

Unexpected blessings of this season

We all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done! -Acts 2:11

"If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." That quote hits home for me! I always told God that I would let Him lead me anywhere, just please don't make me fundraise my own salary. Here we are, almost two years in with Lutheran Bible Translators, fundraising our own salaries. Partnership development has been a challenge, but also a huge blessing. God has taught us so much and blessed us in so many ways as we have traveled the country, met new people and shared our ministry with others. Here are our top 10 unexpected blessings from our time developing financial and prayer partners in our ministry:

1. God calls us to trust him more and more. Raising our budget is happening on God's timing, not ours. God continually provides in more and better ways than we could imagine, all in his own time.

2. God goes ahead of us. We have begun beautiful relationships with people and churches that God ordained. We could not have planned where or how these relationships would blossom. God knows exactly which churches we should visit and which people we should meet.



A family adventure at Niagara Falls!

3. Family adventures. We have had so many wonderful opportunities for fun and learning with our children en route to different churches. During partnership development, we have visited children's museums, swimming pools, Niagara Falls, a dairy farm, a gummy bear factory, and hiked in beautiful state and national parks.

4. God provides what we didn't even know we needed. To make it possible for both of us to share our presentation, we have needed lots of help with childcare. God has provided it even when we didn't know exactly what we would need.

5. Renewing old friendships. We have had the opportunity to visit friends, family, seminary classmates, while traveling. What a privilege to renew those relationships and see first-hand where our loved ones are serving the Lord now.



Presenting at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ames, IA, a church we both attended growing up.

6. A new appreciation for growing in the body of Christ. Many of the churches we have visited are places that have impacted our spiritual growth. We visited the churches that confirmed us, married us, gave us our first Bibles, heard Carl's first sermon, even the church that baptized and confirmed Kelsey's Grandpa Carroll. We have a renewed sense of appreciation for the spiritual legacy that brought us to our ministry with Lutheran Bible Translators.

7. Being ambassadors for Botswana. Many Americans don't know much about Botswana and we love the opportunity to open eyes and hearts to what is happening there. It's been so interesting to learn more about this beautiful and diverse country and share what we know with others.

8. A time close to family. When Carl's dad passed away in October, we were close by. Kelsey's parents were close too. We could spend more time with our families than we would have if we had still been in a congregation or if we had already been in Botswana. We are so thankful that we have had this time.



Sharing time with great supporters in Ohio!

9. The chance to humbly accept others' hospitality. Hosting a family of 7 is no small undertaking. So many families around the country have opened their homes to us, fed us, and loved us and our children. We are humbled and honored to have been so well loved.

10. God affirming our calling to Lutheran Bible Translators. Before we started partnership development, we shared with a missionary friend our nervousness about the process. She agreed that yes, it is a difficult time, but it is also a time of confirmation of your call to serve. Meeting our budget and funding our special projects can feel like impossible mountains to climb, but as God calls more and more people to support our mission, God reminds us that he is calling us to this very special ministry.

We are so grateful to have had this time growing in our relationship with God, with our supporters, and with each other. We are getting so close to our goal and still planning to move to Botswana in April. Please pray for God to raise up partners in our ministry to close our funding gap and get us to Botswana!

What's coming next?

Pictures tell stories - Our future life in Botswana

February 24: Mt. Calvary
Lutheran Church, Indianola, IA

March 4: Palestine Lutheran
Church, Huxley, IA

March 11: Holy Cross Lutheran
Church, St. Louis, MO

March 18: TBD

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

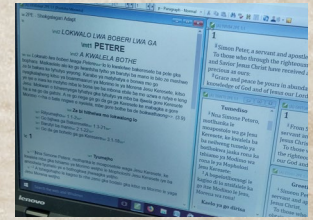
April 8 @ 11:00: Christ
Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE
We will be commissioned and
sent by our home congregation
in Lincoln. If you are in the
area, please join us!



The general secretary for the Bible Society of Botswana and the advisory committee and translators for the Shekgalagari New Testament translation project.



The local airport in Maun, which is down the road from our house. We are hoping to see more of this place soon!



The translation software we use, Paratext, makes translation so much easier and faster as we work to translate into Shekgalagari.

Prayer requests for our family:

Pray for our funding goal to be met so we can stay on track to move to Botswana in April.

Our kids are feeling the strain of being in transition. Pray for their emotional, spiritual, and physical health as we enter the final stretch of partnership development and prepare to move.

Praise God for our vehicle being funded!

Pray for the many preparations in progress for our international move.

Funding our ministry - we need your help!

We need to reach 100% of our funding in order to get the green light from LBT to leave for Botswana. Right now, we are at **87%** of our goal, which is incredible. **Thank you to all of you who are supporting us now!** We are in need of partners who are willing to support us with a monthly, quarterly or annual gift in support of our work in Botswana. **Would you commit to a regular gift of \$25, \$50 or \$100 per month?** Your commitment will bring us that much closer to leaving for the field and beginning our work in Bible translation.



Vehicle fund

Fully funded!
Praise God!

Household setup fund

We have a house to live in Maun, but we need some things to make it into a home for our family. Our goal is to raise **\$8,500** to purchase items we need for our family.



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|----------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------|
| MONTHLY SUPPORT GOAL | | | | | | | 87% | 100% |
| VEHICLE FUND | PRaise GOD! | THANK YOU! | PRaise GOD! | THANK YOU! | PRaise GOD! | THANK YOU! | PRaise GOD! | 100% |
| HOUSEHOLD SETUP FUND | 12% | | | | | | | 100% |

Support our ministry!

Pray: We need people praying for us during this time of partnership development and preparing for our move to Botswana. Look above for specifics!

Give: We need the financial support of our partners to make our minstry in Botswana possible. Your financial gifts make it possible for us to budget and plan for our future in the field, especially the ongoing, regular gifts you generously give. You can give a tax-deductible gift online at **lbt.org** or mail checks with **Grulke Ministry** in the memo line to Lutheran Bible Translators, P.O. Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020

Advocate: We need people to support us in raising awareness for our ministry and needs. You can share the mission of LBT with your church or friends and invite them to follow our journey too!

If you would prefer to NOT receive future emails or letters, or would like ADDITIONAL information on LBT and missionary support, please contact us to have your name removed from our list.

Follow our journey!

www.thegrulkes.org



The Grulkes' LBT Adventures

Contact us!

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lutheran bible translators
GOD'S WORD
for every language