



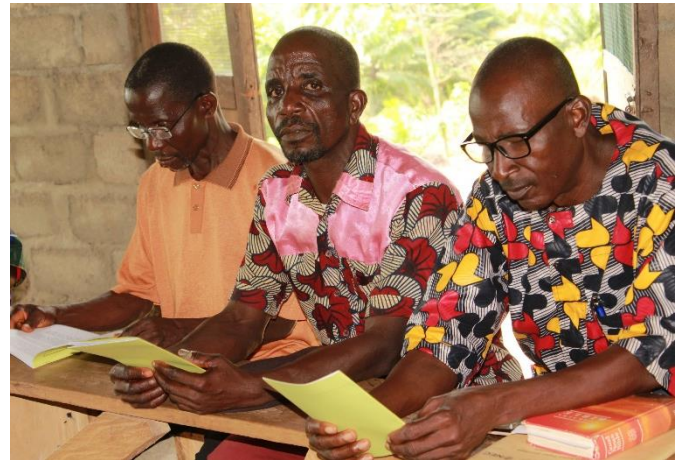
I love stories about how God is working directly with a particular people group through events or the Scriptures they use. Recently, I was working with the Bandi team in Exodus. When we arrived at 25:8-9, I was curious what terms they would use for “sanctuary” and “tabernacle”. The Hebrew means “holy place” and “dwelling place” respectively. Some of the English texts use tent in v8 because that is what was made, but the text does not specify tent here. Sanctuary is also used but hard to picture. The word tabernacle is an obscure term for many English speakers and just equates to another word for tent in people’s minds. The true significance—**God living among his people**—is lost. However, the Bandi translator did not miss it. He chose to use a common expression which is so very close to what the Hebrew writer meant for God to “dwell” among his people. He used “holy sitting place.” **Your sitting place for the Bandi is where you live.** The people were to make a place for worship where God himself will sit. Beautiful!

This story was relayed to my regional director on a recent visit to the Maan region. In the 1930-40s the Maan people were extremely resistant to Christianity, severely persecuting members of their communities who turned away from the traditional religious beliefs to follow Jesus.

There was a time when the sorcerers and spiritualists of the Maan people invited Christians, especially the leaders of the churches, to one specific village. The Christians knew the intent of these others was to harm them, but they came anyway. They prayed all night long. When they were given food, they ate it despite knowing it had been poisoned. Not one Christian died or even fell sick. Afterward, one of the sorcerers came forward and admitted they had put every strong poison in the food and had used all their powers to the fullest extent, with the goal that these Christians would experience unbearable suffering before they finally died, but they were unable to harm these Christ-followers.

Following this miraculous witness to the power of God, **more people became eager to know about Christ** and the church began to grow among the Maan.

The Dan people also have a miraculous story. During the Liberian civil war (1989-1997), people who spoke Dan were targeted. They were killed on the spot if they could speak or understand the language. Many Dan speakers stopped using their language or teaching it to their children. Now, the Dan people are renewing their interest in their language and have sought out individuals and resources to help them learn to read and write Dan. Over **1500 community members are participating in literacy classes.**



PRAY

FAMILY UPDATES

Praise: for progress on Bandi Exodus, Dan Luke and Maan 2Kings via online checking in August, September, and October.

Pray: for travel safety, relationships and checking with the Nizaa team in Cameroon in November.

Who I am

Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "PUT GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship.

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Luke and Lindsey moved to Fort Rucker, AL. They are expecting a baby boy in November! Luke finished a Masters in Engineering Management from the University of Louisville. Aletheia and I visited them in July "on our way" to the LWML convention in Lexington, KY.



Andrew and Taylor are celebrating one year of



marriage. Andrew recently passed the tests to become a General Contractor. They are busy with plans for building a house. Taylor continues to teach math at a local high school before joining the family business next year. They have a lot of fun fishing the local waters. They live in FL.

Micaiah is now in TX. He enlisted in the MN Air National Guard 133rd Airlift Wing to become a C-130 flight engineer last year and this year graduated from basic training. He is in the process of tech training in engineer fundamentals. The training will take him into next year when he will return to MN to serve at his base there for several months before returning to his job at Boston Scientific.



Aletheia graduated from Concordia Chicago with a double major in theater and criminal justice. She experienced both an online ceremony and one in person this fall. She is working at Pfizer pharmaceutical on production lines for the vaccine and other medications. Her plan is to pay off her student debt while saving for the next step--attending special effects make-up school in FL.



Al continues as wildlife management technician at Pfizer with a different contract company this coming year. He continues to serve as an elder at church and attends a men's BSF group. We traveled to Mexico to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary and to Texas to celebrate Micaiah's graduation from BMT. We enjoyed a camping trip in northern MI joined by WI and FL extended family.

We said goodbye to a number of aunts, uncles, cousins and my mom this past year. We rejoice as they are celebrating in heaven, but they are certainly missed here.

Blessings to you all as we celebrate God's many gifts particularly his Son. Thankful for God's presence among us—Immanuel,

Becky