



Dear friends,

Sometimes you just gotta put your foot down. This was the case for one family who had received an MP3 player loaded with Scripture in their language. The matriarch of the family was keeping the rest of the family awake into the wee hours of morning as she listened in their small house. She didn't want to stop! In sleep-deprived frustration the family made a new rule—the MP3 player had to be turned off by 10 p.m. I chuckle at this “problem,” but it's a reminder to me about some basics in Bible translation. We can't just stop at translating Scripture. We must take the next steps to help it become accessible to people, some who may prefer listening (even late into the night 😊).

Engagement is a key word for LBT, something we strive for throughout the life of a project. Sometimes it sneaks up on us in unplanned ways.

The Wayeyi translation team in Botswana hit the road to do a community review of their translation work. This is a key step in the translation process, allowing the community to give feedback on the translation to help improve the text so it will be clear and accepted by the community. At the workshop, everyone is given a copy to read and discuss together.



Sarah with Mrs. Portia Baloyi from the Bible Society of Botswana who is currently the coordinator and exegete for the Wayeyi Bible Translation Project...and drives the truck.

In the past, representatives from various towns came together at one location for a big review workshop, but COVID changed that. With restrictions on travel and the number of people that could gather at one time, the team overcame this challenge by visiting multiple villages for a series of smaller meetings. The team discovered that this attracted **more** people than if it had been one large workshop. It encouraged the translators doing the work and gave important visibility to the project.

Additionally, the truck that got them there was a vehicle for engagement (pun intended). On the outside is writing in the various languages of Botswana. It became a game to find the phrase “God speaks your language” actually written in one’s own heart language. This brought delight, laughter, questions, opportunities to share about the translation, and even added a couple reviewers to the workshops.

Praise God for...

- The delights he provides for translation teams doing the work and for those receiving the fruit of their labor.

Pray for...

- The language communities who have reached out to LBT to start translation work. Pray for the conversations taking place and for sensitivity to the Spirit’s leading.
- Pray for Sarah as she prepares for strategic planning meetings with the Botswana and Tanzania fields.
- Pray for Nathan as he meets regularly with the Komba team to consultant check Old Testament portions.

...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

- Ephesians 4:12-13



Most times engagement is done through thoughtful planning. The Khwedam and Shekgalagari Bible Translation projects in Botswana are nearing the end of their translation work. The communities are planning how they want to “launch” the Bible. Should they have one big celebration or multiple smaller celebrations? What special guests should be invited? How will they promote this? What activities will be part of the celebration? How can this event lay the foundation for future Scripture engagement? Please keep these groups in your prayers—for energy, good ideas, strong team work, and successful planning.

With gratitude! *Sarah for the Esala family*

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