



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)

Rain

This past rainy season we recorded the highest rainfall since our arrival in 2005. We had over 51 inches! Some of the species of grass were over our heads and the bush is full of vegetation. Now that winter has arrived (we've had 4 frosts already) everything is returning to its usual dried color and condition. There is still a lot of food for all the animals in the bush, which is a real need after several years of drought.



More rain on the way . . .

Praise God for a wonderful rainy season and for all his provision!

Residency permits

We thank all of you who have been praying for our residency and work permits to be renewed. Last month we received news that they were ready for collection. Wow! We didn't expect them to be processed so quickly and without any further trips down to Maun to answer questions. We had been alerted by our immigration consultant that we were likely to have our permits rejected because we home school. She had several other clients who ran into this problem, so she advised us how to

proceed and document our homeschooling with the supporting paperwork and hope for the best. Thankfully everything did turn out for the best.

Every time we go through the renewal process it seems that more and more paperwork is required. This time the stack was close to 2 inches of papers that we submitted. We are thankful that the process is finished and that everything was approved. We can feel a bit more settled now.

We give thanks for everyone who has been praying for this and for God's hand in smoothing the way for approval.

Regional Director



Jim's last visit with us in Botswana

Last week our regional director, Jim Laesch, visited along with Sarah Esala, our soon to be new regional director. After many decades of service with LBT Jim is going to retire, so Sarah will be taking over his responsibilities. Jim regularly visits Botswana, but because of the pandemic was not able to last year so he had a lot of visits to make to touch base with partners here. As always, we thoroughly enjoyed his visit and appreciated getting to know

Sarah a bit better. We will really miss Jim but look forward to working with Sarah.

Part of our discussions were about the possibility of a visit to the States this year. We've been discussing it back and forth for a while and have been reluctant to commit because of uncertainty due to the pandemic. What will the landscape look like in the States this Fall? What will it look like here? Do we really want to travel with the added layer of stress from pandemic risks? The vaccination roll out here has been slow due to a shortage of available vaccines. There is no news about when more might become available so we have been encouraged by Jim and Sarah to travel to the States this Fall with one of the main goals being vaccinations for us.

The ability to get vaccinated will not only place us and those around us in a less risky environment but will also allow Tim to travel with our consultant, Michael Megahan, to do some checking on other projects. Tim has been in training to become a translation consultant since 2018 and one of the last things he needs to do to complete his training is to demonstrate to his mentor (Dr. Megahan) his abilities working with a different project.



Sarah's first visit with us in Botswana

We pray for wise planning and decisions about travel.

Our family continues to do well here. Aaron and Andrew still amaze us with their knowledge and ideas and scholastic abilities. Aaron's computer interests keep him busy; lately he's been reading up on user interface design and has set up a machine to mine crypto currency. The next time we are in the States we plan to visit a few colleges he may be interested in. What a scary thought; he was just a toddler not long ago!

Andrew has many interests but blade smithing rises to the top. I recently modified one of the forges that I made for him to make it run hotter so that now he is able to forge weld layers of different steels together to produce a "Damascus steel" blade. His goal is to make a Damascus steel dagger for his 100th blade, which is coming up soon.

We are thankful for our family and all of our wonderful friends. God has richly blessed us!

Your servants in Christ,

Tim, Lisa, Aaron, and Andrew Beckendorf

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