

Dear Friends

Greetings from Illinois, where we are beginning our furlough! It is good to be back in the States visiting people, but it will also be great to get back to Botswana because . . .

We are still in the midst of typesetting(!). It is kind of too bad that the timing of our furlough came as we are working on typesetting--which is taking longer than we had hoped. We have started the process, and the typesetter has given us one proof which Tim and Splash made corrections on and sent back. So things are back with the typesetter and we are waiting for his next proof.

However, even though we have been disappointed at how slowly typesetting is going, we are very encouraged by the community response to the prospect of God's Word in their language. If you get our newsletter you

have probably already read about how people are coming forth and asking for proof copies of their Bible so that they can create songs based on the Word of God in their own language. This is huge; for the first time this gives them the opportunity to sing God's Word in their own language. Not only that, but song is a very effective way to memorize and share Scripture portions with others, so it becomes a useful evangelism tool. We know of three choirs who are hoping to share their songs when we have the launch of the Khwedam panoramic Bible, but hopefully between now and then even more choirs will want to get involved.



One of the choirs singing from the book of Genesis in Khwedam

Otherwise, while we are gone Splash is supposed to be leading literacy workshops in several different villages. We have had literacy workshops in the past that have been very successful; but because there isn't much literature to read those who were taught before need a refresher course, and there are many younger people needing to be taught for the first time. The communities have been asking for these literacy workshops; people want to be able to read the Khwedam panoramic Bible when it finally comes out!

Praises: Thanksgiving that typesetting is going forward on our project.

Thanksgiving that the Khwe people are interested in having the full Bible and continuing the translation project on their own.

Thanksgiving for initiative of several choirs to create Scripture songs in their own language.

Prayers: *Please continue to pray that typesetting will go smoothly and will get done yet this year.

*Please pray that the Khwe community will be able to organize and that they will be well prepared to continue work with more autonomy.

*Please pray for Splash as he holds literacy workshops. Pray that nothing comes up to sidetrack or abort the workshops.

Thank you again for all of your prayers on our behalf.

Tim, Lisa, Aaron, and Andrew Beckendorf