

# Good News for Every Language

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS OF CANADA

Summer 2019

## Bible House in Cameroon – progressing amid challenges

The Bible House construction project has been the big news in LBTC circles for the past few years. And the excitement continues to mount as the building nears completion.

Bill and Freda Klassen spent three months in Cameroon—November 2018 to February 2019—assisting Martin Weber in managing the Bible House project. Many thanks to them for their service to the Lord and the Bible translation ministry. Their heart for mission work shone through in their time in Ngaoundere.

While Pastor Mohr and his wife, Karen, were in Ngaoundere in April, they met Mr. Oumarou Hamidou and the men doing the construction work under his watchful eye. They prayed with these men, asking for God's protection for them as they work. They saw first-hand the commitment to excellence as the workers proudly showed off the Bible House. Oumarou has been able to maintain his rigorous quality standards throughout the project. He is both experienced and honest; and rightfully proud of his work. It is already proving to be a formidable and beautiful structure.

The financial picture of the Bible House project is proving to be a challenge as the cost of materials and labour have gone considerably over contract due to several factors.



Bible House under construction.

Oumarou has never built an all-metal roof. The estimate provided to him for his contract was flawed. Quantities were wrong regarding the structural steel and some of the I-beam sizes needed to be increased due to the octagonal shape of the building.

Since Ngaoundere is a small city, availability of some required material is limited. Some needed to be special ordered which added time and expense. What we hoped would be a nine-month project has become more than double that. With each delay the cost of material increases.

While we are doing everything possible to keep labour costs down they are still higher than expected. In addition, it is important to complete the interior of the Bible House to the same quality standard as the exterior. LED lights, quality light fixtures, tile flooring and bathroom fixtures will ensure that the translators will be able to accomplish their work in the best possible conditions. The

quality of the fixtures will also help ensure that they will last longer.

The bottom line—an extra \$40,000 is needed to complete the Bible House.

On Wednesday, April 17, 2019, about 50 people gathered in front of the Bible House for a service of blessing. The leadership and staff of the Lutheran Church of Cameroon (EELC) attended.

Pastor Touka, director of EELC's Translation Department, served as liturgist. The EELC bishop made some introductory comments. Pastor Mohr served as preacher and he and his wife sang a duet, adding a bit of western music to the African celebration. LBTC and the whole EELC are looking forward to the formal dedication of the Bible House at the end of 2019.



Photos from the service of blessing in April.

## Recruitment – meeting a multitude of needs

The need for the Lord to send forth labourers into His harvest fields is very great. There are at least three language groups in Cameroon urgently inviting LBTC to take on Bible translation work in their communities. And now there are several exciting developments regarding people interested in serving in the mission field with LBTC.

**J E S S I E  
B R A N S O N**  
(surrounded by  
Cameroonian  
friends in the  
lower centre  
photo) has  
served very well  
as the Kuhn's  
nanny for  
this past year.  
Recently she

contacted me about furthering her education to qualify her to serve in a more mission-oriented role. At this point she is considering returning with the Kuhns when their furlough ends and again serving as their nanny. But she is also considering beginning her linguistics training and other courses so she can possibly serve LBTC in other ways.

**ADRIANNA BLITTERSWYK**  
(upper left) is a student at Concordia University of Alberta, Edmonton, and a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Simcoe, Ont. Through her friend, Travis Heide, she became interested in the mission work of LBTC. She is participating in this year's Crossroads trip to Ethiopia with LBT US. Amanda has been on



several overseas mission trips already and is quite open to how the Lord Jesus will direct her in mission work in the future.

**K A Y L A  
FALKENHOLT**

(upper right), daughter of Pastor Brian Falkenholt of Christ Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, Ont., is finishing her third year of a Bachelor of Music Degree in Harp Performance. She has been keenly interested in mission work for several years, especially with LBTC. She will be attending the Concordia Missions Institute in Concordia, Missouri, this July. She is considering child-care work through LBTC but is certainly open to other mission-related work both in music and in linguistics.

