



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)

BEGINNINGS

Yes, we have been working in our ministry with the Khwe for about two years now, but in many ways we feel like we are just beginning....

WHERE TO BEGIN

This past August we sat down with the Khwedam language committee and drew up a list of goals for 2009. This happens every year, but I am much more excited about these goals than I have been before. For the last two years we've been laying out a course that would lead us to translating God's Word into Khwedam; finally that course has led us to actually beginning. Up to now we've been meeting with church leaders, have translated some secular material, conducted language analysis, and will be participating in a workshop for Mother Tongue Translators in December. We have three or four guys who are wanting to be part of the translation team and this workshop will give them intensive training so that they will be equipped to begin the work.



Some of the men interested in working on the translation team.

Our goals for next year include translating just over 1000 verses of the Old Testament, producing a calendar for 2010 based on the creation account, assisting with literacy materials, and producing some Sunday school materials that will correspond with the verses we translate.

Genesis 1:1 in Hebrew

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

Genesis 1:1 in English

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 in Khwedam

Coming soon!!

We've begun discussing our plan for translation and are making progress. The creation account in Genesis will be our starting point. We have informally agreed to follow a translation plan that was devised by another missionary with LBT for small minority languages. Translating the whole of Scripture for small groups like the Khwe is not feasible for a number of reasons, so we intend to assist them in translating portions of the Old and New Testaments so that they have a good survey of the Bible. We plan to complete the selections of the Old Testament in two or three years and the New Testament selections in two years. Our goal is to publish each unit as we complete them so that they can be used as soon as possible rather than wait for the whole translation to be completed. For example, once we have completed the Joseph story in Genesis (all necessary checks finished), then we can publish it so that it can be used right away for Bible study and reading in church.

The form of publication is also something that we are considering. We will certainly print copies but most of the people cannot read Khwedam yet so we need to find out which medium will reach them most readily, whether it is CDs, story telling, songs, or drama. This we hope to accomplish early in 2009.

RELATIONSHIPS

In our last prayer letter we shared with you how important relationships are here in Africa. As we were discussing our plans for Bible translation, one of the guys asked me who would help them finish translating the rest of the Bible once we had

completed the agreed upon portions. I told him that by the time we had completed those portions of the Old and New Testament they would be equipped to finish the Bible on their own with only occasional outside help for checking. I told him that they could call me if we were still here or several others would be available to help them as they needed. I was very humbled and surprised by his response, "We don't want someone else to help us, we know you, we trust you Mr. Tim."

FINANCES

This year started out very well as we were fully supported the first four months of the year. However, since May our support has begun to wane. For the last four months we have only averaged 78% of our monthly need. For the year we are at 64% of our needed amount so with your help there is still opportunity for us to finish the year fully funded.

And now a word from our Sponsor...

THE MISSIONARY POOL

Summer is over, and for most of us, the pool has closed for the season. However, the missionary pool doesn't contain water, it is made up of funds, and it is very much open!

LBT operates on a pooled income system. Each missionary has an annual funding goal that relates to their budget. Gifts in support of LBT missionaries are applied to the budget of that missionary. If the budget for that missionary is fully-funded, surplus funds are used to assist other missionaries whose budgets are in deficit (such as new missionaries just starting out).

Thank you for your valued support of LBT missionaries. As of September 1, 2008 the missionary pool was at 76% of the needed amount. If you haven't given a gift in support of your missionary this year please prayerfully consider doing so at this time of need.

For questions concerning missionary funding please contact:

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LBT, P O Box 2050, Aurora IL 60507-2050
1-800-532-4253 or SVega@LBT.org

FAMILY

With the arrival of our new school books, Aaron and Lisa have unofficially begun pre-school. Aaron loves to read, which is a big plus. His favorites are the science books, and especially the one that talks about what is under the sea and one that explains snow--guess what we don't have around here....



Andrew continues to be a happy child, he enjoys being the center of attention and making Aaron and Dad laugh. His talents include grunting like a hippo, playing with the computer mouse, and zipping around getting into everything. He is not talking yet, but still manages to make his wants abundantly clear--usually quite loudly.



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
Aurora, IL 60507-2050.

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
web site: <http://www.LBT.org/beckendorf>

Your servants in Christ,

Tim, Lisa, Aaron and Andrew Beckendorf