



Far Trekkin'



News from Rob and Eshinee Veith

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Our last few days in Gabane

by Rob

As I write this, Eshinee and I are staying in a guest house in Francistown, where I have been available for a month to assist in the development of new Scripture-based media in the Ikalanga language. There will be more about that project in our next newsletter. For now, I want to tell you about the ministry opportunities we had during our last few weeks in the village of Gabane, where we stayed for the last

six months.

While Eshinee was involved in exegetical checks of *Bible Stories Retold in Shiyeyi* and the Shiyeyi Mark manuscript with Sarah Sase, my daily responsibilities were keeping the house clean and food on the table. However, I also spent a significant amount of time in my role of encouraging the development of local indigenous worship music.

For example, I met Rev.



William Sechele, a pastor at the Gaborone Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCB) who composes and performs gospel music. While we lived in Gabane, William would come by the house at least once a week and record tracks for songs he had written. We hope to have his debut CD finished sometime next year.

In the spring (fall to you northerners), Eshinee and I were invited to sing with a community choir. This was an opportunity to learn the music of one of Botswana's premiere

Top: in the finale of the ELCB choral event, nearly everyone joined the choir, while Rob monitors the sound from the front row.

Inset: Rob checks recording levels on his portable digital recorder.

Above: Members of the Christ the King choir pass around the headphones to listen to the first recording of their indigenous mass. "Wow! We sound good!"

Pray for us

- for *Safety* and *Health* as we minister in Botswana.
- for *Housing!* We are still having a hard time finding a place to live in Maun (article next page).
- for *Our Car.* We need a new one (article next page).
- for *Things to Come Together* for what looks like a complicated schedule in 2009.

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This old "bakkie" was supposed to be a short-term loan. We would like to replace it with something more reliable and less painful to drive.

This car, it is tired

When Mike and Cindy Rodewald left for South Africa, their old car came to us. At the time, the assignment was to be temporary. We expected to relocate to Namibia within the month. LBT missionaries Carl and Melody Knight had agreed with LBT directors to sell this car (and their current car) and use the money to buy their new car.

The car is a 1996 Toyota Hilux which has been everywhere—Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa (I think it has been to Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Angola as well, but that was before we got it). It's an old "bush car" with three gas tanks and a rugged suspension designed for road conditions which are no longer prevalent in Botswana.

In the local idiom, this car is *tired*. Or, as we might say, it needs to be *retired*. Here's some of the big problems:

- Air conditioning broken; pronounced unfixable. Eshinee has been incapacitated by heat exhaustion twice after long trips.
- Alarm system comes and goes; we have been stranded more than once when the alarm wouldn't deactivate.
- This thing uses a *lot* of

gasoline (if we continue to drive it, petrol will be the biggest line item on our annual budget)

- The cab is so uncomfortable (for someone with Rob's long legs) that he loses feeling in his legs if he drives for more than an hour.
- The insulation between the engine and cab is gone; even on cool days, it's well over 100° *inside* the car. Did I mention: no air con?

We have raised most of the \$30,000 LBT has allotted for us to buy a new vehicle. We hope to get one with better gas mileage, working air conditioning, and 4-wheel drive.

We could use the help of you, our partners:

- Pray with us that we will find the right model that will meet our needs and be reliable in the long run.
- We still need about \$4,000 to meet fill our vehicle fund. If God calls you to be financially involved in our ministry this year, please consider helping top this fund by adding a "Veith Vehicle" memo on your donation check this month.

Where do you stay?

As this newsletter is being prepared, all of our worldly possessions are piled against the wall of our one-room guest house. After four years of living out of suitcases, housesitting, staying in temporary lodgings, and relying on the hospitality of friends and relatives, we are looking forward to finally going *home*. However, a suitable home in our proposed base town, Maun, has not been found. Please keep our housing needs in your prayers:

- A secure location
- Near town
- In good repair
- With necessary amenities (ie, a shower)
- Within our budget

Gabane

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composers of choral music, Luka Dishu, as well as learn to sing Handel (our choir performed Messiah at the end of October, a day before we relocated to Francistown).

At a choir rehearsal, we met the choir director for Christ the King Church. She had written a new choral mass and recruited me to record a demo of it, since the encouragement of the development of indigenous worship materials is what I'm all about. The mass was recorded over two weekends in October. The choir enjoyed hearing themselves played back. "Wow! We sound really good," one exclaimed.

I also recorded the annual ELCB Choral Event, where choirs from the Gaborone area came together for a day-long concert at the cathedral. I recorded 180 minutes of performances by five choirs which will be edited down to a single "best of" CD length by the concert's organizers in early 2009.

Praise God with me for these opportunities which are coming to fruition.

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