

EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, June 2016

Dear friends,

Thank you for your continued support for us over the past few months. Things haven't necessarily gone as we had planned, but we can definitely see God's guidance in how things have worked out.

In early February Mark was in Texas for a week of meetings with an international funding organisation, to discuss changes in how translation and literacy projects are designed and funded. This was a very informative time, and is proving useful as we work with language communities to plan ongoing translation work for the coming years.

Unfortunately while Mark was in Texas, Laura had a sore eye, which got rapidly worse until within 48 hours she could see very little. It turned out she had a corneal ulcer, and so she quickly travelled to South Africa with a friend for treatment.

We were very grateful for the highly skilled doctor in South Africa who helped the ulcer to heal, and for his speedy intervention that saved Laura's eye from much worse damage. She still has some vision impairment in that eye due to the scarring, which makes reading and computer work difficult, but we are very grateful that it wasn't a lot worse.

From January onwards our Tanzania work and residence permits were going through their two-yearly renewal process. While this process is normally straightforward, this time it was delayed due to new regulations that have recently been introduced, so when we returned to Tanzania after the treatment in South Africa, it became apparent that we would not be allowed to continue working in Tanzania until the renewal process was complete.

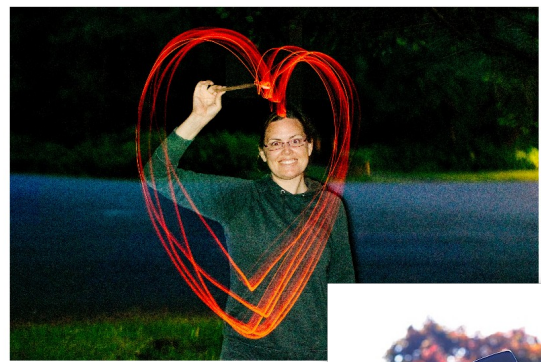
As a result, we decided to travel to the UK and then the US for a couple of months, where we would work remotely on our Tanzania work, but have the opportunity to catch up with friends, family and supporters at the same time. This all came together very quickly within a week of first considering this possibility, so we left Tanzania not even knowing where we would stay in the US!

We are extremely grateful for how God has provided (a house, bikes and now a car for a couple of weeks) and can definitely see his hand in this timing. We have been able to be part of a couple of very significant family events, which we would have been disappointed to miss had we been in Tanzania.

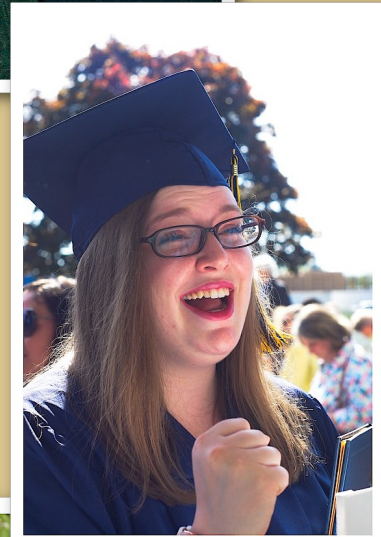
And since our work permits were finally issued at the end of April, we are now planning to head back to Tanzania, leaving Oregon on June 23rd!



Above:
Visiting
Mark's
family in
England in
March



In Oregon we were
able to celebrate
Laura's sister's
graduation, and
spend time in the
beautiful
countryside



Meanwhile, we have still been keeping up with our Tanzania roles, by email and through many late-night and early-morning skype calls!

Mark has now been asked to be the Director of Language Programs for our Uganda-Tanzania Branch, which means that he continues to supervise the language projects, including now having responsibility for the other large multi-language project in Tanzania – in Mara Region.

Other highlights include:

- * The Burunge New Testament was sent to the printers last week
- * We have had many requests from communities to continue with Old Testament translation once their New Testaments are completed
- * We have been able to employ some very able and motivated new staff in the various projects
- * Mother-tongue literacy work is gaining momentum in the pre-schools of some communities in Mbeya Region.

Events to pray for over the coming months:

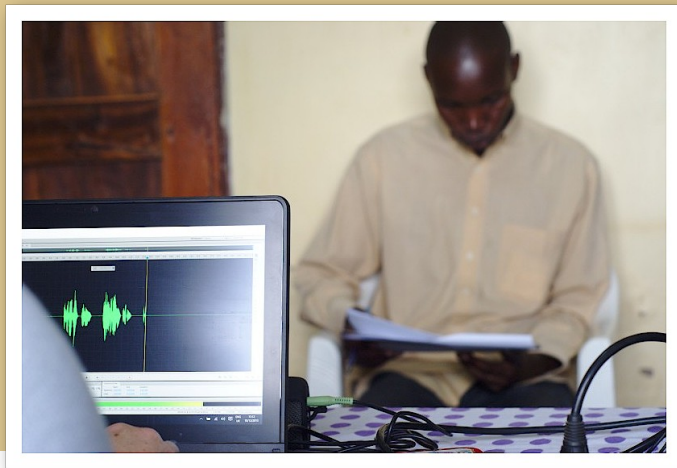
June 25: We arrive back in Tanzania

June 28 – July 3: Retreat in Dar es Salaam for the Uganda and Tanzania international staff. This is a good chance for us to meet with our colleagues from around the two countries, and for Laura to catch up with many of them.

July and August: We will visit several of the projects, including Katavi and Mbeya, that we have not had the chance to see for many months.

End of 2016 (TBC): Dedication of the Burunge New Testament in Dodoma Region.

We made a trip to Katavi in December, where Ruth and Jonah were being recorded in Bende and Pimbwe



Our friend and colleague Richard, who has worked with us since 2004, was also finishing to move on to new things.

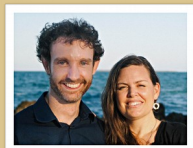
As we partner with more than 30 language communities across Tanzania, as well as several others in Uganda, it is encouraging to see how their vision for Scripture translation and the use of local languages in church develops as they have access to more and more translated resources. As they look to our organisation to provide expertise in translation and literacy, we are also aware that our partnership with you is key to the success of these projects.

So, thank you for all that you do to support these communities throughout Tanzania and Uganda. As we celebrate with them the Scriptures being produced in their languages, we know that your prayers and financial support are a foundational part of this success, and we thank God for your partnership in this way!



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 this 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
Wycliffe Bible Translators: www.wycliffe.org.uk

Thank God for:

- Initial healing of Laura's eye
- Provision of a house, bikes and recently a car during our time in the US
- Our work permits being issued
- The Burunge New Testament currently being printed
- Good relationships with church leaders and communities throughout Tanzania and Uganda

Pray for:

- Continued healing for Laura's eye, so she can read easily and be able to work for extended periods
- Our travel in the coming weeks – back to Tanzania, then visiting the various projects within Tanzania
- Laura as she continues to help our colleagues serving cross-culturally
- Mark as he relates to international funders about the ongoing projects in Uganda and Tanzania.