

EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, March 2013

Dear friends,

Thank you for your continued support over the past few months as we continue to work alongside communities in Tanzania's Katavi Region, who are seeking to translate the Bible into their languages for the first time. We're excited as we see things progressing, and as we think and pray about what God may have in store over the coming months and years!

Today is an exciting day in the Katavi office as speakers of the Bende, Pimbwe and Lwila languages are arriving to be interviewed as possible Bible translators for their communities. The process of finding exactly the right people for the job may be a long one, and is important to get right as the translators will have a big and vital job ahead of them! Please pray for the right translators to be found from these language communities, and that other contacts would also be developed that can allow us to better partner with the communities.

November saw a week of celebrations here in Mpanda as people came from far and wide to mark the inauguration of the new Katavi Region. We had a small stand at the celebrations where we displayed some of the materials that have been produced in the Bende and Pimbwe languages, as well as some Bible books from local languages in other parts of Tanzania.

Among the many interested and enthusiastic visitors to our stand was Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, who is himself a speaker of the Pimbwe language. He was fascinated to browse through the materials that had been produced, and we were grateful to have his input and recommendations for the continuation of the project.

Behind the scenes Mark has been continuing in his work as Operations Manager, setting up IT systems, keeping track of finances and trying to ensure the office runs smoothly. He has also been training our colleague Isaack Lusega, who is increasingly taking on many of the tasks that Mark has been doing.

In January we travelled to Dar es Salaam for ten days, where Laura taught the Child Safety portion of the orientation course for new staff arriving in Tanzania. She enjoyed the chance to work as part of a larger team at the main office, and we both appreciated the opportunity to see some old friends, as well as to make some new ones.

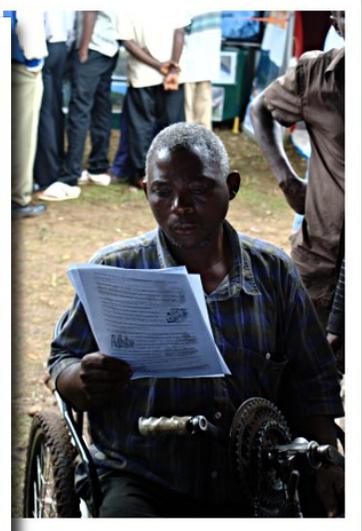


Above and left: Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda discusses the Pimbwe alphabet chart and jots down some ideas



Below: Pastor Kassanda records a Bende story at a recent workshop

Below: Many other people are very interested in the language development



As we write this we are getting ready to travel again to Dar es Salaam for a couple of weeks at the end of March. This time part of the reason for the trip is vacation, but we will also be meeting with colleagues to discuss our continued work later this year and beyond. We would also ask for your prayers as Mark sits on a governance committee for the Uganda-Tanzania branch, particularly as they will be discussing how staff from Uganda, Tanzania and around the world should be involved in the decision making processes of the organization.

Events to pray for over the coming months:

17 March – 3 April: In Dar es Salaam for meetings and vacation

8-19 April: Initial translation workshop with potential Bende, Pimbwe and Lwila translators

Mid-late April: Mark hopes to travel to Mbeya to continue his MA research among the Nyiha language community

Late June: We travel to the Kenyan coast for our organization's annual branch conference



Left and right:
Working together to install a fence on the Mpanda office compound



Below: Celebrations! November was the first birthday of Zilpa, daughter of our colleague Isaack, and then at Christmas the Katavi team came together for a celebratory meal!



We are looking forward to spending several months in the UK and the US towards the end of this year and into 2014, catching up with friends, family and our supporters – both churches and individuals. We are still working out what dates will work best with the project here in Katavi and with our potential assignments next year, so will keep you posted as we know more. We are very excited to hopefully spend time with many of you during those months!

Thank you for all your support for us and for the peoples of Katavi Region! Please pray with us for the translation process here, and particularly that able and committed translators would be found from the various language groups. May we be dependent on God to lead us forward, and to accomplish what he wants to within us, and within the Bende, Pimbwe, Lwila, Rungwa, Fipa, Sukuma, Ha and other communities of Katavi Region!

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" Online and other donation options: www.wycliffe.org/supportteam



Our website: www.everytongue.co.uk
Wycliffe US: www.wycliffe.org

Thank God that:

Isaack is able to take on many of the tasks that Mark has been doing, allowing Mark to start concentrating on other things

We enjoy good relations with government and church leaders, largely thanks to our team leader Richard's partnership efforts

Our health has been very good over the past few months

Pray for:

Selection of able and enthusiastic translators from the Bende and Pimbwe language groups, who can start translating Bible portions

Wisdom as we plan our time in the US and the UK, and our assignments after that

Mark to finish his dissertation research and make progress in writing it up