

South Dakota District LWML Grant Proposal

**Transforming Lives in India through God's Word
Malayalam Translation of The Lutheran Study Bible**

Resolution

WHEREAS, Christ in His Holy Word has charged us to teach all nations.

So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Acts 8:30-31; and

WHEREAS, the population of India (the majority being Hindu or Muslim) who are touched by the Holy Spirit and become inquirers or believers need to have the Word and tools for clarity and faith growth in their heart languages; and

WHEREAS, India Bible Study (IBS) is committed to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ across India and to other Indian-speaking people throughout the world through the translation of The Lutheran Study Bible (LSB) notes and commentary into 15 major languages of India; and

WHEREAS, there are very few study Bibles in Indian languages, and none of them have been published from a Lutheran perspective with abundant, doctrinally sound notes and commentary like the LSB; and

WHEREAS, The LSB is an exceptional publication with the capacity to provide transformational life change and spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS, the next publication of the LSB will be in the Malayalam language and titled, "India Study Bible Malayalam"; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Minnesota South District President was consulted about the grant.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates gathered at the 2026 South Dakota District Lutheran Women in Mission Convention vote the sum of \$5,000 to help fund "Transforming Lives in India through God's Word - Malayalam Translation of *The Lutheran Study Bible*".



**Transforming Lives in India through God's Word –
Malayalam Translation of The Lutheran Study Bible**

- **Amount Requested:** \$5,000
- **Organization Being Helped:** India Bible Study Translation Project (IBS) is a Minnesota-based non-profit ministry; LCMS RSO status has been applied for and is in process. This ministry is reliant solely on donations from individuals, congregations and LWML groups.
- **Grant Funds Will Impact Lives:** Malayalam-language speakers in India and around the world, including 280,000 in the United States.
- **Geographic Area of Impact:** The country of India with a focus on the areas where native Malayalam is spoken. Malayalam is the primary language in the State of Kerala, spoken by 97% of the population. Kerala is on India's southern tropical Malabar Coast and has a population of over 34 million (2018) with a geographic area of 15 square miles. Malayalam is also spoken in the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- **Estimated Number of Lives being Impacted by this Grant:** The number of people impacted could total more than 35.6 million.
- **Demographic of Lives Impacted by this Grant:**
Lives impacted will include pastors, missionaries, Christian lay people, and non-Christians in the country of India; and about 3 million diaspora Malayalam speakers elsewhere in the world. The rate of poverty in India is 83% (2020).
- **Purpose of Grant Funds:** To support the layout, editing, printing and distribution of The Lutheran Study Bible notes and commentary copyrighted by Concordia Publishing House in 2009, together with the Bible text copyrighted by the Bible Society of India, in the Malayalam language.
- **Grant Summary:**
The vision of India Bible Study (IBS) is to equip and train Indian pastors and believers to better understand God's Word and share the Gospel with their relatives and neighbors, both Christians and non-Christians, in their own heart language.

Formalized in 2018, IBS is committed to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ across India and to other Indian-speaking people throughout the world. Our goal is to translate The Lutheran Study Bible (LSB) notes and commentary into 15 major languages of India. We are inspired and determined to complete this bold goal. There are very few study Bibles in Indian languages, and none of them have been published from a Lutheran perspective with abundant doctrinally sound notes and commentary. The LSB is an exceptional publication with the capacity to provide transformational life change and spiritual growth.

Publication of the first two Indian language translations, Telugu and Tamil, are projected for 2025 and 2026, respectively. **Our next goal is to complete the Hindi and Malayalam translations of LSB and publish them by 2028.**

- This LWML District Mission Grant funding will support the costs of translating, layout, editing, and distribution of the Malayalam version of the LSB.
- Malayalam is likely the language heard by the Apostle St. Thomas in 52 AD when he first set foot on the Malabar Coast. In fact, as a group, Christians in this area are referred to as "St. Thomas

(Mar Thoma) Christians”, indigenous Indian Christian groups who represent one of the oldest Christian traditions in the world.

According to a May 2024 report by India Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council (EAC), the Christian population in India rose slightly to 2.36% since its previous report on religious affiliation within the country. This statistic suggests that 1.41 billion people in India are *not* Christian! (That is nearly four times the entire population of the United States!) We are impassioned to share the love of Jesus by providing our international neighbors in India the opportunity to hear and study God's Word. Our Lord Jesus said, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for the harvest." (John 4:35).

