

EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, June 2012

Dear friends,

We really appreciate your support over the last few months, and have been very much aware of how God has been answering your prayers in our life and work here in Mpanda in Tanzania's Katavi Region.

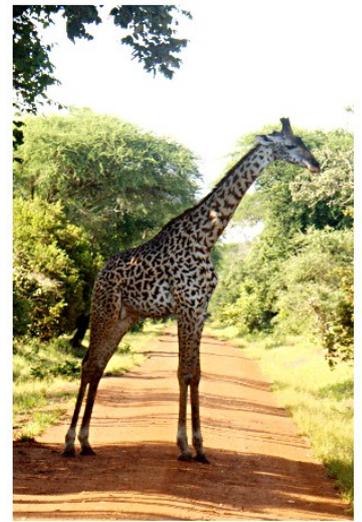
In mid-March, after spending a month at Swahili language school in Iringa, we drove three days further west to Mpanda, where we were very happy to meet our friends and colleagues and to start to get settled in to life here. We were grateful for a safe journey, and for the use of the car of our colleagues which took us safely over the paved and dirt roads to our new home...

Soon after we arrived in Mpanda Mark joined our colleagues on a trip to the village of Mwese, about 3 hours from Mpanda, which is a central location of the Bende people. Here the team held a short workshop to **collect words in the Bende language**, and to select participants who would be invited to a week-long word collection workshop later that month.

This **word collection workshop** went well, as did a similar village trip and workshop with the Pimbwe language community in April, and over 1,000 words were collected in each of these two languages. These words are now being analysed by our linguist colleagues in preparation for a further workshop in August, where participants will take the first steps in devising alphabets so their languages can be written and read easily.

Mark's role at present is as **Operations Manager**, trying to ensure the smooth running of the Bible translation office. This has been a good challenge as the office only opened in March, and so he has spent a lot of his time setting things up, from computers and servers to storage space and secure doors and locks.

At the same time Laura is using her skills and training to informally **care for the needs of our colleagues** as we work together as a diverse cross-cultural team. While there are many blessings to being part of an international team and living in a new culture, there can also be unique stresses, which Laura is aware of and helping our team to process.



Above and left: On the way to and at workshops in Mwese and Usevya villages

Left and Below Pimbwe and Bende word collection workshops in Mpanda



Our plan has been that our initial period in Katavi would be 6-8 months, after which we would re-evaluate the situation with our colleagues and decide how we could best support Bible translation from that point onwards. The time so far has gone very quickly, and we are looking forward to discussing our future plans with our colleagues at the end of June.

We are very much wanting to continue serving in Katavi long-term, but are also aware of other factors that need to be taken into account, particularly with regard to Mark finishing his MA, and potentially applying for US citizenship at some point. We will also be discussing how Laura can best relate to both SIL and Wycliffe Bible Translators as she hopes to become more involved in caring for our colleagues. We would appreciate your **prayers for wisdom** as we look ahead to the next few months and years, that we would be able to decide together on what might be **the best way forward for us and for the project** and our colleagues working to translate the Bible here in Katavi.

Events to pray for over the coming months:

June: We continue working in Mpanda, then drive to Dar es Salaam on the coast of Tanzania

Early July: We'll attend our organisation's Branch conference on the Kenyan coast

Mid-July: We'll travel back to Mpanda with our friends who will be visiting from the US

July 20th: Meeting of the Advisory Committee, made up of bishops and church leaders in Mpanda

August - September: Alphabet creation workshop with the Bende, Pimbwe and Rungwa

We are very much enjoying living in Mpanda so far, and have made some great friends. We feel privileged to be able to work alongside such a **talented and committed team of people**. Tanzanian culture is very much one of inter-dependence and relying on each other, and we have been grateful to be able to rely on our friends and colleagues as we have been settling in over the past couple of months.



Relaxing at home in Mpanda

We are always **humbled and grateful** to think of the many faithful supporters that we have who are joining us in this exciting journey. We appreciate you standing with us in prayer, as we seek to continue to serve our colleagues and the languages communities of Katavi Region.

Please continue to pray for good health, for safety as we drive for many days over rough roads in the coming months, and most of all that our lives here would be a **faithful witness to the kingdom of God** which we pray will continue to be made known and lived out amongst the Bende, Tongwe, Pimbwe, Rungwa, Sukuma, Lwila and Konongo people!



Cut along here to remember to pray for us!

Mark and Laura Woodward
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Cheques can be made payable to "Wycliffe Bible Translators" and sent to: Wycliffe Bible Translators, Horsleys Green, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 3XL, with a note "For Mark and Laura Woodward, a/c 214993"
Online and other donation options:
www.wycliffe.org.uk/memberfundraising



Our website: www.everytongue.co.uk
Wycliffe Bible Translators: www.wycliffe.org.uk

Thank God that:

We have settled in to our new home and our life here in Mpanda

We have been blessed with great friends who have made us feel very welcome

The workshops are going well as we move towards the creation of alphabets

We enjoy good relationships with church leaders in Mpanda

Pray for:

Safe travel to and from our branch conference in Kenya in June/July, which will be 5 days drive in each direction

Continued good health and protection from spiritual attack

Wisdom in knowing how we can best serve the language communities and churches in Katavi