



At the Well

Tim and Lisa Beckendorf, LBT missionaries in Botswana



Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:13, 14 (NIV)

Trip to the U.S.

As those of you who receive our e-updates know, Lisa's dad suffered a stroke on the 31st of March. Things were looking pretty good the next day, but then apparently he suffered one or two more strokes. Lisa's sister flew from South Carolina to be with Lisa's mom and was able to stay for a week, then Lisa's aunt flew from Albuquerque to spend two weeks with Lisa's mom. Lisa was very anxious to be with her mom to help out, so with the permission of LBT we arranged to come back to the States early to begin a 'mini' furlough.

We left our home in Shakawe on a Monday to drive down to Maun to catch a flight there to Johannesburg, South Africa. Just for a bit of excitement, about 40 minutes from Maun the alternator belt on the truck came apart and took out the fan belt with it. So while Lisa, Aaron, and our friend who was going to drive our truck back up to Shakawe waited in the shade of a nearby tree, I replaced the belts and 45 minutes later we were on our way again. Aside from that bump in the road, our travels went without a hitch. We arrived weary but well in St. Louis on Wednesday afternoon, April 25th.

Lisa's mom met us at the airport and we went from there to the hospital to visit Lisa's dad. Unfortunately just

as we arrived an ambulance crew was in the midst of taking him to a nearby emergency room as his heart rate had dropped very low and he was unresponsive. He had aspirated food into his lungs and was moved to intensive care and put on a ventilator. Each day



has been a roller coaster, one day up and the next day a set back. He has had pneumonia and several infections (caught while in the hospital), but now he is awaiting evaluations by all the various therapists and doctors so the doctors can ascertain the effects of the strokes and he can begin rehabilitation. So far, he is able to communicate, move his hands, arms, and legs with effort, and can reason well, but is still needing help with his breathing -- though hopefully he can be weaned off the ventilator soon. Although I was very reluctant to leave Botswana at this time, we are glad to be here to help out.

- Please give thanks for our safe and uneventful travels.
- Please pray that Lisa's dad would be granted healing and restoration of health and mobility.

Now that we are here . . .

We plan to be in Red Bud, Illinois, with Lisa's mom until the end of June. At that time we'll be up in Appleton, WI, for my parent's 50th wedding anniversary and at this point plan to stay there for the birth of the baby. We are anxious to have some doctor visits for Lisa and the baby as there has been little to no prenatal care/monitoring in Botswana.

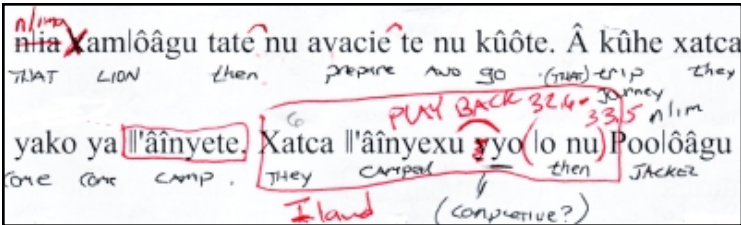
While waiting for our baby we will also be visiting a few congregations. Though we do not have a schedule yet, we hope to see congregations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Eastern Nebraska, and the Detroit area of Michigan.

- Please pray for wisdom in planning visits to congregations.
- Please pray for a normal, healthy pregnancy and a safe and successful delivery of our second child.

Language Learning on hold?

As Aaron would say, No Way Jose. Language learning will just be done with a different approach. For the week before we left, while trying to get everything buttoned up, I spent a considerable amount of time with my language helpers working through one of the fables that we had recorded and transcribed. We worked through translating it word for word in a literal fashion into English and then we did a free translation into English.

Now that I have that done I can work through the text in a number of ways analyzing and trying to understand how the language works in a narrative. I will be busy with just this one text for months, as it is rather lengthy. It is the story of a jackal who goes hunting with his uncle, the lion. The lion tricks his nephew into eating the lungs of the eland that the nephew killed instead of the choice fat portions, which the lion kept for himself. The story continues with the nephew plotting to kill not only his uncle the lion but also the lion's wife, the jackal's aunt. It is a rather violent and grizzly story as most of the fables I've collected so far have been. They are not exactly bed time reading for children.



The fun doesn't stop with transcribing!

Entering the text into the computer and doing an interlinear analysis will also allow me to continue work on the lexicon that we've begun as each word/morpheme is entered into the lexicon database as I analyze them. Along with looking at text and dissecting it, I have numerous recordings that I can listen to in order to sharpen my listening skills. This will give me plenty of work to do for learning language even though we are about 13,000 miles

Aaron

As he was two years ago, once again Aaron was a terrific little traveler. He weathered the flights much better than mom or dad but hey, he was able to stretch out over two seats and sleep much of the time.

Since arriving, he has had his fill of "big trucks" and tractors. There are houses being built next door and across the street from Lisa's parent's house, so he has been able to watch cement trucks coming and going, which has been a thrill for him.

- Give thanks for Aaron as he grows and develops.
- Please pray for adaptability for Aaron as we will be doing a lot of traveling and visiting while here in the U.S.

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Your servants in Christ,
Tim, Lisa, and Aaron Beckendorf