



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)

What does this mean?

In our last prayer letter we wrote about the transcribing that we were doing of recorded stories. Well, this last month I (Tim) have been working to analyze the grammar of Khwedam based on some of the stories that my helper, Moses, and I have translated into English. The process has been going rather slowly but it has been very enlightening. For example, in simple sentences and in isolation most words are rather short and simple, but in a stream of speech they suddenly have all kinds of endings that I have not encountered before. So, when translating the stories into English I would ask what the new ending meant. Most of the time the answer was, "Oh that has no meaning, it's just the way we say it." or "That just says something about this word" or "That just means 'going'" (and this was in a five word sentence where three of the words supposedly meant 'go'). Hmm. So, we kept looking for the same endings on other words and in other contexts and finally figured out what two of the endings meant. I have been smiling for a week and trying to find someone who can share my excitement over this "great" grammatical discovery. Guess why you are reading about it.

Next I will begin looking at the structure of the stories to try to understand how the language clues the listener as to where the high and low points are in a story. This is my favorite part of language analysis, and thankfully there is another missionary in the country who also enjoys it so we can compare findings and not bore our families to tears.

- Please pray that Tim will have the skills to do a good job of language analysis.
- Thank God that Tim has willing language helpers

to help with translating the stories, and pray that these helpers will become interested in learning how their language works.

\x	tahinu	cx'akhwelua	u
\mb	tahinu	cx'akhwe -lua	u
\ge	and then, after that man	-more than three morning	
\ps	adv	n	-num n
\t	and then the men get up early in the morning		
\x	khomanako		
\mb	khoma	-na	-ko
\ge	begin to dawn	-allomorph of -a	-relates successive actions
\ps	v	-mood	-rel
\t	when the light begins to dawn and		
\x	fi nu llgèkhwedji	tamaxa khomanako	xadjioma
\mb	u *nu llgèkhwe -dji	*tamaxa *khomanako	*xadji -ma
\ge	hunt *** woman	-plural ***	*** _***
\ps	n *** n	-num ***	*** -mkr
\t	go hunting and the women also get up and go to collect food.		

A rough analysis and free translation. Doesn't it look like fun!

Family Matters

The New Year began for us much in the way it ended, with Lisa feeling sick and exhausted. While this is not such good news on the surface, it does mean that Aaron will have a sibling to contend with sometime in August. For various reasons, we'd like to have the delivery of the baby in the U.S., so that means we have some planning to do for a Stateside visit. We are hoping that we can combine the birth of the baby with some visits to congregations and also with Tim taking a class or two down in Dallas where he is working on his masters in linguistics. Right now no plans have been finalized but they need to be soon.

- Please pray for wisdom in planning our time in the States.
- Please pray for a normal, healthy pregnancy and a safe and successful delivery of our new child.

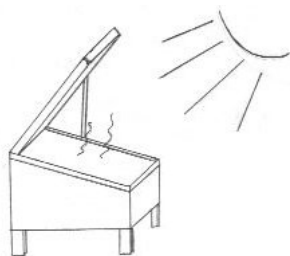
Money Matters

We mentioned in our last prayer letter the need for a second vehicle and additional funds for our household setup. Your response has been overwhelming and both funds were fully funded within a matter of weeks. We are really humbled, overwhelmed, and filled with thanksgiving for all of you. Your support of this ministry is just amazing and we thank God for each of you.

- Give thanks that we have so many supporters who care deeply about this ministry and us.

Botswana Bits

Botswana averages 8 hours of sunshine a day year round so it makes sense to use this free energy source as much as possible. One of our neighbors built some sun ovens which are basically a wooden box with a double paned glass lid that is situated at a 30 degree angle to the base. There is also a mirror that reflects the sun into the box. It requires checking about every hour to reposition it as the sun moves but it works great! The first day we used it we cooked bread, rice, and corn meal porridge for the dogs, and when those were done (in three hours) Tim was excitedly looking for something else we could cook. It is nice not to heat up the house cooking with a conventional oven (especially during the summer!) and also not using any gas. Although we usually look forward to cloudy days, the sunny days are great for cooking.



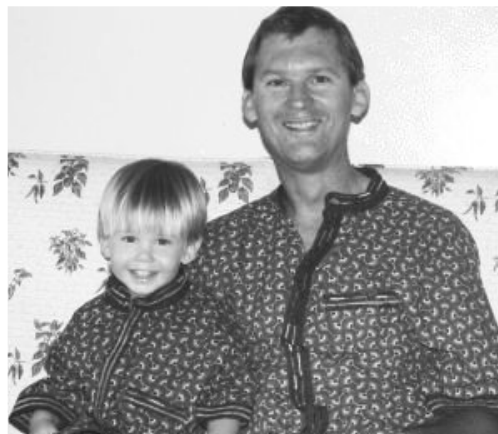
E-Updates Available

If you have access to e-mail and would like to receive more monthly updates on our ministry and what is happening in our lives, just drop us a line at tlbeckendorf@LBT.org letting us know you would like to be added to our list. The updates are usually fairly short and come out the beginning of each month.

Aaron

Aaron celebrated his second birthday on the 27th of January. Because Mom wasn't feeling well, Dad baked a "cake" for Aaron. I've never claimed to be a baker and this cake was the proof. For lack of proper ingredients as well as skill, the birthday cake was more like a very firm pudding, but we enjoyed the celebration in spite of it. Aaron was more interested in the presents anyway (more tools!).

- Give thanks for Aaron as he grows and develops.
- Please pray for another blessed year of physical and spiritual growth for Aaron.



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Your servants in Christ,

Tim, Lisa, and Aaron Beckendorf