

# EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, June 2015

Dear friends,

Thanks again for all that you do to support us in prayer, and to come alongside the many language communities that we are working with here in Tanzania. We are excited at all that is happening in Dodoma, Katavi and Mbeya, and would like to share with you how you can continue to pray...

In February and March we travelled to all three projects that Mark is supervising, to meet with the teams, and to come up with plans and budgets for next year.

One big highlight for the Dodoma team next year will be the publication of the complete New Testament in the Burunge language! This will be the first New Testament that our organization has been involved in producing here in Tanzania, so we are eagerly awaiting the final consultant checks, typesetting, printing and importing of the print books. At the same time we hope to see the Jesus Film produced in Burunge, hopefully along with the recording of some audio Scriptures, all of which should be available online and for sharing via phones.

At the same time as the Burunge are nearing completion of the New Testament, several other groups in Dodoma, Katavi and Mbeya are just starting translation. One important initial step is to devise and test an appropriate writing system, which can be used in the translation process and in literacy initiatives. In the past few months Mark has been able to approve trial writing systems in the Bende, Pangwa and Alagwa languages, following several years of linguistic work in each.

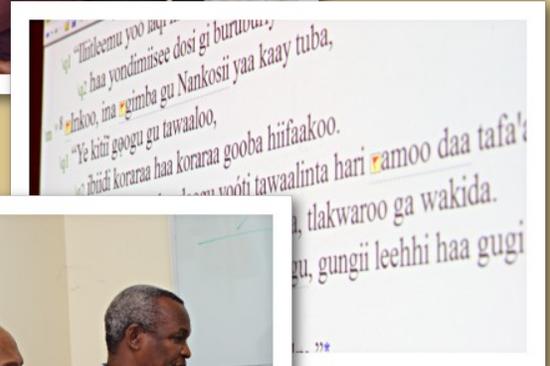
In Katavi, where we lived for a year or so, the Bende and Pimbwe are translating their first Scripture portions, with the books of Ruth and Jonah in Bende ready for publication (in audio format first, and print soon after) in the next couple of months!

All this, and a huge amount more, is only possible through the dedicated work of the cross-cultural teams, and the financial and prayer support of people like you.

These international teams often face unique challenges, particularly for those who are living and working outside of their home culture. Laura has been able to come alongside our colleagues in Dodoma, Katavi and Mbeya, as well as here at the head office in Dar es Salaam, over the past few months, to help them to process some of these issues. Her visits have been very much appreciated by the teams, and she has enjoyed getting to know many of them better.



Left: Mark with our director and several of the Katavi team



Left and above: One of the final consultant checking sessions for the Burunge New Testament



Discussing plans with the Dodoma literacy team



As well as coordinating Child Safety for our Uganda-Tanzania Branch, Laura also plays a key role in helping to lead the orientation course for new international staff. She enjoys passing on some of her experience from living in Tanzania, and getting to know the new staff so that they can feel comfortable approaching her whenever they need to process challenges that they may face. In January we were pleased to welcome new colleagues who will be serving in Dodoma, Mbeya, Mara and Dar es Salaam, meeting key needs in each of these offices.

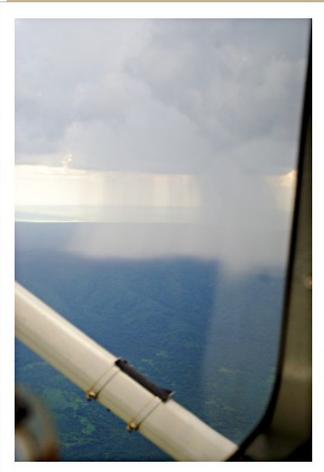
Between planning meetings in February Mark was able to meet with representatives from various other Bible agencies in Tanzania, as they sought to learn from each other and coordinate the work that we are doing together. This was an exciting experience, and hugely encouraging to see all that God is doing throughout Tanzania, and the spirit of partnership and togetherness between the various organisations.

**Events to pray for over the coming months:**

**June:** We hope to travel to Dodoma, Mbeya and Katavi, to meet with the teams there and continue to plan for next year

**July 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>:** Our annual branch retreat will give us the chance to catch up with some of our colleagues from around Tanzania and Uganda

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> – August 18<sup>th</sup>:** We plan to be in the UK, attending Mark's sister's wedding and visiting friends and our supporting churches



In February we took the small 6-seater plane from Mbeya to Mpanda and back, dodging the showers and enjoying the beautiful views



Mark was encouraged to hear of the progress other organisations are making as they serve many of Tanzania's 110 local language communities

In late July we are looking forward to heading to the UK for four weeks, to celebrate Mark's sister's wedding, and to spend some time with friends and supporters there. If you are in the UK we would love to meet up with you, if it works out in those four weeks! Our hope is that the trip may even coincide with the annual two weeks of British "summer", but we're not getting our hopes up too high...

Thanks again for all that you do to allow God's words from the Bible to speak into the heart languages of communities throughout Tanzania. When we meet with the teams we are working with, they are always extremely grateful for all the support that they receive from around the world, and we want to pass on their thanks to you for all that you do!

As always our prayer, for ourselves, for you, and for each community, is that we would see more of who God is as we hear him speaking to us in our own language!



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"  
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Our website: [www.everytongue.co.uk](http://www.everytongue.co.uk)  
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**Thank God that:**

Translation and literacy work is progressing well throughout Tanzania

The first Scriptures are being prepared for publication in Katavi!

We had productive meetings, both with the various project teams, and with other translation partner organisations

**Pray for:**

Safe travels as we visit the various projects again soon, and ongoing good relationships with the teams

Wisdom in knowing how to plan in the face of funding uncertainties

Recruitment of new staff, from Tanzania and beyond, to bring their skills to the translation team

The Dodoma team as they prepare to publish the Burunge New Testament