Submitter Information

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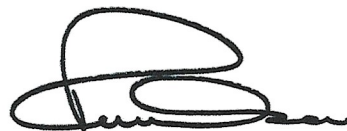
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August 27, 2025

Grant Administrator Information

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August 20, 2025

Payable to: India Bible Study

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Transforming Lives in India through God's Word Malayalam Translation of The Lutheran Study Bible

Detailed Information Paper

There are few places on earth riper for God's harvest than India! In 2022, India's population surpassed China's population, making India the most populous country in the world. Currently, India has 1.44 billion people, which is more than four times the population of the United States. Moreover, 79% of India's population follow the Hindu religion and approximately 15% follow the Islamic faith.

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A detailed information paper should clearly delineate background information on needs, use of proposed funds, and how the plans fit into the spreading of the Word in the LCMS.

This grant request will assist India Bible Study to accomplish its goal of translating The Lutheran Study Bible (LSB) into 15 major languages of India. Grant funds will support the production and distribution processes of this ambitious undertaking. Our focus for the LWML 2026-2028 District Mission Grant cycle will be on the language of Malayalam.

In cooperation with CPH, the copyright holder of the LSB, and the Bible Society of India, the copyright holder of all Indian language Bible texts, the mission of India Bible Study is to publish the study notes and commentary from the LSB together with the Bible texts that Indian Christians are familiar with and love so that all Indian speaking people can better understand and experience the joy of studying God's word. The study Bible will be published as the "India Study Bible".

Current need. – Translation of the study notes and commentary, editing and production of the books.

With an annual operating budget of \$126,882, India Bible Study is requesting prayers and funding in the amount of \$5,000 from South Dakota District Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) towards layout, publishing, and distributing The LSB in Malayalam which will be titled, "India Study Bible - Malayalam" by 2028.

Translation and editing is done by local language speakers. Comparative, linguistic and theological checks ensure that notes reflect intended theological understanding. Once the text is approved, the layout of the text, commentary, notes and illustrations is done. The final steps are printing and distribution.

Facilities. - Use of existing facilities in India for ongoing project. Translators meet in person at the Bible Faith Lutheran Church's headquarters in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India and via zoom to discuss sections. Personal and church computers are used.

Budget for proposed programs. Approximately \$100,000 total budget per language

Initial India Study Bible distributions will be through existing networks of Lutheran congregations and seminaries.

Indicate partial funding from other sources and remaining funds.

Donations from individuals, congregations and LWML groups.

Who is responsible for implementing the grant and administering funds. India Bible Study Translation Project (IBS) is a nonprofit 501c3 organization based in Minnesota. IBS has applied for Recognized Service Organization (RSO) status with The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) on August 19, 2024. We are excited about this relationship which emphasizes our intention to foster the mission and ministry of LCMS with programs and activities that are in harmony with the Synod. Concordia Publishing House, the official publishing arm of the LCMS and copyright holder of The Lutheran Study Bible, has granted a license to India Bible Study to translate and publish the notes and commentary into the Indian languages. Additionally, LCMS seminary professors and pastors have been presenters at the annual Telugu Pastors Symposium hosted by the Bible Faith Lutheran Church in India, located in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, for the past fifteen years. The Symposium is a three-day educational program that is attended by 350-400 pastors each year who hunger for theologically and doctrinally sound advanced Bible-based education.

Who has special knowledge of the grant. IBS Board of Directors.

Any other information pertinent to the grant. For more information about the ministry see: <https://IndiaStudyBible.org> and <https://bflmi.org/>

Thank you for your consideration.



IBS Translation Project

2025 South Dakota District LWML Grant Proposal

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These recently ordained pastors of the Bible Faith Lutheran Church in India will use the India Study Bible for sermon preparation and for education of congregational members as well as interested learners.



The leadership and translation teams begin meetings and work sessions in prayer.



Many eyes and resources are used to ensure note meanings are maintained, especially with language and cultural differences.

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Meeting with Bible Society of India – For permission to use Biblical texts within India.



Congregational teen using the Bible to grow in faith.