



Lutheran Bible Translators

For 56 years, Lutheran Bible Translators has helped put the Bible into the hands of millions of who people could never before read or hear it in a language they could understand. Currently assisting more than 100 language communities, this work has impacted more than 20 million people.

Located in Concordia, Missouri, since 2015, the International Offices of Lutheran Bible Translators is tucked away in a previously underused building on Saint Paul Lutheran High School campus. About 18 support staff work from this space and 50 missionaries are deployed around the world. Working in coordination with local churches and Bible agency leaders overseas, missionaries serve only where Lutheran Bible Translators has been invited – often in places where other organizations don't want to go. According to one veteran missionary, "We weren't at the end of the earth, but you could see it from where we were!"

Missionaries and staff come from varied backgrounds. Some are second- and third-generation missionaries. Some are pastors or teachers. Others have business or medical backgrounds. They have trained in child care, nutrition, chemistry, music, computer science, automotive, farming, and history, among other fields. All have a passion to bring God's Word to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

Specialized training – such as studies in translation principles, linguistics, multicultural teamwork - is required to prepare missionaries for translation ministry. Although missionaries are not required to speak multiple languages, they will need to learn basic communication skills in the national language of the country where they serve as well as the receptor language (the language into which the Bible is being translated).

Most language learning takes place on the mission field, the missionaries learning to speak the receptor language from local speakers. Local speakers also serve on the translation team, bringing expertise in their culture and language while the missionary provides expertise and training in the translation process. As Jim Laesch, regional director for east and south Africa once explained, "Missionaries serve as a bridge. They connect the translation team to the original Greek and Hebrews texts that are used as the basis for Bible translation. As they work with speakers of the receptor language, the missionary helps them to explore the meaning and background of each passage, finding the most accurate way to clearly express the Biblical message in their own unique language."

It typically takes 5 – 12 years to complete a translation project. Literacy and Scripture use projects are usually established during that time period so that people will be able to read, hear, and understand God's Word as it becomes available in their languages. Once a translation is completed it becomes the property of the local Bible society, which is then responsible for printing and distribution.

Please pray for Lutheran Bible Translators, bringing God's Word to the ends of the earth. For more information call 660-225-0810, find us on Facebook or visit www.lbt.org .