran Bible Translators is an independent mission group, founded in 1964, dedicated to making God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. It is the only Lutheran organization totally devoted to this specialized ministry. LBT actively recruits Lutherans to serve as Bible translators, literacy or vernacular media specialists and support missionaries. The LBT ministry is supported by the prayers and contributions of fellow Christians. It is not subsidized by any church body or sponsoring agency.
Executive Director:
Dr. Mike Rodewald



Enhancing Trust

DID YOU KNOW...

You can **print your own copy** of the Monthly Prayer Calendar. Visit lbt.org/prayer around the middle of each month to find the next month's calendar in PDF format.

You can also find additional resources at lbt.org/contact/. Click on **Contact and Resources** for a list of available materials.



portions. Praise God for good health and good relationships in the community for **Michael Ersland**.

- Pray for **Ali Federwitz** as she helps guide LBT's member care strategy.

LIBERIA

- Pray for good internet connectivity and access to translation resources for the **Dan, Maan, and Gola translation teams**.
- Praise God for the leadership of **Rev. Paul Stephens** at the Bible Society of Liberia.
- Pray for **Scripture media projects** happening in several Liberian languages, that the Scripture newly available will move the hearts of the people to increased

faith in Christ as Lord.

NIGERIA

- Pray for the **Obe language community** as they begin New Testament translation.
- Pray for **Rev. Chuck Tessaro's** work with several Old Testament projects and for international associate **Rev. Linus Otronyi** as he works with local church Scripture listening groups.

SIERRA LEONE

- Pray for the **Mende translation and literacy teams** as they make progress in the Old Testament translation and engage the community with the written Word. Praise



God for missionary **Amy Formella's** progress in Mende language and culture learning.

UNITED STATES

- Pray for Mission Mobilization Coordinator **Emily Wilson** as she visits Lutheran college, seminary and Bible school campuses to mobilize resources and new missionaries for Bible translation ministry.
- Pray for preparation for the upcoming **Crossroads recruitment trip**, that the Lord will use it to help sharpen vision for service for the prospective missionaries who attend.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Pray for development of new project work in sensitive areas of **Southeast Asia**.

TANZANIA

- Pray for Lutheran church leaders and Lutheran Bible Translators adjunct missionary **Rev. Michael Megahan** as they visit communities on Ukerewe Island to raise awareness and local participation in the new Bible translation program.
- Pray for wisdom and God's blessing as translators are selected and begin full time Bible translation work and training in the **Kerewe language**.