

EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, December 2013

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from a very cold and slightly snowy Oregon! After not having seen snow for almost three years we were excited to wake up to a sprinkling yesterday morning, making everything beautifully white...

In our last newsletter we shared how we were planning to leave the US in early December, arriving back in Tanzania in January. Since then our plans have had to change slightly... The good news is that it looks like it should be possible for Mark to apply for US citizenship using special missionary rules, and not have to give up his US residency when we go back to Tanzania. The bad news is that this will take a couple of months longer than we had planned.

All the citizenship paperwork is now with the US immigration authorities, so we are just waiting for an interview date, which, if successful, will be followed by an oath ceremony! We don't know when this might be, but our best guess is sometime in March. Once this is finished, Mark will apply for a US passport and then we will fly to the UK for a few weeks, and then on to Tanzania.

One thing Mark was really hoping to be in Tanzania for was the annual planning and review meetings for two of the major translation projects in Dodoma and Mbeya. So he is now planning to make a 3-week trip to Tanzania in January-February to be at these meetings, and to have some handover time with the lady who is currently managing these projects.

Laura will stay in Oregon during this time, but once we return to Tanzania she will be working in the Dar es Salaam office, serving our colleagues around the country as they adapt to working cross-culturally in situations that can have some unique challenges.

In some ways we are glad to have the extra time in the US, as we still have some way to go in raising enough prayer and financial support to return to Tanzania. We are very grateful for the faithful support we have received for many years now which has enabled us to support Bible translation, and are hoping to add more supporters to our team who will pray for us and contribute financially to meet our daily needs. Laura has also been grateful for the healthcare available during this time we have in the US, as she has taken care of one or two health concerns recently.

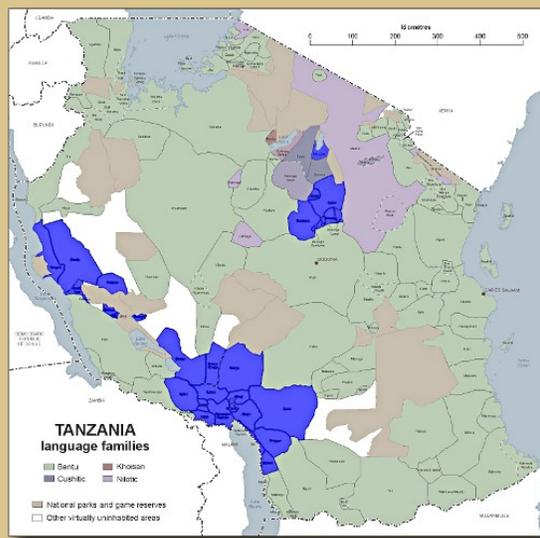


We have been enjoying the experience of winter time here in Oregon



We were excited to travel down to both southern and northern California recently to visit friends, supporters and one of our supporting churches in Petaluma. The trip was a real encouragement, and we left feeling grateful to know that so many people are interested in what God is doing in Tanzania and wanting to support that in any way that they can. A highlight was meeting with a home group that have a vision for supporting us in particular, and to share with them some of the practical ways that they can be involved in the work that we are doing.

We're hoping to make one final trip to California before we leave, but the timing will depend on the dates set for Mark's citizenship interview and oath ceremony.



The blue areas on the map represent the three projects that Mark will be serving in Tanzania:

Dodoma: In central Tanzania, comprising the Alagwa, Burunge, Mbugwe, Rangi and Sandawe language communities.

Mbeya: In the southwest, working with the Bena, Bungu, Kinga, Kisi, Malila, Manda, Ndali, Nyakyusa, Nyiha, Pangwa, Safwa, Sangu and Vwanji.

Katavi: In the far west, where we were previously working, with the Bende, Pimbwe and Ruwila.

Some of these communities are nearing completion of the New Testament, while others are still creating writing systems as an initial step before starting translation.

Events to pray for over the coming months:

January 25 – February 16: Mark in Tanzania for planning and review meetings

Hopefully March: Mark's citizenship interview and oath ceremony

Then... Once Mark has a US passport we'll head to the UK for a few weeks, hopefully around March/April

And then... After a few weeks in the UK, providing we have the necessary financial support, we'll return to Tanzania and look for a house in Dar es Salaam

Mark's MA dissertation is going well, and he now has a finished first draft which has been sent to his supervisor for comments. He has very much enjoyed the MA in Bible and Mission, which has allowed him to think through some key issues as he prepares to supervise translation projects in Tanzania, as well as helping him to explore how people engage with Scripture in the various languages in which they may have access to it.

As Mark has researched the benefits of Scripture in the Malila and Nyiha languages as part of his MA, we have been greatly encouraged by the testimonies he heard of how people's lives have been changed. Numerous people reported how they have seen the Bible differently since it has been available in their language, and how they know that God sees and cares for them.

Thank you for the part that you play in making this a reality for communities like the Malila and Nyiha, and many others throughout Tanzania. We are always happy to share more about what God is doing in East Africa, so please just let us know if you would like to hear more!

We hope you have a blessed Christmas, remembering God coming to live with us, and a very happy New Year!



Cut along here to remember to pray for us!

Mark and Laura Woodward
5985 Trail Ave NE, Apt 103
Keizer, OR 97303



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 had a very encouraging (and fun) trip to California!

He has provided new prayer and financial supporters over the last couple of months

We have been able to relax and enjoy our time in the US

Both Mark's dissertation and his citizenship application are progressing well!

Pray for:

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

A fruitful and safe visit to the Dodoma and Mbeya projects for Mark in January/February

Us to finish the things we need to before leaving the US

Mark's citizenship application to be successful in time for us to leave the US