



Making God's Word accessible in a language that speaks to their hearts

Tom and Mary Holman

Dear Family and Friends,

April 6, 2021

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Tom and I are thankful that we have both been vaccinated, so we were able to attend our church in person for the first time in a year. We also invited my brother David to join us for Easter dinner – lots of good food and laughter! He and Tom also watched the Twins game in the afternoon. We hope your celebration was special, too.

The long-term care facility where Mom now lives has been good about keeping people safe from the virus and getting everyone vaccinated as well. They recently opened up to anyone who wants to visit (with a mask and social distancing, of course). The day before Easter one of Mom's granddaughters with her husband and two daughters came to see her. A face-to-face visit was good medicine!

In January, a Nigerian translation consultant-in-training did the first check for accuracy of Galatians and Ephesians with the Waja team. Rev. Habila then shared the revised drafts with a couple of groups to test their understanding. The people loved reading these epistles in their own Waja language! Rev. Habila said it helped them more clearly understand important words like law and grace, and that he and the other translators are also learning from this testing. Pray that we could do the final checking of Galatians and Ephesians soon.

Angela (the consultant-in-training I am mentoring) and I did two weeks of remote checking of Old Testament scripture portions with the Waja team

Prayer Points

- **Praise God** that Tom and I are vaccinated.
- **Pray** that Tom's mom would continue to do well, and that more of her family will be able to visit her.
- **Praise God** for the first check of Galatians and Ephesians.
- **Praise God** that the checking of OT portions in Waja went well.
- **Pray** that we could do the final check of Galatians and Ephesians soon.
- **Pray** for good progress on the Waja translation plans.
- **Pray** for God to protect and provide for Christians in Nigeria.

in March. It went well! Old Testament poetry is a particular challenge, not only to understand but to translate accurately. Many of us know Isaiah 40:11: “He feeds his flock like a shepherd”. Who or what does “flock” refer to? We know it means God’s people, but that might not be so clear in Waja, where flocks of sheep are so common, and being called a “sheep” can be an insult! One solution might be to translate it as a simile: “He takes care of his people like a shepherd tends his flock.”

We have a lot of plans for the translation work in the next three months. Pray for the strength and opportunity to complete them. Please also pray for Christians in Nigeria. In their current political environment, they are often marginalized.

With love in Christ,

Mary

Mary and Tom

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