



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)

Relationship Building in the Caprivi Strip

A large part of our work here in Botswana is building relationships. For a long time we have had limited success in trying to find churches here that are interested in Khwedam materials and Scripture. There are a few churches that use Khwedam in the services exclusively, but by and large they are not using Scripture but a mixture of traditional beliefs along with an understanding of Christianity that has been gleaned from limited contact with missionaries and 'prophet churches' (more emphasis is given to what "God" says through the local "prophet" than what God reveals through His Word). While these churches can certainly benefit from having God's Word in their language, they are not going to be the primary supporters of the project. There is one little Christian congregation led by a very committed pastor that I have visited from time to time. However, he serves a congregation that is primarily composed of another tribe, and although Khwe worship there they are few in number, so the pastor usually uses the other language and not Khwedam in his services. He is, though, very committed to having the Bible available in Khwedam so that the few Khwe that do attend the church can have access to God's Word in their language. He tells me that they consistently pray for the project. He is our one bright spot on this side of the border, which brings me to the Namibian side.

About half of the Khwe people live in Namibia, and we are trying very hard to include them in the Bible translation process. I've made a number of trips there



We live where the "a" is in "Caprivi".

to visit with people and to try to find church leaders. It is always a challenge to find the people that you're looking for, but my last trip there I felt like I walked into a gold mine. I met with three church leaders, who gave me names of ten other church leaders in the Caprivi Strip (that's the part of Namibia that is right above the Botswana border). I was really encouraged to find an elderly man who is a deacon in the Lutheran church. I had met him on a prior visit and he was so grateful that we came back and met with him again. Our plans are to return in July to meet with all of the leaders and share with them the work we have been doing, and to invite them to provide input and direction for the Bible translation project.

Please pray that the relationships begun may develop and grow into fruitful partnerships.

Immigration

Thanks to your prayers, we are one step closer to having our residency permits renewed. The process has not been easy, but it never is for anyone here. We have scrambled to provide documentation that was not needed last time, faxed it down to the regional office, only to hear that then they needed something else. This went on for two months. Then one Monday I received a phone call telling me that I needed to be down in the regional office the next day so that they could issue me a waiver. Yeah! They finally accepted our papers for renewal and the waiver is a piece of paper that allows us to remain as residents until our proper permits are typed up.

Give thanks that immigration has finally accepted our papers for renewing our residency permits. Please pray that the paperwork will not get lost in the system (as often happens) and that our application will be processed quickly and our residency renewed.

Training Mother Tongue Translators

One of the highlights of this past month has been going through a book on Bible translation principles with Moses and a couple of the other guys who are interested in working as translators. We have only gone through four chapters of the book but the guys are very enthusiastic and eager to do more. They were very proud of a verse that they translated in 1 Corinthians as part of a practice exercise, showing off their work on the chalk board to a person who was visiting from Namibia. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to meet regularly as the guys have other commitments and we have to wait until at least two of them can meet. They don't like to work alone and prefer to have as many others around to help as possible. Moses is committed to doing whatever he can to be a part of the translation team. The other guys have interest but at this point aren't able to commit to full time work on the project.

Please pray for committed people who are willing and able to work full time on this project.

Family

Our family is all doing well, and both boys enjoy life in Botswana. At 3 years old Aaron is still our tool nut, if we want to reward him for something we take him to the hardware store. A good day for him begins with talking to dad about tools, and ends with a tool talk right before sleep. Andrew is 11 months old now and has started taking his first steps--by the time you receive this letter he will probably be running. He is our little go-getter, is very social, always wants to be in the middle of the action and is quite vocal about getting what he wants. We are fortunate in that there were several expat babies born in 2007, and Andrew has three playmates he can grow up with. Aaron, on



the other hand, is the only 3-year-old around, but since he is so shy I think he actually prefers it that way.

Give thanks to God for healthy and happy children!

Botswana Bits

Many times as we go shopping or read the names of various shops we are reminded that English is not the mother tongue of the people here, even though many of them use it so well. Sometimes we smile at the 'unique' usage of English, other times we are just confused about what was intended. Below are some examples, see if you can match up the brand name or title with the product or store. Answers are below.

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|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Eet-sum-mor | A. Driving School |
| 2. Surge | B. Photo Studio |
| 3. Surprise | C. Liquor Store |
| 4. Blind Beggar | D. Laxative |
| 5. Mummy's (Mother's) | E. Pharmacy |
| 6. Revert | F. Cookies |

Answers: 1-F, No sense in being subtle about what you want the consumer to do. 2-D, Ok, would you use it? 3-A, One is afraid to ask what the surprise is. 4-B, Not surprisingly no longer in business, but what were they thinking? 5-C, What kind of mother is this? 6-E.

Correspondence and Support Information

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Your servants in Christ

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