

Commissioning Address by Mr. Samuel Kakui, BTL Executive Director: ***Stewarding the Future of BTL***

Friday, 30 January 2026

I am deeply grateful to God for the privilege to serve in this high calling. When God opened the door for me to serve in BTL about 18 years ago, I could not have fully comprehended the path He would lead me down. Therefore, I am humbled by God's grace and by His sovereign choice.

I am sincerely grateful to the BTL Board for placing their trust and confidence in me. I receive this responsibility from you with humility, fully aware that I am just a steward and that this work belongs to God. As I step into this role, I do not feel fully adequate. I bring a willing heart fully committed to this call and wholly dependent on God's grace.

At this time, BTL marks 45 years of God's faithfulness since its inception. Those who were part of its early days, as well as those of us who joined along the way, can testify to the remarkable journey that this ministry has taken. It is a legacy shaped by faith, sacrifice, and lasting impact.

As I reflect on this journey of BTL, I am filled with deep respect for the former leaders who have served this organization with courage, integrity, and unwavering commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. BTL is truly thankful for the great leadership of Canon Micah Amukobole, Mr. Mundara Muturi, and, most recently, Rev. Peter Munguti. It is a profound honour to serve in the line of such servants of God.

At this point in BTL's journey, we have inherited an organization with well-established systems and structures, a contrast to these earlier leaders who had to build this ministry from the foundation up. My responsibility now is clear: to strengthen, refine, and faithfully steward what is already in an advanced stage, so that the organization continues to serve God's purposes well into the future.

To the staff, you are a vital part of this calling. The Vision of BTL cannot be carried by systems, but by people who serve with skill, faith, and dedication. We commit ourselves to continually equip you, develop your gifts, and provide an environment where you can serve with excellence and dignity. We desire to cultivate a workplace where each of you can look forward to coming to work each day, knowing that your contribution matters and that together we are advancing God's Kingdom in whatever role we play.

We thank God for the many Bible translations that have already been completed. This year, we are set to celebrate an unprecedented milestone with the dedication of one complete Bible in the Marakwet language and five New Testaments: Kabarasi, Tachoni, Tugen, Taveta, and *Weera. However, as we celebrate this great milestone, we are acutely aware of the enormous task before us. Many among us wait to receive God's word in their heart language. God has called us not merely to activity, but to faithfulness, and faithfulness demands urgency. We cannot afford to delay. Every day without access to God's Word is a day souls remain without the transforming truth of the Gospel. Therefore, when Bible translation is postponed, what is at stake is far more than timelines or targets; it is the eternal destiny of men, women, and children who have not yet heard God speak to them in a language they understand. We are therefore compelled to act with a holy sense of urgency, doing everything within our power to ensure that God's Word reaches His people swiftly.

We will embrace appropriate technology, believing that all knowledge God grants to mankind is ultimately meant to advance His Kingdom. We will prayerfully adopt reliable tools that accelerate the work, while remaining firmly committed to the human processes that ensure accuracy, faithfulness, and naturalness in translation.

The work of BTL does not stop at Translation. Our primary focus will always be transformed lives. Even the strongest systems mean little if they do not result in changed hearts and renewed communities. We will continue to translate the Bible with the end-result in mind- lives transformed by the living Word of God, especially among the communities we are called to serve.

Scripture Engagement will therefore be central to our mission. By the grace of God, we will intentionally commit resources and efforts to ensure that translated Scriptures are not only produced, but also actively used. We desire to see Scripture return to family living rooms and saturate communities through written, audio, and visual forms. We will strengthen community ownership of translation projects, knowing this greatly enhances acceptability, sustainability, Scripture Use, and long-term impact.

Alongside Bible translation, literacy remains central to our mission. BTL has partnered closely with the Ministries of Education and Culture, county governments, and national institutions to promote mother-tongue education and indigenous languages across our nation. We will continue to strengthen these partnerships. More recently, we established a Language Services Unit to respond to broader national language needs through translation, interpretation, and related services. We will explore new technologies, including emerging tools, to advance and preserve our indigenous languages. I will give full support to the Language Programmes Department to faithfully execute this vital mandate.

As you can already imagine, BTL cannot fulfil this calling alone. Collaboration has always been very key to BTL. We will strengthen partnerships with like-minded organizations and work closely with our partners as we grow together. We will also extend our support to other organizations across Africa where our expertise may be needed.

Our work beyond Kenya has only just begun in Tanzania, South Sudan, and the Nuba Mountains. We will continue listening attentively to that Macedonian Call, and with great courage venture into new territories. We pray that BTL's work within the greater East African countries will grow significantly.

We will trust God to strengthen our resource mobilization, knowing that without resources, the work cannot move forward. If we lack resources, what will be at stake is not merely BTL projects, programs, or systems, but the Great Commission itself. We will trust God to expand our kingdom businesses and our local fundraising initiatives significantly and commit ourselves to good stewardship and accountability for the resources entrusted to us.

BTL remains the Bible translation arm of the Church. The work we do fully belongs to the Church. We do not work or exist independently. We affirm our relationship with the Church and will continue to give account to it. We remain focused on the work that the Church has entrusted to us, fully aware that we are a Church organization, and shall not become anything else. We commit to diligently and intentionally keep safeguarding BTL from any drift away from its spiritual mandate or Church foundation. We ask the Church to continue holding us responsible and accountable.

I ask for your prayers so that I may serve the Almighty God with excellence, a sense of urgency, unwavering devotion and above all with utmost faithfulness. It is therefore with great humility and a deep sense of responsibility before God that I accept this Call.

Thank you,
Mr. Samuel Kakui,
BTL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.