

The Plugers in Zambia

The Nsenga Bible Translation Project

The Nsenga are a group of almost two million people who live in south-central Africa in the countries of Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. There are many Nsenga Christians, and many Christian groups are active in mission and evangelism among the Nsenga people, including national Zambian churches, Lutherans, Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and others.

However, Nsenga-speaking Christians have to worship and read God's Word in their second or third language, because there is no Nsenga Bible that is written in their native language, the language of their hearts. This means that many Nsenga who do not know a second language do not have access to the Bible at all. In addition, the teachings of the Bible are not always clearly understood in a second language, leaving many Nsenga in confusion about their faith and susceptible to influence from traditional African religious beliefs, such as witchcraft, spiritism, and sorcery.

Because of this need, Nsenga church and community leaders formed a committee to begin an Nsenga Bible Translation. They are working to find mother-tongue translators, reviewers, and helpers from the Nsenga-speaking churches in their areas.

Working through Wisconsin Synod Lutheran missionaries and pastors from the Lutheran Church of Central Africa, the Nsenga Bible Translation Committee invited Lutheran Bible Translators to partner with them in their work. LBT appointed Chris and Janine Pluger to serve as Translation Advisors to the Nsenga project. Because of their training in translation, theology, and linguistics, and Chris' knowledge of the original languages of Scripture, the Plugers will be able to provide valuable guidance and assistance to the work.

Chris and Janine will first learn the Nsenga language, then work with mother-tongue speakers to produce a Bible that is both accurate and faithful to the original, as well as beautiful and clear in Nsenga. This project will be a team effort, with the Plugers and the mother-tongue translators receiving technical support from the Bible Society of Zambia, logistical support from LBT and the Lutheran mission, and financial and prayer support from many faithful mission-minded Christians across the United States.

This project will take many years to complete, but it is worth the effort. The goal is to not only put an Nsenga Bible into people's hands, but to help put God's Word into people's hearts, so that the miracle of Pentecost might be repeated: "We hear the wonders of God in our own tongue!" (Acts 2: 11).



www.lbt.org

How You Can Help

The first and most important thing you can do to help the Plugers and the Nsenga Bible Translation Project is to pray for them regularly and specifically. Please sign up for their news and prayer letter.

Since Lutheran Bible Translators is an independent organization, the Plugers receive no money from any Synod or other Lutheran entity. Instead, all financial support for LBT missionaries comes from individual Christians and from special donations by congregations and other groups. The Plugers must have this support in place before they can leave for Zambia.

One way to participate in the work of Bible Translation is to become a monthly supporter of the Plugers' work. This long-term project needs regular, faithful partners to make sure ongoing financial needs are met.

Another way to help is with a special gift to provide for the startup costs that the Plugers will have, including household setup and a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Thank you for your interest in the Plugers' work and the Nsenga Bible Translation Project. Please consider becoming a financial partner in their work, and thank you for your prayers on behalf of Bible-less people and the missionaries who serve them around the world.

The Pluger Family

Chris and Janine Pluger were married in 1996. They have one son, Sean, who was born in 2002.

Chris and Janine are both former teachers. A graduate of Martin Luther College and one-time student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Chris taught Spanish, Latin, and Religion for ten years. Janine also took classes at MLC and taught in Lutheran schools for four years. Among their other life experiences, Chris and Janine recently spent a year studying Linguistics and Bible Translation at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas Texas.

The Plugers are members of Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) in Centerville Ohio.

Contributions to the Plugers' work can be sent to:

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS
303 N. LAKE ST BOX 2050
AURORA IL 60507

Please indicate *Pluger Ministry* on your check. You can also give online at www.lbt.org/give.

Contact Chris and Janine at theplugers@lbt.org.