

# Far Trekkin'



*News from Rob and Eshinee Veith*

Volume 3, Issue 3

October, 2007



**the dancing sni**

*excerpts from Eshinee's blog*

## All that Jazz

I recently sat in on my first translation check. I joined Rev. Michael Megahan at the Bible Society of Botswana office. The checkers ranged in age from 9 years old to senior citizen. They had gathered to check the recently translated Psalms 79-81.

They're trying to teach me Kalanga and I'm learning little bit by little bit. I don't know if I have the spelling right but I was taught a couple of greeting forms:

*Ma muka tjini?* "How was your wake-up?"

*Nda muka.* "I woke up well."

A basic "How are you? I am fine."

*Ma shwa tjini?* "How did you spend?"

*Nda shwa.* "I spent well."

The thing that you spent could be your time, your energy. Basically, how was your day spent.

Not only do the words have individual tone but the clauses, dependent and independent, have tone as well. It modifies the tone of each word, morphs it into an overall tonal contour. In other words, everything rises a bit, falls a bit back but further, rises a bit again, falls a bit further, repeat to end of clause. And depending on the type of clause, the last three syllables (or so) seem to have the same tonal melody as all other clauses of that type. At least, that's how it sounded to me, just sitting there in the room while the Psalms were being read in a language I don't understand yet. It was a bit like listening to someone scatting in jazz; I could pick out the tune because the words didn't get in the way.

More dancing sni at <http://eshinee.blogspot.com>

## Wait! Botswana?!?

*Why we arrived somewhere other than Namibia*

Due to the wonders of email, most of you know that we left for Botswana in the pre-dawn hours of Monday, September 10. We arrived safely (along with all of our stuff) and are settling in nicely (There's more to tell than will fit in here; check our webpage at [web.mac.com/reveith](http://web.mac.com/reveith) for more detail).

Most of you, however, do not know why we went to Botswana instead of Namibia and what this means to our long-term ministry plans.

In order to live in Namibia, we need to work under a local organization in that country. This work does not include pay or stipend as our funding will continue to come from our supporters and LBT. In the past, LBT has worked with an organization that has sponsored missionaries coming into the country. In the last year, some of Namibia's immigration laws have changed and this organization is no longer able to sponsor missionaries like us. We learned this only in May when this organization recommended another potential sponsor to LBT. This second organization has agreed to invite us to come to Namibia, but this means the immigration process has to essentially start all over again.



Not long after our arrival, Rob got a lesson in *mmili*, a traditional game for men played by the Kalanga speakers of Botswana.

Since this process can take up to six months after filing the papers, LBT decided to send us to neighboring Botswana. We are able to assist some of the projects here and will gain experience by living and serving in Southern Africa.

We are currently living in the flat of our colleagues Carl and Melody Knight, while they are on home ministry assignment in the US.

Our visa is currently good for three months. We have applied for a one year visa. We expect our Namibian visa to be approved in about six months. But it might not be approved at all. This means our Botswana plan has to be expressed in three, six, twelve month, and long-term versions.

Details are still being worked out.

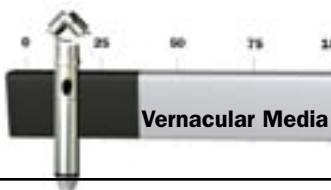
## Finances and projects

Even though our financial support has dipped significantly during the summer—while we were delayed in our departure to Africa—our 13 month average for this year is still higher than the same period of the previous year. We need your donations to cover our monthly expenses more than ever, now that we have the extra cost of living and working overseas.

We are also raising funds for three startup projects. We were blessed by several substantial donations towards our household setup, which is now at 93%. Yay! Thank you very much. Vernacular media is coming along quickly, as several congregations and individuals have “sponsored” individual pieces of equipment.

Our vehicle fund is our most immediate concern right now. We will be able to borrow or rent cars or take taxis for at least the next three months, but we will need to be able to purchase a car soon so we can travel to some remote villages for recording projects and language learning.

You can donate to a project fund by writing “Veith Startup,” “Veith Vehicle,” or “Veith VM” on the comment line of your check to LBT.



## Rob featured in annual report

The Kuru Family of Organizations, a non-government organization which focuses on improving the life of marginalized people in Botswana featured Rob’s work with the Naro Choir of D’Kar in their 2006 Annual Report.

From the article: “The Naro Choir tries to encourage people to glorify the Lord by singing in their mother tongue. With the help of volunteers, it was possible to produce a CD. By singing in their mother tongue, they want to encourage other language groups to follow suit.”

The story was accompanied by a picture of the choir and one of Rob doing some post-production work in the Naro translation office after making the recordings for the CD.

95% of the Bible has been translated into Naro, with 25% of the translation being “user ready” according to the Annual Report.

## A call for pictures

We have said many times that we can’t get anywhere without your prayers. This is most certainly true! When we lived in Washington, we kept a photo board up in our dining room to remind us of all the people we wanted to pray for. We had to leave that board behind in the US. But we would like to collect pictures of all of you who support our work in prayer and/or finances. Please consider sending us a picture of you and your family (ideally emailed, since the next edition of the prayer board will be created digitally on our laptops. Be sure to keep us posted on your family activities and prayer needs as well.

## Pray for us

- for *Rapid Approval* of our Namibia visa applications
- for *Safety* and *Health* as we begin our ministry in Botswana
- for *Increased Clarity* in our vision of our call
- for *Increase* in our level of financial and prayer support

### Contributions & Correspondence

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