Please pray for God's wisdom and guidance for the three young women as they consider serving with LBTC. Pray also for the Lord to bring more people to serve in the various places the Lord is opening up for us to work in.



Dr. Berhanu Ofgaa (left, pictured with Pastor Mohr outside his LBT-Ethiopia office) needs missionary translators and other mission workers for the many language groups where he has teams doing translation work. It is LBTC's hope to also be able to send workers into this mission field which is so ripe for the harvest.

**PASTOR MIKE KUHN** has been asked to teach a short-term course at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, in May 2020.

**PASTOR MOHR** continues to make annual LBTC presentations at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines. These are valuable opportunities to help our LCC seminary students see serving as LBTC missionary translators as a possible way the Lord Jesus may be leading them to serve in His kingdom.

## Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Laurie Lonneberg



**W**ith thanks and praise to God for many years of service to and support of Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada, Rev. Ron Mohr presented Mr. Laurie Lonneberg with LBTC's Lifetime Achievement Award. The presentation was made at Laurie's church, Mt. Calvary Lutheran (CALC), Mission, B.C., on Sunday, June 16, during the morning worship service.

LBTC Missionary/Translator Martin Weber sent a stirring tribute recounting how Laurie volunteered for several months in the 1980s building a house for the Webers in Cameroon. Over the years, Mr. Lonneberg helped with other LBTC construction projects, served on its board of directors and as the board chairman.

## LBTC working with three language groups—Kwanja, Nizaa and Dowayo



Nizaa translation team problem-solving.

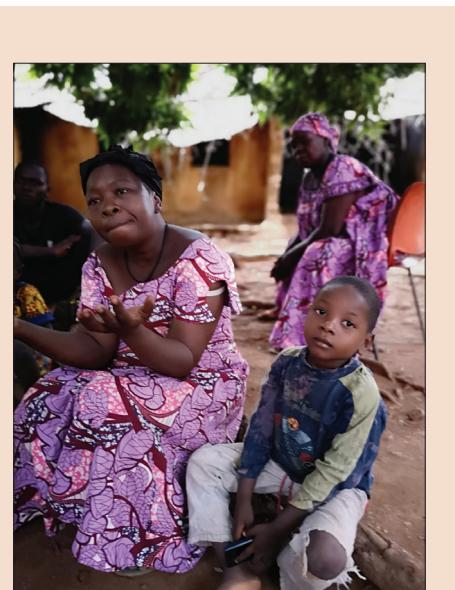
**NIZAA:** Pastor Mike and Kara Kuhn, Gideon, Tobias, and Gloria are back in Canada for their year-long furlough. What a change for them in weather, culture, home life, and work life. Pastor Mike will be taking some continuing education courses, Kara and the kids will be continuing their homeschooling. They will be making presentations across the country, telling about LBTC as well as their work in Galim in the Nizaa language.

Often Pastor Kuhn will be making these presentations on his

own, but his family will join him when they are able. One reason the family may not join him as often as they would like is because of the anticipated arrival of their fourth child this fall. We rejoice with them for this wonderful gift from God and pray for God's blessing upon Kara and their soon-to-be-born child.

Pastor Kuhn has done an excellent job of preparing the Nizaa translation team for the time he will be on furlough. Rev. Ousmanou and Yougouda Bah (pictured with third member of the Nizaa translation team) are carrying on the work of translating the New Testament books into the Nizaa language along with other team members. They are continuing to work on the gospels of Luke, John, and Matthew,

2 & 3 John, Jude, and Philemon. Martin Weber and Pastor Touka will continue to provide training and guidance and Pastor Kuhn will check in with them from time to time from Canada.



Madame Alice Robs-Ini with her grandson.

**DOWAYO:** Madame Alice Robs-Ini has several well-trained "promoters" who are taking audio recordings of the Dowayo New Testament into many villages of Dowayo speakers. There God's Word is changing people's lives and bringing them to faith in Jesus.

