



# 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)*

## Typesetting

While in the States Lisa and I were able to attend a workshop on typesetting. You are probably thinking about the activity of typesetting and how all the characters and spaces and layout were arranged by hand before going to the press. Of course that is all done now by computer, but the process is rather complex and this workshop focused on teaching us how to use one of the programs for typesetting. Prior to this workshop I couldn't understand why it took so long to initially typeset our Khwedam Bible, however I now have much better insight and am very grateful for the professionals working on our Bible.



Lisa and Tim at the typesetting workshop

The goal of attending the workshop was not so that we could cut out the professional typesetter and do all of our printing work in-house, but so that we can make interim publications of individual books/stories of the Bible for the language communities we work with to use early on in the translation process. Not only would this give people the

opportunity to engage with God's Word early on, but it would also allow the people to start considering all the decisions about how their Bible should ultimately look.

**We are thankful for the opportunity to learn more skills and pray that we will grow in those skills in order to help others engage with God's Word.**

## Typing

Because the Khwedam alphabet has special characters to represent click sounds, several years ago we asked a young man in the States to make a keyboard app for us so the Khwe could type Khwedam on the phone. It was very popular, but now it is out of date and newer phones can't use it. I tried a number of times to contact the original developer but had no success, so I asked Aaron if he could create a new one. Over the course of several Sunday afternoons Aaron designed and completed the new keyboard app and Splash and I tested it out. It works great!

A couple of days later I was working with Splash and we decided to go visit a group of guys working on translating a neighboring San language to see how they were doing. They were frustrated by a few computer challenges and we were able to show them some things to make the work easier. It was a really good visit which encouraged both Splash and the other translators. Then I showed the other translators the Khwedam keyboard on my phone and they were immediately interested; they wanted it on their phones as well, even though they need a

few more characters to indicate tone. In a matter of minutes they all had it installed on their phones and were using it to show off to their friends.



The translation team enjoying the keyboard app

I went back to Aaron and he made modifications to the keyboard to include tone marking so that all the San languages can use it. Having the ability to communicate in your own language on digital media is something most of us take for granted, but for those that don't have that option it is a real need. It not only elevates the status of the language and the people, but makes communication clear and natural.

**We are so thankful to have the opportunity to serve the people whom we know here and for all of your support that enables us to do so.**

## In the Tank

### A Slice of Life

Every year around September a certain species of fish becomes active in our river, which in turn initiates a feeding frenzy of other fish (and birds by the river). This stirs up all of the silt in the river and the water turns brown. We pump water from the river and store it in tanks for use in our house. A lot of the crud settles to the bottom in the tanks so that the water coming into the house, though brown,

isn't as bad as it could be. So, once a year, usually after the fish feeding frenzy, we clean out our tanks. It is not a pleasant job, as it is always quite hot in the tanks. This year, however, Andrew offered to climb into the tanks and clean them out. Boy was I thankful for his offer!

**We are so thankful for where we live where the boys have the opportunity to experience life "in the bush". We pray that the experiences and skills they learn will be a blessing to them throughout their lives.**



Andrew emerges from cleaning the water tank

### *Correspondence and Support Information*

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*Your servants in Christ,*

*Tim, Lisa, Aaron, and Andrew Beckendorf*