

EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, August 2013

Dear friends,

Greetings from Keizer, Oregon, in the USA! It often feels like we are constantly on the move, transitioning from one place to another, but we are happy to know that you are with us on this journey and standing with us in prayer.

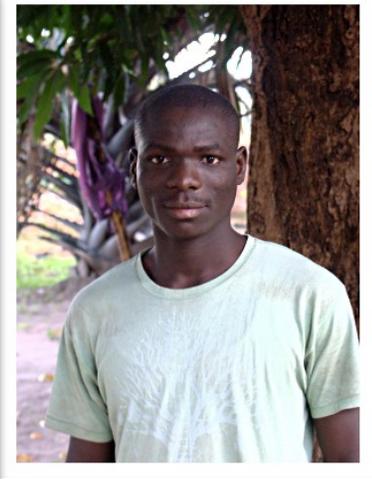
Since our last newsletter the project in Katavi has continued to progress, with tentative Bende and Pimbwe writing systems in place. Our colleagues have also been in touch with potential translators from both communities, as well as from the neighbouring Lwila group, and are happy that there are several possible future candidates for these vital roles.

We had hoped to hold an initial translation workshop in May, but unfortunately our colleagues unexpectedly had to return to the UK for medical reasons, meaning the workshop could not go ahead. We are still praying that these translation candidates would continue with the vision of translating parts of the Bible in their languages, and that the workshop would be able to go ahead at a later date.

In March we met with our branch leadership who asked us to bring forward our planned time in the UK and the US, in order that we return to Tanzania in early-2014 to take up new roles at the head office in Dar es Salaam. This meant saying sad goodbyes to many friends in Mpanda in May, packing up our house and transporting our belongings three days east to the Tanzanian coast.

When we return to Tanzania Mark's role will be to supervise three translation projects – in Dodoma (in central Tanzania, where Mark lived from 2004-05), Mbeya (in the highlands of the south west) and Katavi (in the far west, where we have been working for the last year or so). These three projects comprise 20 language communities, who are at various stages in the translation process. Some are starting to write their languages in preparation for translation to start, while others are hoping to publish the New Testament in the next couple of years.

Laura will also be working in the head office for the Uganda-Tanzania Branch of SIL, serving team members as they go through transitions and adapt to the stresses of living and working in a cross-cultural environment. She is looking forward to being able to come alongside our colleagues from around Tanzania and Uganda as they pass through Dar es Salaam.



Above: Saying goodbye to friends in Mpanda in May



The Nyiha community in Mbeya have recently published a few Bible books in their language



For the next few months our time will be spent reconnecting with friends and supporters both in the US and the UK, giving updates as to what we have been doing in Katavi.

We are also praying that others will decide to start supporting us in prayer and financially, in order to allow us to continue to support Bible translation in Tanzania. Our new location at the main office in Dar es Salaam, together with a recent review of the Tanzanian tax laws, means that we will require significant extra financial support in order to take up our new roles next year.



We've really enjoyed spending time with friends and family who we haven't seen for a while!



As we look back over the last few years it is such an encouragement to see progress being made and the lives of communities being changed. The Nyiha were the first group that Mark helped to survey back in 2004, so to see books of the Bible now translated and having an impact amongst the Nyiha is a huge blessing, and a reminder that despite all the day to day business that can at times seem overwhelming, it is really a privilege to be part of God's work and what he is doing in drawing communities from around the world to himself, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Thank you again for joining with us in serving the language communities of Tanzania as they seek to translate the Bible into their languages. We are always happy to share more about our work with any individuals, groups or churches, so please just get in touch if you would like to hear more over the next few months!



Cut along here to remember to pray for us!

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Checks can be made payable to "Wycliffe Bible Translators" and sent to:
Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200 with a separate note "For Mark and Laura Woodward, a/c 214841"
Online and other donation options:
www.wycliffe.org/supportteam



Our website: www.everytongue.co.uk
Wycliffe US: www.wycliffe.org

Thank God that:

We have been safe during our travels in the last two months

We have an apartment in Keizer where we feel relaxed and at home

The team in Katavi is continuing to relate to the churches and language communities

Mark was able to conduct research for his MA thesis

Pray for:

More people to join our team, supporting us in prayer and financially

An encouraging trip to California in the fall

Mark to write his dissertation well to complete his MA

A refreshing time in the US and the UK, being re-envisioned for the time ahead

Events to pray for over the coming months:

Now until December: Reconnecting with friends and supporters, and praying for new supporters to join our team

Fall: Trip to California to meet up with friends and our supporting church there

December-January: Visiting friends and churches in the UK, spending Christmas with Mark's family

January (finances permitting): Returning to Tanzania to settle into a new home and new roles

While we are in the US Mark is also hoping to take the research he has conducted as to how the Malila and Nyiha communities of Mbeya are using recently translated Scriptures, and collate it into a report. This will then be submitted to complete his MA in Bible and Mission from Redcliffe College in the UK.