

EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, November 2012

Dear friends,

Thank you for continuing to support us over the past few months in our work here in Tanzania's Katavi Region. We feel that we have settled in well to life in Mpanda, and the work in the office is progressing well. The Advisory Committee for the Bible translation project, made up of local and regional church leaders, were very encouraging when they met back in July, and we are blessed to be able to work alongside them and serve them in this way.

Over the past few months our linguistics department has held several workshops for participants from the Bende and Pimbwe language communities. During these workshops the participants collected words, and with help from our colleagues agreed on tentative alphabets for their previously unwritten languages.

Currently they are involved in a two-week text collection workshop, which mostly involves telling and recording stories which can later be analysed grammatically to come up with a linguistic overview of each language. These steps are crucial to ensure that any Bible translation that is done will sound natural, and also be easy and intuitive to read.

It has been encouraging to see that the project has been generally well received by local government leaders, and we are excited to be able to represent the Bible translation and language development work at the official opening of the new Katavi Region towards the end of this month. It is hoped that both the President and the Prime Minister (who is a Pimbwe) will attend these ceremonies, so we are praying for opportunities to share with them what is going on.

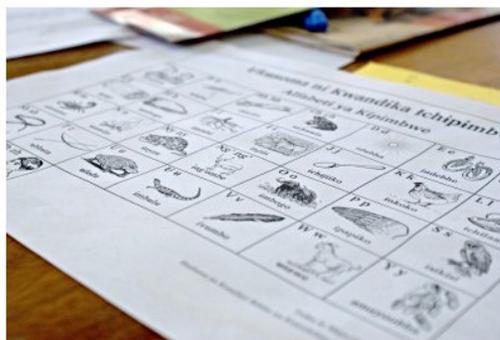
Behind the scenes our office staff have been busy supervising the building of a fence around the large office perimeter, and an outside toilet for the night guards to use. October also saw the end of the financial year, which meant some extra processing for Mark as he prepared the reports that are eventually sent on to funders around the world.



Left: The Advisory Committee for the project



Workshops to analyse the Bende and Pimbwe languages and to devise alphabets



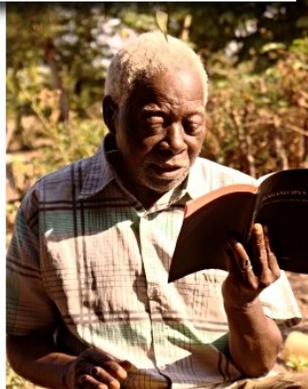
Over the past few months we have been on the road quite a bit, firstly travelling to our branch conference on the Kenyan coast, then Mark travelling to our head office in Dar es Salaam for strategy meetings at the end of August, and finally both of us spending a week in Dar at the beginning of October for some more meetings, medical check ups, buying supplies and catching up with friends. At the end of November Mark is planning to spend a week or so in Mbeya Region, researching for his MA dissertation about how the Malila community use both Swahili and Malila Scriptures that are available to them.

We were very grateful for safe journeys on all of our recent trips, and would ask for your continued prayers for ongoing safety as we travel, particularly now that the rains have started.



Above: We, and the animals of Katavi National Park, survive the dry season

Below: Our Tanzanian grandparents enjoy a New Testament and Songbook we gave them in their Sukuma language!



Events to pray for over the coming months:

19-25 November: Official ceremonies marking the inauguration of Katavi Region

End of November: Mark travels to Mbeya to conduct his MA research among the Malila language community

December: We may travel to Dar es Salaam to spend Christmas with friends there

Into 2013: Work continues in our office, with language analysis going ahead to set a strong foundation for Bible translation into the Bende and Pimbwe languages

This month has seen the rains start here in Mpanda, which has meant less dust, and puddles starting to appear on the walk to work! Soon the mangoes on our tree will be ripening, and the dog, cats and chickens will be rolling in the mud outside...! More importantly, many people in the region are now beginning to dig their land and plant seeds, hoping for good rains to provide an adequate harvest in the coming months.

Thank you again for all you do to support us and to support the people of Katavi Region. We are encouraged to see the project moving forward, and the smiles on people's faces as they discover that we are interested in them and their local languages! Our prayer is that as parts of the Bible start to be translated into Bende and Pimbwe that the churches would grow, and that we along with the communities here would grow to know more of God's love and his character.



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 214993" Online and other donation options: www.wycliffe.org/supportteam



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

Thank God that:

Language analysis workshops have been going well and tentative writing systems have been created

We had safe travels to the coast and back in July, August and October

The infrastructure at the office continues to develop

We feel settled and at home here in Mpanda

Pray for:

Safe travel in the coming months, and a good week of dissertation research for Mark in Mbeya at the end of November

Our colleagues as they continue to work on linguistic analysis

Ongoing good relations with church leaders and government officials