

Greetings from the Beckendorfs in Texas,

Since this is our first official newsletter as missionaries with LBT and since some of you may be receiving our news updates for the first time, we thought it best to introduce ourselves in a brief way so that everyone can be on the same page, as it were.

Tim graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in May of 2003 and was ordained at our vicarage congregation, Immanuel Lutheran in Osmond Nebraska, on June 29th. In July we placed most of our belongings in storage and moved to Dallas where we are now studying at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in preparation for serving overseas as translators. Lisa has been our breadwinner for the last six years and is now experiencing the other side of life: that of a full time student. Though there were adjustments to our lifestyle and schedule, everything has gone very well.

The good news here is that we have finished our first semester of study,



otherwise known as the MOD 20 (27 credit hours in 20 weeks). Though the pace of study and the work was intense it was a great learning experience. The last term was by far the most enjoyable as we put into practice all that we'd learned the previous terms. Together we wrote a phonological analysis, a grammatical analysis, parsed all the morphemes of a short text (a Tshiluba story

about a hunter and a boa that talks to him), and created a lexicon for Tshiluba, which is a language of the southern part of Congo. This was all completed in a mere eight weeks.

Some of you may be wondering what all this linguistic lingo means: what's a phonology, what's it mean to parse a morpheme, what in the world is a morpheme (a request for additional 'pheme'?) and so forth. Well, in short the work was a simulation of the kind of work we'll be conducting in the field. After this experience we are more anxious than ever to actually begin work in the field. However, we still have more learning and skills to acquire and funding to raise before we leave for our field destination. In the next few months, as we find out, we will let you know where we are assigned and who the people are that we will be serving.

In the mean time, we'll be here in Dallas, taking classes, at least until June. Lisa is going to be taking classes in Scripture use and Tim will be taking classes which are foundational for translation work.

We ask that you would please keep us in your prayers as we prepare to serve God's people by enabling them to have God's Word in their heart language.

Some specific prayer requests:

- ❖ That we would internalize all the linguistic and sociolinguistic material that we are learning so that we can serve with excellence.
- ❖ That Lisa's Uncle Bill will be granted healing from pancreatic cancer.

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- ⌘ Lisa's sister returned safely from Bagdad.
- ⌘ We have successful completed our first semester of linguistic study.