

EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, March 2014

Dear friends,

As we enjoy the feeling of winter turning to spring, we're also looking ahead to major changes and new beginnings over the next few months, and are happy that you are part of this journey with us!

As we shared with you before, Mark is applying for citizenship here in the US which will mean that we will both be dual citizens of both the US and the UK, and able to freely travel to and live in either country. This process is taking longer than we had anticipated, and we are currently waiting for Mark to be given an interview date for this.

Despite the citizenship process continuing here, Mark has been able to start working on his new role as Language Programs Manager for three multi-language projects in Tanzania. Last month he spent three weeks in Tanzania learning more about this role and meeting with the teams in two of the projects as they review what they are doing and make plans and budgets for the coming year.

This short trip went very well and it was encouraging to see the progress being made among 18 language communities that the Dodoma and Mbeya offices are serving. As they planned and came up with budget proposals Mark was able to get a good overview of the work that goes on day to day in each office, as well as getting to better know the staff that work in each location.

As the staff looked ahead to the next few years it was exciting to see several of the translation teams anticipating finishing the draft of the New Testament, which will then be checked, typeset, printed and distributed throughout the communities. Other groups are just starting the process of writing their languages, so our hopes for those communities are that as they work with linguistic experts they will settle on an appropriate writing system and be able to start selecting translators.

Another encouragement over the past few months has been that the teams have been working on new websites to make Scriptures and other resources available in the local languages. You can take a look at vwanjilanguage.com for a taste of what is being published online!



Meeting with staff at the two large translation projects in Dodoma and Mbeya



We flew to Mbeya on a new small plane, which should make travel around Tanzania easier



In January we were grateful for another opportunity to visit friends and supporters in California. It is always such an encouragement for us to see friends there, and for Laura to go back to the area where she grew up and that feels like home in many ways.

Back in Oregon we have really enjoyed the extra time that we have been able to spend with family and friends. It has been good to be part of our church here, and Laura has particularly enjoyed helping to lead worship. We will be sad to leave again, but at the same time we're definitely looking forward to seeing people in the UK and starting our new roles in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. One of our goals over the past few months has been to increase our level of prayer and financial support, and we are excited to say that we are now at over 90% of our budget for returning to Tanzania!

Right: Exploring beautiful Oregon with friends

Below: We have loved spending time with our two-year old niece...



Events to pray for over the coming months:

Mid-April: Mark takes on his new role full-time, remotely at first until we can leave the US

Hopefully April: Mark's citizenship interview and oath ceremony

Then... After Mark gets his US passport we'll spend some time in the UK before flying on to Tanzania

And then... Hopefully in May we'll arrive in Dar es Salaam, look for a house, and start working in the office

We would appreciate your prayers that Mark is given an interview date for US citizenship very soon, as we are eager to make plans for moving back to Tanzania. Every day we check the mail, but we are still waiting! Once we have an interview date we can make firm plans for packing up our house here in Oregon and flying to the UK and on to Tanzania.

In other news, Mark's MA dissertation is very close to being finished, after he received encouraging comments from his supervisor!

While the exact timing of our return to Tanzania depends on the US citizenship services, we are thankful that God is in control of all these practicalities. We are also grateful that Mark is able to start his new role remotely, as he starts to take over management of the three projects using email, Skype and other means of communication.

As we think about all the translation, literacy and other work going on in Dodoma, Katavi and Mbeya we are very encouraged to see how much has happened over the past few years, and to see some of the impact of translated Scriptures in the communities. Please join with us in praying for God's guidance and provision as these projects move forward, and wisdom for us to know how we can best serve the teams and the language communities.

Thanks again for all that you do, and the vital part that you play in what is happening throughout Tanzania!



Cut along here to remember to pray for us!

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Cheques can be made payable to "Wycliffe Bible Translators" and sent to this **new 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 that:

The level of our financial support has increase significantly, and we are now at over 90% of our budget

Mark had a safe and productive trip as he visited the Dodoma and Mbeya projects last month

The projects are progressing well, with several languages nearing completion of the New Testament in the next 2-3 years

Pray for:

Mark to be given an interview date for US citizenship very soon, so that we can make final plans to move back to Tanzania

Our transition over the next couple of months, including spending time with friends and family in the UK

Continued enthusiasm from our support team, praying for us and helping to provide our practical needs