

EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, December 2014

Dear friends,

Thank you for continuing to pray for us and to support us as we are settling in to life and our work here in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. We are excited to see the progress that has been made recently in the various projects we are supporting, and are grateful for all you do to make that possible!

At the end of August, Mark travelled to Mbeya to be part of the dedication event for several Bible books in the Safwa language. Many people gathered to celebrate, dancing to the beat of drums and listening to speeches from various people involved in the Safwa translation and literacy work.

Now that these books have been published, together with audio materials and a Safwa website, the Safwa translators are continuing to draft and check the rest of the New Testament, which will hopefully be available in the coming years.

October and November saw Mark fly to Mbeya several more times. On one occasion he accompanied an international funder to visit the remote Kisi community on the shore of Lake Nyasa. The Kisi language has recently been written down for the first time, and the community are enthusiastic about starting to translate Scripture portions in their language. Please pray for funding and personnel to become available to allow us to continue partnering with the Kisi in this way.

Meanwhile, the Mbeya team continues to work with 12 other language communities, drafting and checking Scripture, analysing linguistics and fine-tuning writing systems, and encouraging the development of sustainable local language literacy education. There has been one difficult staffing issue that Mark has had to deal with in the last couple of months, but we are thankful that this now seems to be resolved. This is still a difficult time for the large international team of staff in the Mbeya office, however, so please pray for them as they continue in their work, and also pray for wisdom for Laura as she supports the team.

In September we enjoyed visiting Mpanda, in Katavi Region, where we were living in 2012-2013. In Katavi we met with our colleagues and other friends, and also with the three church leaders on the Executive Committee, giving leadership and oversight to the project. The team in Katavi now includes a Bende translator, Pastor Kassanda, who has drafted the books of Jonah and Ruth. These books are currently being checked by translation experts and by the Bende community. Our colleagues are also working with the Pimbwe community, who are starting to translate Scripture portions too.



Left and above: Dedication of several Bible books in the Safwa language in Mbeya



Right and below: 2015 calendars in Mbugwe (Manyara Region), Bende and Pimbwe (both Katavi Region) – some of the first materials ever produced in these languages



Imiti udi ilaba jumuvi itakulikanga ulushimano. Miti ikika pameja hakiki kuguzana.



Washa ya kutikodi nyimbo za Kibende. Mwezi, Februari 2014



Bhulyahyalyaha, tende ghabelagha maji. Tengenisa tengemisa, ndage alipasa maji.

After travelling regularly from August to November, we have enjoyed feeling more settled over the last few weeks here in Dar es Salaam. We are very grateful for the house we are living in, which is at the top of a hill, with a view over the Indian Ocean (if you peek through the wall in the right direction!) The ocean breeze is a welcome relief at this time of year, as the heat and humidity increase!

While we are still in the process of having a couple of pieces of furniture made, we feel settled enough to be able to relax at home. We love living in Dar es Salaam in general, with all the conveniences of a large city, and a beautiful warm ocean just down the road!

In January we are looking forward to welcoming new international staff from various countries to Tanzania. Laura will be helping to lead the 3-week orientation course for these new staff, seeking to equip them for living and working in East Africa, where they will be supporting translation projects, hopefully for many years to come!

Events to pray for over the coming months:

January 19th – February 6th: Laura will help to lead the orientation course for new international staff arriving to work in Uganda and Tanzania

February and early March: We will travel to Mbeya, Katavi and Dodoma for annual planning meetings with staff in those projects

February 27-28th: Mark will attend a conference in Dodoma of various partner organisations working in Scripture translation in Tanzania



We have very much enjoyed spending time at the beach, appreciating the water and the breeze during the hot season!



Thank you for all that you do to support us and the many language communities here in Tanzania. After experiencing much transition over the past few years, we are enjoying settling in to our new home. We would appreciate your continued prayers for us as we make new friends, and decide on a church to join here in Dar es Salaam.

Please also continue to pray for the projects that we are supporting, as they work with 20 language communities in the centre and west of Tanzania. Pray for encouragement for them as they continue the long and difficult work of translation, promoting literacy and Scripture engagement, and the many other logistical jobs that go along with this work.

We praise God that he draws you and us into what he has been doing for thousands of years, and is doing around the world today, revealing himself to all nations and uniting us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus! We hope you have a very peaceful and blessed Christmas!



Cut along here to remember to pray for us!

Mark and Laura Woodward
SIL International, PO Box
60368, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Cheques can be made payable to "Wycliffe Bible Translators" and sent to this **new address:** Wycliffe Bible Translators, The Clare Charity Centre, Wycombe Road, Saunderton, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP14 4BF, with a note "For Mark and Laura Woodward, a/c 214841"
Online and other donation options:
www.wycliffe.org.uk/memberfundraising



Our website: www.everytongue.co.uk
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Thank God that:

We have been able to visit the various projects in the past few months, spending time with the staff in Dodoma, Katavi and Mbeya

He has provided a good house for us, and we feel settled in to life in Dar es Salaam

Scriptures continue to be translated, with very positive feedback from the various communities

Pray for:

A productive orientation course with new staff, and for strength for Laura as she helps lead the course

Wisdom as we look ahead and plan with the staff in the three multi-language projects

That the work going on in these 20 languages will bear fruit in the lives of the churches and communities throughout Tanzania