Madame Germaine Kpengapse is training a dedicated group of literacy teachers who are raising the literacy level of many Dowayo speakers. The result is that many more people will be able to read the Scriptures for themselves and come to know Jesus as their Saviour through His life-giving Word.

There is an ever-increasing call for hymns and liturgy in the Dowayo language. This, along with a Dowayo language lectionary, will go a long way to keep the devotional and worship life of the Dowayo people growing ever stronger.



Martin and Joan Weber working on Ndung, a Kwanja-dialect.

**K W A N J A :** Martin and Joan Weber are hard at work with their team in finishing the three-year lectionary in Ndung, a second Kwanja dialect, which is much like a separate language. They hope to have the whole lectionary ready for dedication in December or January.

Developing a lectionary brings many blessings to the church, but two stand out. First, it provides a great start to the translation of the whole Old Testament. The appointed Psalms and Old Testament lessons provide opportunities for the

translators to work with a wide range of genres, writing styles and vocabularies of different authors and of different historical times. Second, the lectionary will encourage the use of the Kwanja language in the worship life and devotional life of God's Kwanja-speaking people. They will hear the Scripture lessons read in their mother tongue each time they gather for worship.

## Board of directors keeps LBTC running well



Pictured (l to r): Glenn Kahle, Rev. Ron Mohr, Gord Martens, Tim Kuhl, Tara Bradley, Darryll Holland, Pauline Huth, Tim Kuehn (absent: Rev. Phil Washeim).

**W**hat a great board of directors God has blessed LBTC with in this 2018-2019 term. Their many different talents and gifts were called upon as they dealt with challenges presented by the Bible House project and the vacancy in the executive director position, to name just two of many. The board members have served as excellent representatives of LBTC in their own congregations and circuits

and on a larger scale at various conventions, conferences, and mission festivals across the country.

Tim Kuhl (chair) provided excellent leadership and was a constant source of support and encouragement to the LBTC staff and missionaries.

Tara Bradley, LBTC office manager/finance manager, kept the mission work of LBTC moving forward during the vacancy, was

instrumental in making the new executive director's transition much easier and smoother, and continues to keep LBTC running well.

Tara and executive director, Pastor Mohr, along with Harry Drews (LBTC office volunteer) have formed an excellent "home team" in support of both the missionaries and their families in Cameroon and our LBTC family of prayer supporters and donors here at home.

Rev. Phil Washeim and Tim Kuhl have gone off the board for the coming term. New board members are Rev. Larry Gajdos and Rev. Dr. Stephen Chambers. May the Lord bless them, Pauline Huth, the new board chair, and all the members of the 2019-2020 board as they move forward LBTC's mission of God's Word in every language!

### LBTC IS MOVING!

effective August 2019 our new address will be  
**275 Lawrence Ave  
Kitchener, ON  
N2M 1Y3**  
 (in the LCC-East District office)  
 phone numbers will remain  
 the same:  
 519-742-3361 and 1-866-518-7071

**Here is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I prefer to receive one annual receipt each year (only for individuals).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada**  
 275 Lawrence Avenue, Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3  
 519-742-3361 or 1-866-518-7071  
[info@lbtc.ca](mailto:info@lbtc.ca)   [www.lbtc.ca](http://www.lbtc.ca)



Spending of funds is confined to programs/projects approved by LBTC. Contributions designated for such will be used as designated with the understanding that when the program/project has been funded or cannot be completed for a reason determined by LBTC, the remainder will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax.

#### How To Respond With Your Gift of Support

- **By cheque** You can also send LBTC post-dated cheques to continue support for several months.
- **Online** - Visit [www.lbtc.ca](http://www.lbtc.ca), select "Supporting LBTC" and click on a blue CanadaHelps button. CanadaHelps will issue a receipt by email. It is possible to set up monthly donations through CanadaHelps.
- **By credit card** Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_