



## Life Updates

Rob is continuing to work with LBT and projects in Botswana while being based in St. Louis. Mical is working for another organization as a market analyst and all three of the kids are enjoying going to the same school (St. Paul's in Des Peres). As always we appreciate your support! Rob still requires support from individuals and churches so that this mission can continue. Thank you for partnering with us!

## Project Updates

The Shekgalagari Translation project has finished drafting the New Testament! This is great news and an accomplishment worth celebrating. The team was able to make a lot of progress over the past two and a half years because of the capacity building of previous missionaries.



At the Reviewer's Workshop this past September in Maun

Because the translators, Tshwari and Pontsho, are well educated in translation theory and Paratext, they have been able to work well with less supervision than typical. Of course the project isn't finished yet! Although the drafting has been completed, the draft must be checked by local reviewers. Much of the text has already been reviewed, so it won't be as though the team is starting that phase from the beginning. In addition, the team will finish "back translating" the texts and working with consultant Dr. Gerrit van Steenberg to finish checking. Once approved by the community and the project's consultant, it will be published by the Bible Society of Botswana. That will be a

cause for a big celebration in the Kalahari! The Bakgalagari have been waiting a long time for this.

## Recent Trip to Botswana

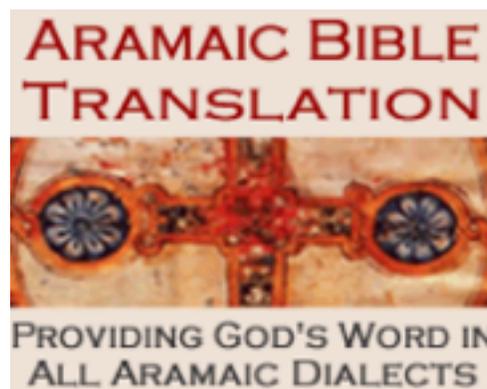
Rob made another trip to Botswana in September to work with the Grulke family on a number of project related activities. One of the main reasons for the trip was to help set up a review workshop in Maun. The workshop was very successful, allowing members of the advisory committee to meet Shekgalagari speakers from the Okavango Delta area. The main branch of the group left the Shekgalagari speaking area about 150 years ago and were isolated, so their dialect is quite different from the version spoken by the majority.

Rob was also able to meet with other projects in the Botswana and help with some administrative things. Overall it was a productive trip and was very necessary as more duties are being passed to Carl and Kelsey Grulke.

## An Exciting Opportunity

Even though Rob is continuing to assist with project and logistics management in Botswana, he has also been asked to help with the Aramaic Bible Translation projects that LBT is involved with. Within the Aramaic group are five separate translation projects: Assyrian, Chaldean, Ma'Luli, Mardini, and Suryoyo.

Being involved in this project is especially meaningful to Rob because his grandparents both spoke Assyrian. In fact, the first Assyrian New Testament was published 150 years ago in the Lake Urmia region; the same place that his grandfather was born in. Today they are revising and working on the complete Bible with a team based in the US. Rob considers it a true blessing to be able to be involved in this project.



## A note from LBT Regional Director Jim Laesch

Rob continues to serve as an LBT Adjunct missionary directly involved with LBT's Botswana ministry, therefore he still needs regular gifts to support his work. He connects daily with coworkers in Botswana and visits there quarterly. I thank you all, the Hilbert support team, for your important part in God's Mission. God bless you!

- Jim Laesch, LBT Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa

Blessings,

Rob, Mical, Carsten (7), Annabelle (6!), and Josephine (3!)