



Far Trekkin'



News from Rob and Eshinee Veith

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by Eshinee

We started our home assignment with 4 months in Texas to finish up my MA in Applied Linguistics. Yes, you read that right—4 months. While still in Botswana, I realized that I had actually completed the better part of the master's degree during various training periods for our first term in the field. I checked out the course offerings at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics for early 2010 and found that this was a great opportunity not only to finish the degree, but also to meet some learning needs discovered during this first term in Botswana.

It was definitely a big challenge for me: 16 graduate credit hours in 21 weeks. My courseload was quite heavy but, with a lot of grace from God and my profs, I made it through.

Key experiences from this included:

- finally learning and working with the Hebrew language, including translating passages of Ruth into English
- translating Matthew 9:1-8 into comic book format with Rob as the “mother tongue translator”
- working with Shiyeyi language data for my field methods and data management classes

- preparing innovative audio study materials for my comprehensive exam study group
- putting the latest in translation theory principles into practice in a guided environment

There wasn't much by way of free time but I did get everything that I could out of the campus library while I was there, including making use of the inter-library loan services to read everything on the Shiyeyi language that I could find here in the States. This included getting my hands (briefly) on a new Shiyeyi-English dictionary, published in Germany and only one copy for sale on this continent... for \$170. I'm planning on buying it before returning to Botswana, now that I've had the chance to review it in person. Everything else, I was able to get scans or copies of, mostly journal articles and book chapters.

Apart from the knowledge that I gained during this time, the encouragement of being back in a linguistics training environment benefitted me greatly. To have access to so many people with extensive field and linguistics experience helped me hammer out some of the finer points of the project challenges ahead. Even the pre-field linguistics students provided a special form of encouragement in the form of dropped jaws when I



*The “mothers of reading” (*matres lectionis*) are the Hebrew consonants that are occasionally used to also represent vowels. English has one such consonant (y); Hebrew has four!

told them that “my” language not only has tone but 4 clicks, each with the potential for nasalization, voicing and aspiration. Kind of hard to keep from propping my hands on my hips, throwing my shoulders back and donning a cape.

Seriously though, I have to give Rob props for humoring me as much as possible when I came home for lunch babbling about “conceptual blending” and “implicated premises”.



Even better in person

As this newsletter is being put together, we have recently returned from a month connecting with churches in eastern Canada. By the time you receive it, we will be traveling around Washington state. November is scheduled for California.

We welcome opportunities to speak to churches on Sunday mornings. We still have a few open Sundays (see the list to the right). Weekday events are also great, since the limited number of Sundays each month fill up quickly. women's luncheons, men's breakfasts, mid-week Bible studies, youth rallies—these are all great events for us. We also hope to make as many personal connections as possible. Recently, for

example, we have been able to meet over dinner with a number of supporters who have been with us since the beginning. It was a great time to reconnect and get to know each other better. Rob also recently did a program of African music on the three traditional instruments he learned in Botswana; this is great fun for him (and also helps people understand the role of an ethnomusicologist in Bible translation ministry). Getting a large number of people at an event is not nearly as important as having an opportunity to connect with those truly interested.

Our schedule is updated live at Eshinee's blog (<http://eshinee.blogspot.com>).

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Known Schedule

September 1:

Immanuel LWML

Luncheon presentation

Puyallup, WA

September 5

Trinity Lutheran Church

Bellingham, WA

3 services

September 12

Lutheran-Prebyterian Parish

Potlatch, ID

Service and dinner

September 19

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Renton, WA

Bible study and sermon

September 20

Women of the ELCA

Edgewood, WA

Luncheon presentation

September 26

Trinity Lutheran Church

Brookings, OR

Mini-concert and sermon

October 3: **OPEN** for

Oregon or Washington

October 6

Avondale Bible Church

Woodinville, WA

Awana presentation

October 9

Hope Lutheran Church

West Seattle, WA

Lake WA LWML Rally

October 10: **OPEN** for

Washington (preferably greater Seattle area)

October 17

Denny Park Mission Festival

October 24: **OPEN** for

anywhere on the West Coast

October 31

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Lake Arrowhead, CA

3 services