



# 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)*

## GREETINGS ONCE AGAIN FROM BOTSWANA!

It is wonderful to be home again and back into our regular routine, however relative that expression may be in Africa. We had a few hiccups on the way back when our long leg flight was cancelled and then delayed by a day (one of the pilots did not show up for the flight), which meant that we missed our next flight from South Africa to Botswana. Everything worked out well in the end and we are safely back home. One benefit of having flights missed was that the airline gave us free passes to one of the flight lounges at the airport in Johannesburg. What a treat that was!



Aaron speaking with an interested parishioner in Minnesota

We had a wonderful time in the States visiting with friends and partners in parts of the upper Midwest. Whenever we begin planning for our trips to the States, the thought of all the air travel, vehicle travel, living out of a suitcase for months, etc. is quite daunting even though we've done it many times. However, when we get to visit with you in

person and enjoy all of the wonderful Christian fellowship, thoughts of travel and disrupted routine quickly fade. It is always a joy to spend time with all of you and we do look forward to the next time.

**We give thanks for all of our safe travels and for such wonderful partners and friends.**

## "I HAVE A QUESTION . . ."

While we were in the States, a question that arose often was "What do you mean by a Panoramic Bible?"

Back around 2005 when we were beginning work with the Khwe, our regional director asked me to consider what kind of a translation would be best for a first step in serving the Khwe communities. After getting to know the communities during language learning on our first term, we floated the idea of a Panoramic Bible. A former missionary with LBT had written a paper about the need for Biblical literacy and proposed a selection of Bible portions that would give a broad panoramic view of God's salvation story. The purpose of this approach is to provide those portions of the Old Testament that illuminate the New Testament as well as the portions of the New Testament that narrate the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, as well as the birth of the New Testament church depicted in the book of Acts. This precursor to a full New Testament or full Bible provides the basics for evangelism and Biblical literacy and lays the groundwork for the translation process, which is critical for future work. After consultation with the community leaders we adopted the Panoramic approach for the translation.

If you would like to see an example of an English Panoramic Bible, “The Story” is probably the best known. Our translation of the Bible into Khwedam is very similar to “The Story” in content.

## HOW DO WE SAY THAT?

We had an interesting meeting with our advisory committee recently to discuss how we are going to express “chapter” in the table of contents for our Bible. This is something that most people probably don’t even think about (I didn’t until it came up getting ready for typesetting). For languages that have previously not been written and have no books, the concept of a “chapter” is foreign. However, now we need to express this and we had quite an animated discussion, trying to come up with the best way to communicate “chapter”. We spent several hours listening to everyone’s ideas and then the committee agreed on a phrase that is probably best understood in English as “large section to read.” It is always interesting to see how different languages communicate the same information, often in unique ways.



“This is what a chapter is . . .”

## SWEET WORD

Before we left for our visit to the States, Splash, Moronga and I read through our entire translation,

beginning at Genesis and finishing up with Acts, proofreading in anticipation of sending it for typesetting. The read through was a very enjoyable experience, with little to change besides some spellings. Splash and I would often look at each other with smiles after a morning of work and comment on what a good translation we’ve done. Every so often someone from the community would stop in for something and end up staying until we were done reading for the day because they also really enjoyed hearing the Bible in Khwedam. When we read through Matthew 6, Splash’s comment about the Lord’s Prayer was, “This is really sweet. Can we print it so that I can take it home and teach my children?”

**We give thanks for all the work that God has enabled us to do and pray that this translation will transform many hearts.**

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