



Mark and Laura Woodward, March 2011

Dear praying friends,

Thanks for your continued prayer for us as we work with Wycliffe Bible Translators, currently based in Oregon, USA. We're constantly reminded of the importance of the team of people who faithfully pray for us, in the work we're doing, and for the language communities around the world who are working to translate the Bible for the first time.

In the last few months we have been continuing with our studies – Laura in Psychology and Family Studies and Mark in Bible and Mission. We're both really enjoying the courses and learning a lot that we believe will be useful as we live and work overseas in the future. Laura is thinking about ways to best use her skills in Tanzania, so we'd appreciate your prayers for wisdom in this area. There are various areas that she could focus on as she has a heart to understand and serve people day to day, helping them to thrive in their life and relationships.

Translation Work in Western Zambia

Last May Mark had the privilege of spending two weeks with a team of Zambians and South Africans, teaching them some principles of language survey as foundational research for Bible translation projects with various language communities in Western Zambia. Since then the team have been surveying the vast province, and have chosen five language groups to be part of the initial project.



The translators from these five groups have just come together to start analysing their languages to create writing systems. Please pray for them, and for others who are organising and coordinating the programme.

More details at: everytongue.co.uk/zambia



He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, for all things in heaven and on earth were created by him – all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers – all things were created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him.

He is the head of the body, the church, as well as the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that he himself may become first in all things.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross – through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Colossians 1:15-20



We feel that we've settled in well to life in Oregon, and are looking forward to finally experiencing spring after having previously been here for four winters! We have joined a local church and are enjoying being involved there, with Mark helping with kids' soccer outreach and teaching English to speakers of other languages, and Laura singing. We're also hoping that over the next few months we'll be able to spend more time outside and get to know more people in the area.

In May Mark will head to the UK for 3 weeks to continue his MA in Bible and Mission, taking the final module of the course. During this time he is also hoping to catch up with friends and family, and to spend some time at the three churches that we have ongoing links with in the UK. He will be there from 8-29 May, mainly based in Wiltshire, and is looking forward to seeing many friends and supporters again. Please also pray for Laura during this time as she'll be staying in Oregon.

In January we drove down to California where we spent a couple of weeks seeing friends, family and supporters. We also had the opportunity to update our supporting church in Petaluma on where we're at, and to give them a glimpse of what God is doing around the world in and through Bible translation.

We really enjoyed the trip, and Laura especially appreciated spending time at the ocean (even in January...) which is something that she has missed in the last few years!



Catching up with our good friends and their growing families! And enjoying the slightly warmer climate than we're used to in January...



We'd appreciate your prayers over the coming months as we continue with our studies. Laura should graduate in December if all goes according to plan, and Mark should have finished all but his MA dissertation (which will be researching how people in Tanzania engage with the Bible in the various languages they speak) by the same time. We're currently talking with various colleagues in the UK and in Tanzania about the possibilities for 2012, so please pray for wisdom for us and for them as we make plans together.

Please also continue to pray for the language communities in Tanzania's Katavi Region, and particularly for the church leaders there who are hoping to start a Bible translation project later this year. Several of our colleagues are planning to work alongside these church leaders, and our hope is that we will be able to join them at some point. Please join us in praying for good cooperation and unity among the church leaders, for vision and desire to know God and engage with the Bible in the language communities, and for the practicalities to be worked out well for the start of the translation project.

Thanks so much for all you do in supporting the work of Bible translation around the world. We feel privileged to be a small part of what God is doing, and are very conscious of our reliance on our team of supporters in many ways. Below is a summary of how you can pray for us in the coming months, and if you'd like to know more please just get in touch with us!

 Cut along here to remember to pray for us!

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Thank God that:

We have settled in well to life in Oregon

We are both really enjoying and benefiting from our studies

Our financial support has increased slightly in recent months

We had an encouraging and enjoyable trip to California

Pray for:

Ongoing provision of our financial needs
A good trip for Mark to England in May, and for Laura as she stays in Oregon

The translation work starting in five language communities in Western Zambia

Church leaders and communities in Katavi, Tanzania, as they start working on a translation project