



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)

Translation Tidbits

In our last prayer letter we wrote about some of the challenges in translating the flood account in Genesis. In July we took our draft of Genesis 6-11 out to one of the villages for checking. We read the sections out loud and then had discussions about what the people heard. We had several very lively discussions, including one concerning the word to use for "flood" and another about the word for "brick" in Genesis 11.

The word that we used to describe the flood in Genesis 6 is one that is used when talking about the annual floods that we have here every year at the end of the rainy season. The rains in the highlands of Angola fill the river up there and eventually the swollen river arrives here, seemingly overnight, filling the flood plains. At the village checking, the older people were adamant that this was not the same type of flood that is talked about in Genesis. That flood came from the heavens opening up and rain flooding the earth. So they came up with a description of a flood that comes from rain falling.



Typical building materials in the Khwe communities

The other discussion that lasted a long time was about the word for "brick". This wasn't too much of a surprise as the Khwe don't use bricks for building and

so that type of material isn't in their vocabulary. They have a rich vocabulary for materials used in building but for the most part they all involve grass and trees. They finally, after what seemed to me like an endless discussion, decided to use a term that literally means "man made stone".

Numbers are difficult. When translating Genesis 14:20, the account of Abraham giving Melchizedek a tenth of everything, we ran into some difficulty. We don't have a way of saying a tenth, so we ended up saying that Abram divided the plunder into 10 piles and gave one pile to Melchizedek.

Please pray for continued progress in translation and community involvement.

First Contact

For most of the participants in the checking sessions that we've had, this is really their first contact with the Bible. For the most part, they are all active in the local churches, however, after one session a participant commented to me, "We want to know what the church is. There are so many different churches in our villages and all they do is sing and pray, they don't teach us the Bible." Even Moses and Splash, our translators, are in unfamiliar territory as we work through Genesis. They really have never heard the stories before.

The people were amazed of the scope of the flood, that it covered the mountains. I heard some marveling that "it even covered Mt. Kilimanjaro (the highest mountain in Africa)!!?"

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of the people through God's Word that many may be saved and that through this work their faith will grow and mature.

Office in Ngarange

Since beginning our work here, we've been like hermit crabs, moving around and inhabiting whatever office space the local NGO (non government organization) had available. About ten years ago, the NGO built an office across the river in a village that then had a sizable Khwe population. However, the office was never really used and fell into disrepair and was vandalized. It is in a beautiful location and next to the main road by which many Khwe from a remote village regularly pass. We've been offered use of the office for as long as we need it as the NGO has no funding available to fix it or maintain it. We are excited at the opportunity to work there as we are rather hidden from the communities here in Shakawe and working there will give the work visibility. We have been working one day a week over there fixing things up and getting it ready to use. So far we have extended two of the walls to create a proper office and a resource room where all of the materials we produce will be on display and available to the communities. We've painted the interior and put up



The office across the river in Ngarange

burglar bars and still have to replace all the broken windows, connect water, put up a fence to keep the animals out, and put in solar electricity. We hope to begin working there in November. We've been encouraged by the community interest so far. Every time we are there working, people stop by to see what is going on and they all remark how nice it is looking and how pleased they are that we are going to be working there.

We give thanks for this opportunity to work closer to the Khwe communities. Please pray that our work there will increase community involvement and excitement about having God's Word in their language.

Travel in 2010

At this point, it looks as though we will be coming to the States for our scheduled furlough in the latter half of 2010. Although that seems like a long time from now, we have a lot of planning to do. When we are in the States, we would like to visit as many of our partners as possible, so if you are interested in having us visit and sharing with you the work we are doing on your behalf, please contact us (e-mail is best and our address is below) and we can begin to plan our travels Stateside.

Please pray for wisdom in planning and that we will get everything in order for our departure from here and our arrival in the U. S.

Correspondence and Support Information

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Your servants in Christ,

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