

EVERY TONGUE

Mark and Laura Woodward, November 2015

Dear friends,

Thank you for supporting us in our work with language communities throughout Tanzania. Over the past few months many thousands of Scripture verses have been drafted and checked, literacy classes have been conducted, community and pastors meetings have been arranged to encourage the use of Scriptures and other materials, and we hear testimonies of how, as a result, lives have been impacted. Behind the scenes, many of our colleagues have been busy working on logistics, HR, planning and budgeting. And in all of this we rely on your faithful prayers.

Over the last couple of months Laura has been asked to be the language coach for three new international staff who are learning Swahili here in Dar es Salaam. This has been hard work, but an enjoyable and rewarding experience, seeing the participants make good progress in the language, and being equipped with tools that will allow them to continue learning Swahili once they relocate to their assignment locations.

Laura is also continuing in her role helping the international staff in Tanzania as they face the unique challenges of working cross-culturally. In addition to helping to orientate new staff, Laura is available to listen to other more experienced colleagues as they process any issues they might be facing as individuals or families.

Meanwhile, Mark is continuing to supervise three translation projects, with our colleagues based in offices in Dodoma, Katavi and Mbeya working in 20 languages. As you can imagine, there is always a lot going on, although Mark feels privileged to work with very capable and hard-working teams in each location.

Recent highlights include:

- Typesetting of the Burunge New Testament, which will be printed and dedicated at a community celebration on June 4th next year
- Publishing of Scripture smartphone apps in a number of languages
- Ongoing development of community partnerships, including with churches in Malawi who are very motivated to receive Scriptures (you can [read more about that here](#))
- Literacy initiatives and alphabet development continuing in many languages, including several that we have recently started working with



Laura and Carlos teach Swahili (with help from some toys) to new international staff

The Burunge community meet to start planning the New Testament dedication



Ndali pastors from Malawi, very excited to be able to distribute books in their language

The Pimbwe translation team talk through Luke chapter 1



Technological advances often open up new opportunities, particularly in the area of distributing materials. Recently our colleagues have been able to make Scripture smartphone apps available in the Google Play store. This means that anyone with access to a smartphone can download the app and read, or listen to, Bible portions in their language as soon as they have been translated. Obviously not everyone has access to a smartphone, particularly in more rural areas, but millions of people do throughout the country. Not only do the apps allow for much quicker and cheaper distribution of Scriptures, but they are also very easy for people to share with others. (You can see [some of the apps online](#).)

One recent software development allows much easier production of local literature by authors with low-level computer ability. Other applications are used by translators to bring together numerous exegetical materials, and coordinate the expertise of translators and consultants, who may be on different continents. Please pray for our IT staff in all of this, as they play such a key role in facilitating so much of the work!

Events to pray for over the coming months:

November 11-13: We travel to Mbeya for the annual Advisory Committee meeting of church leaders, and for Laura to spend time with our colleagues

Early December: Mark will fly to Katavi to meet with the team there and meet some recently hired staff

January: Laura will help to orientate eight new international staff to Tanzania

February and March: Planning meetings in each of the three projects, reviewing the past year and looking ahead to the next financial year

Our colleagues Isaack and Dwight talk through IT issues



The plane and pilot make trips to Katavi possible in a few hours, rather than 2-3 days

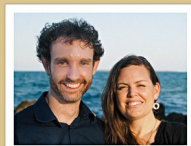
We always love to visit the teams in different parts of Tanzania, and would appreciate your prayers for safe travel, and continued good relationships with our colleagues, as we do so. We praise God for the dedicated and gifted teams that he has put together, and pray that by his grace we would interact with them in ways that reflect his love and humility.

We are also very much aware of your contribution to all of the translation, literacy, Scripture engagement and logistical support that is happening in and on behalf of the many language communities. Please be encouraged that your prayers are being answered, and that God's message is being heard by communities in their own languages! May you also know God's blessing, and his presence with you as you continue to serve him wherever you are in his world.



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 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:

Continued good relationships with church leaders and language communities throughout Tanzania

Encouraging progress in translation, literacy and Scripture engagement, with several New Testaments nearing completion

Highly motivated and skilled colleagues throughout Tanzania who are a joy to work with

Pray for:

Final steps in the printing and dedication of the Burunge New Testament

Good discussions as we plan ahead with the project teams, and listen to the desires of the communities

Wisdom as we look ahead to possible continued Old Testament translation, investigating local and international funding possibilities