

# On the road with the Beckendorfs

## Tim's Travels

In December, Tim was on the road, in the air, and back on the road again traveling from St. Louis to Botswana. This is the first time that one of us was able to visit the country where we will be serving with Lutheran Bible Translators. My (Tim) host for this visit was the Richard Cook family who not only housed me but drove me around the country so that I could visit the area where we'll be living and working. My visit was very productive and informative and instilled in me an even greater urgency to get there and actually begin the work that is waiting there for us. My visit can best be characterized by the word "anticipation".

## A season of anticipation:

What do cows have to do with my visit to Botswana and anticipation? Well, the beginning of summer (December) is a season of great anticipation: waiting for the seasonal rains that will refill the village water supplies, for rains that will replenish the parched earth so that vegetation will once again grow, so that the cows (and other livestock) can put some weight back on after a long dry season, so that they can regain their strength so that they can pull a plow, so that the soil can be prepared for planting, so that another year's food supply can be eventually harvested.



You could almost hear the sighs of relief from the ground, the animals, and the people as the rains began to fall with increasing regularity. I was able to witness many plots of land undergoing transformation as the donkeys and cattle pulled the plows turning over last year's stubble in anticipation of this coming year's bounty.

## Years of anticipation



I was able to meet with both language committees that we'll be working with, the Yeyi and the Khwe. I met with the Yeyi team at the University of Botswana, which is in the capital city, Gaborone. One week later, Richard Cook, two of his boys, and I traveled 13 hours north to Shakawe, where Richard and I met with the Khwe language committee (picture). They were very excited to meet the person whose arrival they have been anticipating for several years, the person who would be working with them to develop their language and bring them God's Word in the language of their heart. But, as we discussed our time table for arriving in the country and beginning work with them (early 2006) their excitement seemed to fade into a quiet resolve to wait some more.

The Beckendorf Chronicles



Carla Krazl

### Anticipating the unexpected

When in Africa, you can count on the unexpected to challenge your schedule. On our trip back from Shakawe, Richard's VW Combi van broke down in a small village. There was no mechanic for hundreds of miles, but thankfully we were able to contact another missionary, Christof Weber, who is a pastor from the Lutheran Church of South Africa. He drove 3 ½ hours from his home to tow us with his vehicle back to his house. From there, on Sunday morning mind you, he towed us to the village where he was preaching and from there, a mechanic from Gabarone towed us to his garage in the capital. All in all, we were towed about 350 miles. Although this was an inconvenience for all involved, it gave me a great opportunity to chat at length with Rev. Weber about his work among the Tsoa in the Central Kalahari. Rev. Weber and the Tsoa are also waiting anxiously for the day when another missionary can arrive to work with them to translate the Bible into the Tsoa language.

### Waiting in anticipation is hard

Because the Khwe and Yeyi were so let down when they found out how much longer they would have to wait for us, we are looking into leaving for Botswana earlier than originally planned (June, rather than September). So we wait with great anticipation for the day when we will actually depart for Botswana to begin this important work with these people. Presently our monthly ministry support goal has been reached but now we need to maintain or even exceed that monthly goal so that we can be confident that our support needs will be met while we are on the field.

Our other funds, one for our vehicle and the other for setting up our household are still in need. The vehicle fund is at 37% and our household fund is 71% of our goal. While our ministry support is of paramount importance to the work, these other needs are crucial as well.

We are extremely grateful for all of our supporters, for those of you who faithfully bring us and this project before the Lord in prayer, and for all of you who support our ministry with your financial gifts. We couldn't do this without you! If you haven't already, please consider becoming a partner in the mission to bring God's life-giving Word to the Yeyi and the Khwe people in Botswana.

*Finally, on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:07 am, our season of anticipation concluded with the birth of Aaron Lee Beckendorf. He weighed 7 pounds even and is 20 inches long. He is the most adorable baby we've ever seen, though we might be just slightly biased. There are a couple photos of Aaron on our web site for your viewing pleasure. We anticipate bringing him into our Lord's family through the waters of Holy Baptism on February 19<sup>th</sup>.*

### Please pray for us:

- Recovery and health for Lisa and the baby
- That we will soon reach all of our support goals and be able to begin work in Botswana
- Comfort and Peace for the family of William Hansen, Lisa's Uncle, who passed away in December

### Botswana Bits:

If someone were to tell you that you were "fat and smooth" you'd probably be very offended, but in Botswana that is a compliment. To be "fat and smooth" means that you are in good health and are eating well. May you all be "fat and smooth" in this New Year.

**Sala Sentle!**

**Stay Well!**

*Tim and Lisa Beckendorf*

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