



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)

Kûûma (traveler)

On November 11th, I (Tim) said so long to Lisa, Aaron, and Andrew and headed back to Botswana. The travel was uneventful, thankfully, but it was good to finally get off the plane. For the next week I attended our annual team meetings with our supervisor Jim Laesch. We had some really good discussions and it was nice to spend time with our colleagues and friends.

Lisa and the boys will join me here in January. Not soon enough for dad. I could really use my little mechanic Aaron around here. I've had to replace the cooling system on our truck and I know he would have loved to have helped. I'm saving some less crucial fixing for when they are all back so that Aaron doesn't miss out on helping dad "fix".

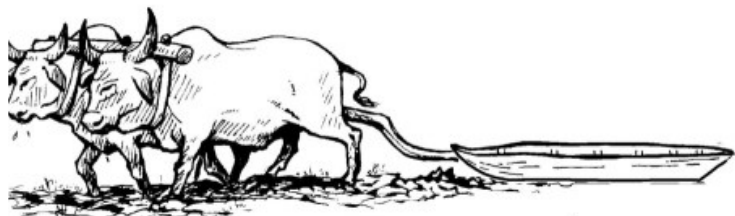
Please pray for patience and good phone connections during this time of separation.

Ca hambe (no water)

Since returning to Botswana, it seems that water is foremost on everyone's mind. It is the beginning of the rainy season and so far the rains have been rather slight. Everyone is hoping that this year will be better than last year when very little rain fell.

The people out in the villages are really thinking of water, as in, where is it?

In one village, people were using cows, yoked together, to pull dugout canoes filled with water buckets from the river to the village because the pump had run out of diesel fuel. In a way, it reminded me of Culligan deliveries back home.



Here we were sitting around under a tree talking and all of a sudden two cows pulling a canoe appeared from behind the hut and the "delivery men" started unloading water. When they were finished at that place they headed on to the next little family compound. At least that village is right next to the river, so it isn't such a problem to get water.

Things were a bit more serious elsewhere. In another place, it seems that the district council took the village well pump to replace one that had broken at another village and promptly broke this one as well. So, the people were left with no water and were walking six miles to the river to haul jugs back to the village. This had been going on for about a month. I heard about it and borrowed a small water trailer and took them several loads of water. After getting everyone's water jugs full, two of the village leaders and I headed down to Gumare (an hour and a half south of here) to talk to the council about the situation and see what could be done. They made a lot of promises but so far no help has materialized.



Jesus made a promise to the woman at the well that whoever drank the living water from Jesus would never be thirsty again. As you recall, she was very eager to have that water so she wouldn't have to keep coming to the well to haul water. Like the woman at the well

many people here don't recognize that Jesus is speaking to their spiritual condition. Their mouths are dry and bodies thirsty. It seems to be very difficult to get people interested in eternal things when their every thought is about where are they going to get food and water for today.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit would open the people's hearts to receive the Living Water of Jesus.

Literacy workshop

Once again, the Khwedam language committee held their biannual literacy workshop. These coincide with the school break so that the students who are in school can attend the workshop. So far the committee has been focusing on teaching students who are already literate in Setswana and English (by virtue of going to school) to read and write Khwedam.

The group of about 30 students was divided into two sections, the more advanced and relative beginners. The advanced class spent a good part of their time reading and discussing some of the stories from the elders that we have been transcribing.



The students also participated in translating two booklets on HIV/AIDS from English into Khwedam. The booklets are part of a series of five that addresses HIV/AIDS and how the church communities can respond by reaching out to those suffering from the disease. The booklets come from Shellbook Publishing which allow a person who has a license to make a derivative copy of any book that is offered. All the formatting, pictures, etc. is done and all that a

person needs to do is translate the publication into the community's language, in our case Khwedam. This booklet is really well done and I'm excited about it because it approaches the problem of HIV/AIDS from the perspective of God's Word. If it is the wish of the Khwe churches here, translating the Scripture referenced in the booklets would be a good place for our yet to be established Bible translation team to begin work next year.

Please pray for good preparations as we look forward to beginning Bible translation in 2008.

Please give thanks with us for all of you who are making this work possible! Together may we have faithful, fruitful, and joyful service in our Lord.

Your servants in Christ,

Tim, Lisa, Aaron, and Andrew Beckendorf

Correspondence and Support Information

You may support this ministry with gifts made out to Lutheran Bible Translators and indicate that they are for the Beckendorf Ministry. They may be mailed to:

Lutheran Bible Translators
303 North Lake Street, Box 2050
Aurora, IL 60507-2050.

You may also contribute on-line through LBT's secure web site: <https://lbt.gospelcom.net/involve/giftsec.php>

Additionally, you may also support our ministry by using electronic fund transfer. Please call LBT@ 1-800-532-4253 for details.

You may contact us at:

e-mail: tlbeckendorf@LBT.org
web site: <http://www.LBT.org/beckendorf>