



Living Letters

2 Corinthians 3

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Dear friends and family,

A lot has happened since our last letter in May! Thank you for your patience and prayers! The translation work continues to make progress, and for this we are very thankful! We both continued language learning lessons and attending community events. Naomi started to slow down in June in these activities and we ended up heading toward the capital city the end of June as we awaited major changes in our lives with the birth of our child. Michael continued to work long distant both with the translation team and on his thesis.

Where are we in translation?

Since June, the translation team has been able to meet with the translation consultant (who lives in Ohio) several times remotely. We consultant checked Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. We began consultant checking the book of Job in August. We have also team checked Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Isaiah since June. All of these books took some time to check. The former two are filled with wisdom that caused us to stop and examine the metaphors, their meaning, and the poetry entwined. It was especially fun when we slowed down and tried incorporating aspects of Komba aural proverbial sayings.

Isaiah was filled with unique words, some very harsh language, some beautiful promises, and loads of poetic lines. It was a challenging book for us to work through, but so rewarding. The punishment for the nations listed in chapters 13-23 seems harsh, yet Judah and Israel are not left out of the destruction. I find it interesting which nations are listed and what is said about them. It is something to pay attention to and to consider Israel and Judah's larger historical contexts with these nations. Chapters 36:2-38:6 have amazing parallel passages with 2 Kings 18:17-20:6. Most verses in these chapters are word for word exact between the two books and that caused us to slow down, look at our translations for both books and refine our translations. The precision is amazing, considering they were hand copied for millennia. Servant passages like chapters 49, 52, and 53 left us in silence as we finished them in the darkness of night.



We are thankful for the arrival of our son and for our joyful return home.





The translation team hosted a community reviewer workshop in June and Michael presented a summary of what he learned about Komba proverb structures (top left). May-October is rainy season (top right).

Chapters 60 and 61 brought us great hope and joy. I wept tears of joy in my heart as we worked through these passages. In the coming month we hope to start team checking Jeremiah and consultant checking Job.

Family

We are adjusting to having a son in our lives. Ford and mother are both doing well. Like most babies, he fills his time with eating, sleeping, peeing and pooping. Not always in that order, and sometimes simultaneously! The sleepless nights have kept us up and busy these past few months. We give thanks to God for the birth He provided Ford through his baptism. He is a child of God and we rest assured that he is in God's hands. We are thankful that we could be with Naomi's parents in Accra throughout the time pre and post birth. We are working on the transition home. We are thankful to be back with the translation team in person and to see many special people in the community as they get to meet our son. Thank you for praying for us during this time. Prayers have certainly been offered and heard. We thank our creator.

Confident in Christ,

Michael and Naomi Ersland

Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for successful consultant checking in June and August.
- Thanksgiving for a successful community reviewer workshop
- Thanksgiving for Ford in our lives.
- Please pray for us as we grow into the vocation of parents and for our child.
- Please pray for a successful harvest for all in Ghana and around the world.
- How may we pray for you? Please let us know so that we may be praying for you!

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