



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)

Say What?

This past month I (Tim) have been busy with transcribing text from recordings of stories I had collected from two villages. This has been a great way to tune my ear to different voices other than the guys who regularly help me, to learn new vocabulary, and to understand how longer chunks of speech are put together ... but it has also been a real challenge. The past two days we were working on a story from a woman that I guess to be in her 90's. She has no teeth and so all of the sounds that are made against the front teeth are missing. That means that where you'd expect to hear a dental click there is no sound that I'm familiar with. Thankfully the guys helping me know what sounds should be where, otherwise I would have come up with some bizarre words. In another story, the man telling it would contract and abbreviate words so that the word 'taxunu' which is a conjunction meaning 'but' or 'also' would come out as 'ta'. The word 'ta' has a multitude of meanings depending on the context but it never means 'but' or 'also'. Without my helpers I would have written 'ta' and come up with some interesting interpretations.



Tim working with language helpers.

So far we have finished 13 stories and are almost done with two villages. Six other villages would like to record their stories also. When finished, each village will have a booklet of their stories and an audio cassette to listen to. We are

hoping that this will whet their appetite to have more things written and recorded in Khwedam, like God's Word!

Give thanks for Moses and Malebogo, my helpers in this project who are very dedicated to this work.

Please pray that my understanding of the language will steadily increase.

Working "Overseas"

We have been doing all the transcribing of the stories on the other side of the river in the village of



The office at Ngarange

Ngarange where the development committee has an office that is not being used. Getting to the village is half the fun. First, we cross the river on a ferry that everyone calls the pontoon because that is what it is; a big pontoon boat that is powered by two outboard motors. It can hold up to four vehicles if they are small enough. Then once we drive off on the other side we bounce our way 18 miles to the office. The "road" is a series of short stretches of sand and/or clay connected by pot holes. Some of the holes are big enough to house a herd of goats -- or now that the rains have started, a small pod of hippos. It takes about an hour or so to get to the office.

The vast majority of the Khwe people in Botswana live on the other side of the river and the village of Ngarange where we are doing the transcriptions is about in the middle of the population. We are trying to give the language and Bible translation project as much exposure as we can, encouraging the community to take ownership of the project. I've had informal meetings with several of the pastors there, requesting their input and involvement in the project. One of the pastors occasionally sits in on our transcription sessions and we are hoping that the interest will spread.

Please pray that the Khwe community will really take ownership of the translation project so that it will have sustainability.

Give thanks for our vehicle that has held up very well in spite of hard driving conditions.



Money Matters

Part 1: Vehicle Fund

You may have gathered from our prayer letters that our ministry involves quite a bit of travel, especially for Tim. I (Lisa) am often left at home alone with Aaron, and since we have only the one vehicle I have no way of getting anywhere should the need arise--or to pick up Tim if his vehicle breaks down. We have been looking for a good used vehicle, and are considering one owned by a fellow missionary. We do have some funds available for purchasing a car, but we still need about \$4,500. We are reopening our vehicle fund, with the hopes that we can buy this vehicle (exactly like our current vehicle, but in much better condition). This is a great opportunity for those who want to help out with a special one-time gift. Our prayer is that we have the funds in place soon!

Part 2: Household Setup Fund

As mentioned in our last prayer letter we also have a special project open for our household setup. Even though we have been here for several months now, there still are some things we need: a solar deep freeze so that we can stock up on food when we shop four hours away down in Maun is something that is high on our list. All together we are estimating we need about \$2,000 in this fund for the freezer and other things.

If you wish to contribute to either of these funds, please note on your gift that you want it used for 'Beckendorf vehicle fund' or 'Beckendorf household setup fund.'

Give thanks that we have so many supporters who care deeply about us.

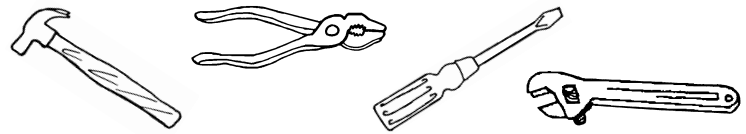
Please pray that God would raise up people who will contribute to these special projects.

Botswana Bits

The last time Tim was in Maun doing our monthly shopping he walked into the Butchery to buy some meat which he would pick up the next day. He noticed that pork was listed as available, so he asked the clerk if he could buy some. Sure, no problem. So Tim bought 15 lbs. of pork. The next day Tim stopped in for the meat. Everything was very nice, the order was all vacuum packed and ready to go. However, as Tim was paying he glanced down and noticed a little sticker on the meat package. Closer inspection revealed that apparently 'warthog' is considered pork. We are wondering what we would have gotten if Tim had asked for poultry. Ostrich?

Aaron

Going across the river usually involves a wait for the pontoon and sometimes the wait can be an hour and a half or more depending on how many cars need to cross. Earlier in the month Aaron went along with us for a meeting that Lisa had for planning the next literacy workshop. The wait for the pontoon was rather long that day, so Aaron passed the time "fixing" everything in the truck. We took out our tool pouch and with a pliers and an assortment of end wrenches everything was tightened or adjusted in and on the truck. Now whenever dad leaves the house to take the pontoon over the river, we hear the whole story of how Aaron floated on the water, on the pontoon, and fixed everything on the truck with his pliers and wrenches. It is a story he never gets tired of telling. The trip on the river wasn't so exciting as the tools he got to use.



Give thanks for Aaron as he grows and develops.

Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we continue to learn about parenting a soon to be 2 year old.

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
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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
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Your servants in Christ,

Tim, Lisa, and Aaron Beckendorf