



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)

Tanzania Trip

At the end of February I (Tim) was able to meet in person with the Kerewe translation team in Tanzania as a translation consultant. I had worked previously with the team virtually, and although that worked well, it is always better to meet in person. I joined Rev. Dr. Michael Megahan, my consultancy mentor, for this final supervised session of consultant checking. This was the last step to complete in order for me to become a certified Bible translation consultant. In the months leading up to this trip, I spent a lot of time going through the Kerewe translation of the Gospel of John making notes on the questions I had, and discussions I would like to have with the team. John is my favorite Gospel, so it was a lot of fun to work through another translation.

This was my first trip to Tanzania, though I had heard much about the translation work which is facilitated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. I am really impressed with the church leadership and the passion they have for evangelism, translation, education and social ministry. They engage actively at every level of ministry. Through the work of the Holy Spirit the church is accomplishing amazing things in Tanzania, and it is a privilege to be a small part of that work.

Working with the Kerewe team was a real joy; they are so enthusiastic about what they are doing. I've gotten used to the 'African time' of our project, where you are never late no matter when you show up. These men were always ready and waiting for us, even if we came a little early! We would also stop checking every once in a while to discuss what the Scripture was saying and what insights we could glean from that particular passage. That became our favorite part of the check; as one team member put it, "Oh, now I have so many things to preach about."

In the near future I will begin consultant work with another project here in Botswana, and will continue

working with the Kerewe in Tanzania, this time on the book of Genesis.



Tim and two of the Kerewe translators

We give thanks for the work that is going on in Tanzania and for LBT's role in supporting that work.

Typesetting

Work with the Khwedam translation continues to occupy much of my and Splash's time. We have completed the first batch of checks that were sent by the typesetter and will soon begin work on the next. We are hoping to have all the typesetting tasks completed before August so that it can then get in the line for printing.

Please pray that all the typesetting steps will be completed soon so that the Bible can be ready for the printer.

Togetherness

"Are we together?" is a phrase that is common here. It has the sense of asking if there is agreement and

cooperation between people, which is extremely important in this culture. At the end of April, the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Botswana came to Shakawe to meet with the Khwedam Advisory Committee. In the past, there has been a less than cooperative spirit from the advisory committee to work with the Bible Society. A significant factor for this attitude is a general Khwe distrust of the Bantu tribes. Historically the Bantu tribes oppressed the Khwe and took their land — hence the distrust. However, at this meeting there was a very positive and healthy atmosphere and a willingness to work together. The advisory committee and the General Secretary were able to have good discussions about the next phase of the project, and they were able to come to agreement on how to proceed. There is still much work to do with the communities for literacy, Scripture engagement, education, and hopefully, more Bible translation.

Please pray that the spirit of cooperation will continue and that the Khwedam project will move forward with vigor.



The General Secretary of the Bible Society (standing 2nd from left) and the Khwedam Advisory Committee

Travels and Teeth

Prior to Covid, we had been going to a town on the Namibian coast both for vacation and dental and eye care. After a poorly done dental procedure for me here in Botswana we found ourselves going back to Namibia for dental care again. It was a long trip (three days one way) as the usual vehicle we use for long travel had two broken radiators due to a bracket that came loose and impaled itself into both radiators. I was able to have one fixed here in

Botswana, but the other radiator couldn't be repaired here. So, we took my work truck (pictured at left) all the way to the coast. A week before we were to leave, I discovered a leaking frost plug on the back of the engine block, so prior to leaving we replaced all of the frost plugs. That week we had two broken-down vehicles, but by the end I at least had one up and running again. That's the first time we've had both down at the same time, which is not a comforting feeling. While at the coast we were able to get the radiator for our other vehicle repaired, so now that is back in and both are running again (even if one does smell of mouse).

Also, one week before we left Aaron began having pain in one of his wisdom teeth, so we made a dental appointment for him as well. We are so happy that we decided to go back to Namibia for dental work! The dentist was amazing, removing Aaron's problematic wisdom tooth in 7 minutes (from the time Aaron entered the room until it was out) and taking care of my tooth, also in record time and with minimal discomfort. We need to go back again in December and actually look forward to visiting the dentist! (It helps that it is in a beautiful location.)

We give thanks for wonderful dental care in Namibia and safe and trouble free travels there and back.

Correspondence and Support Information

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Your servants in Christ,

Tim, Lisa, Aaron, and Andrew Beckendorf