



Far Trekkin'



News from Rob and Eshinee Veith

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New developments

David & Ruth, whom we met at the Music Camp in December, asked us to housesit for them until October in Gabane, a village about 15km outside of Gaborone. With all the missionary couples that we were housesitting for in Francistown returning from the U.S., this was an incredibly timely offer. Living near Gaborone would put us both closer to some projects that were more difficult to arrange from Francistown, a 6 hour drive away. We moved to Gabane at the end of March.

Now, Rob is a short drive from the ELCB worship committee headquarters, making it easier for him to be involved in worship education events and indigenous worship music development efforts in the Lutheran church in Botswana. Eshinee now has access to her greatest ministry asset to date: Sarah.

Sarah Sase, a mother tongue Shiyeyi speaker, became available to help Eshinee work on the Shiyeyi translation project from April to August. They began exegetical checks of Bible Stories and the gospel of Mark in April.

Ah, yes—God's provision and timing.

Shiyeyi Show-stoppers

Ikhiamina means something like “for-sake”, the old English word that is only heard today during wedding ceremonies and Holy Week services. See how this Shiyeyi concept enriches and connects the following passages.

References:

- Mark 15:34
- Acts 2:24-32
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-10
- 2 Timothy 4:9-18
- Hebrews 10:23-25
- Hebrews 13:5-6



the dancing sni

excerpts from Eshinee's blog

Sticking you with the rent



Eshinee and Sarah discuss a back translation of the book of Mark.

by Eshinee

This morning was tons of fun. We were going over all the stories and working out the finer points, differentiating different words semantically where we could, adding information where necessary for clarity, cutting things that didn't add to the stories, etc.

Cool Shiyeyi word of the day: ikhiamina—“stick with the rent”

OK, that's not the actual meaning. I'd be hard pressed to put it in the dictionary as follows but here is the conversation that clarified the meaning for me:

ME: What does it mean for someone to ikhiamina?

SARAH: It's like if you

and I were living together. We were always together and then, one day, I move to Maun [geographical note: at least a full day's drive away]. I don't tell you that I'm going, I don't call you with an address, nothing. I can't be any help to you now. Finally, you call me and say, “Why did you 'ikhiamina' me?” You see?

ME: And did I leave without leaving you any money for my share of the rent?

SARAH: [laughing] Exactly.

It's the word we're using in the Bible Story “Jesus is Crucified”, in the part taken from Matthew 27:46 (see “Shiyeyi Show-stoppers,” left).

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



"Snakes! Why did it have to be snakes?" Eshinee drew herself and the snake to scale on this digital photograph. She is still hesitant to stand in this particular place in the office and the snake expressed an unwillingness to pose for a photo.

I'm with you, Indiana Jones!

In April, Eshinee gained some missionary experience that she didn't think she needed and knew she didn't want—coming face-to-face with a hissing cobra in the office. Before we go any further with the story, let us quickly say that she is physically unharmed. She is, however, a bit more edgy about unexplained noises and has not yet returned to work in that office. Rob does not blame her as he has spent time in that office recently and can confirm that, yes, he has heard something living in the ceiling from whence the cobra came in the first place.

Good things that came of "The Cobra Incident":

- We got to meet a pair of real live snake-handlers from Mokolodi Game Reserve who came out to try to remove it.

- Eshinee had a chance to discover the durability of her commitment to overseas Bible translation work.
- God showed himself to be dramatically capable of protecting us in the literal face of danger.

Good things that we hope will come soon:

- We'd like all animals in the ceiling, be they cobra or rat, to go away so that Eshinee and Sarah can do their translation work in that office, rather than in the small office at the house.
- Eshinee would like to learn how to be intelligently aware of her surroundings without also being paranoid and jumpy.

Her full account of the experience can be read on the Dancing Sni blog, in the April archive.

Pray for us

- for *Safety* and *Health* as we minister in Botswana
- for *Wisdom* and *Insight* for Eshinee and Sarah as they check and edit the Gospel of Mark
- continue to pray for *Possibilities* for ministry to turn into *Opportunities*, especially with Rob's ministry

Rob teaches ELCB seminar

by Rob

Being closer to Gaborone means I get to work more closely with the the denominational leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Botswana, Eshinee and my sponsoring organization. A few months ago, I met with Maria, the coordinator of music ministry for ELCB (left of me in the picture below). We talked about ways that my vocation and skillset could facilitate the ELCB's vision for ministry in Botswana. Folks were excited to learn that I had a background as a sound engineer and music producer. A lot of churches in Botswana are going "wired" now, with soundboards, keyboards, amplifiers, etc, but they don't really know how to set them up effectively.

I was recruited to teach a weekend seminar. I started with a lecture on God's use of song throughout the Scripture which lead to a lively discussion about what is appropriate in Sunday morning services, based on what the Bible says (going on the basis of God's word, rather than only our particular culture or traditions). Then, I taught on sound equipment and microphone techniques. The weekend ended with a special performance of new music at a local Lutheran church.



Rob demonstrates EQ to a class of aspiring sound technicians.

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