



# Far Trekkin'



*News from Rob and Eshinee Veith*

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## Assignment: Botswana

by Eshinee

We have big news: LBT has officially assigned us to Botswana. As of mid-September, I'm the Shiyeyi Language Program Advisor. Rob remains the Vernacular Media Specialist and Ethnomusicologist for southern Africa, but now he will live in Botswana (instead of Namibia, as originally planned) because, well, I will be living here. We plan to have our long-term housing set up in Maun, in the northwest part of Botswana, by early next year. This will be our base of operations for at least the next 3 years. We are excited, for so many reasons.

First, being officially assigned to the Shiyeyi project (I was just helping out with a few outstanding projects before) gives me the ability to really dig in to the language. LBT has assigned me to the language for the next seven years. I will be able to spend the first part of that time learning the language. I hope to travel to

various parts of the Okavanga Delta where the language is spoken to learn how it is used and assess the Scripture needs and wants of the various communities.

Second, we can both take Setswana classes. Setswana is the national language of Botswana. Now that we are assigned to a country, we can learn the country's language.

Third, Rob can make more concrete plans with national partners. It's a lot easier to coordinate with other people when one knows where one will be for the next few years. Already, new doors are opening with Bible Societies, and language associations. Rob has two projects in the works with the Lutheran Church of Botswana, which we'll talk more about in a future newsletter.

Finally, we can move into our own living space and buy a vehicle. As people who have lived out of suitcases, either housesitting or sleeping

in guest rooms and hotels for the last four years, we are very excited about sleeping in our own bed!! Many of you have donated very generously so that we can have furnishings in our home and a reliable vehicle to drive. We haven't been able to use that money up to this point, because we weren't firmly assigned to a particular country. Now we will.

We know there will be questions so I'm going to preempt a few of the big ones. Feel free to write or email us if you have others.

### 1) What happened to Namibia?

All of this last year, we were ready to relocate to Namibia at a moment's notice. However, the Namibia-based projects initially proposed for me have not yet reached a state where they are ready for a Linguist/Exegete. By the time of Jim's (our LBT supervisor) visit in September, a decision had to be made: would we remain on standby in Botswana or would we look elsewhere for long-term ministry options? After many hours of prayer and discussion, certain aspects of our past year in Botswana became clearly relevant to the decision. A primary factor was my deepening relationship with the Wayeyi people and their unique project needs. The more I discussed my work

### Pray for us

- for *Safety* and *Health* as we minister in Botswana.
- for *Housing!* After October 15, we don't have a place to stay yet. We need temporary housing (3 months) in Francistown and long-term housing in Maun.
- pray for *Energy* as our schedule becomes very busy the rest of the year.

# Smart Trekkers

These are photos (taken by Eshinee) of animals in Botswana. Which of these is not usually eaten here in Botswana?



Send us your answers with your name and mailing address and we'll send you a postcard to tell you how you did.

**REVeith@LBT.org** or

**Rob & Eshinee Veith**

PO Box 1901  
Francistown  
Botswana

with the Wayeyi with Jim, the more I became aware just how strongly I felt about LBT's potential role in seeing that their needs, both scriptural and linguistic, are met. Namibia is not out of the picture either—there is a large Wayeyi population in Namibia as well; I will spend a significant amount of time working in both countries. Also, Rob is assigned to all of southern Africa, so he will travel back and forth frequently. The Maun location was chosen partially because it has easy access to both countries.

## 2) Um, weren't you already assigned to the Shiyeyi project?

Technically, no. I had been assigned to finish up some projects in the language which had been pending for some time. This led to some discoveries in the language, which I pursued. As 2008 progressed, I gravitated more and more toward working with the Shiyeyi materials until that became the bulk of what I did this year. It certainly began to feel like "my" project but it wasn't officially so until September.

*A message from Lutheran Bible Translators:*

## MISSIONARY POOL

Summer is over, and for most of us, the pool has closed for the season. However, the missionary pool doesn't contain water, it is made up of funds, and it is very much open!

LBT operates on a pooled income system. Each missionary has an annual funding goal that relates to their budget. Gifts in support of LBT missionaries are applied to the budget of that missionary. If the budget for that missionary is fully-funded, surplus funds are used to assist other missionaries whose budgets are in deficit (such as new missionaries just starting out).

Thank you for your valued support of LBT missionaries. As of October 1, 2008 the missionary pool was at 75% of the year to date needed amount. If you haven't given a gift in support of your missionary this year please prayerfully consider doing so at this time of need.

For questions concerning missionary funding please contact:

**Sharon Vega**

Missionary Personnel Supervisor  
LBT, P O Box 2050, Aurora IL 60507-2050  
1-800-532-4253 or SVega@LBT.org

### Contributions & Correspondence

*in the US:*

Rob & Eshinee Veith  
c/o LBT  
PO Box 2050  
Aurora, IL 60507-2050

*in Canada:*

LBT of Canada  
Box 934  
Kitchener, ON N2G 4E3

Write in check memo line: *Veith ministry*

**Email:** REVeith@LBT.org

**Weblog:** <http://eshinee.blogspot.com>

**Website:** <http://web.mac.com/reveith>

