



Far Trekkin'



News from Rob and Eshinee Veith

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The Adventure Continues

Hello!
Since we last wrote, we've been at JAARS.

Eshinee took the first month of the VMS course, learning to incorporate Vernacular Media into a language development plan. She was pleased to envision ways in which she and Rob might actually work together in the future, rather than simply working in different areas within the same geographical location. Then, she went for a week to LBT headquarters in Aurora, IL to work out the details of our new ministry. Rob is continuing on with the technical part of the course, finally getting his chance to mesh existing skills with current VMS methodology. He sinks into his ministry niche as one does into an aged leather couch.

But not all of the fun and games are training-related.



Veith and Veith Rhythm Section: we had a chance to sit in with a jazz combo at our favorite coffee shop. Eshinee sang and played bongos while Rob played stick bass.



Rob and Eshinee pose (squinting) for an official VMS class picture at JAARS. These folks do vernacular media programs all over the world. Can you pick out the five from LBT?

Waxhaw, has a fabulous coffee shop, Crossroads. The local music scene is both progressive and inviting; we've had a number of opportunities to jam with some really cool artists. And while we sorely missed playing with the Vigilants at Cross of Christ during Holy Week, we did our own version of Autumn Leaves with Ken and Karl at Crossroads the following Saturday night. Dennis and June, Rob's parents, were in town that week and took in

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Vernacular Media: Scripture outside the box

By Rob

The old model of Bible translation involved a translator translating the scriptures and a literacy worker teaching people how to read. While no one's saying that learning to read is a bad thing, there's been a significant shift in recent years towards presenting the scripture in culturally appropriate media.

Many of the world's cultures have never had printed material before. They don't see how it "fits" in their culture and don't see any reason to learn to read.

Oral culture is more than just inability to read. It's an entirely different mind-set—a different way of interacting. I don't exactly get it, and I took a whole class on the subject. But I do get that there's a need to present the Bible and Bible-related materials in media other than the printed word. That's what Vernacular Media is all about.

The first things we think about in terms of complementary scripture materials are video and audio. Jesus film. And sure enough, a lot of what I'm training to do is dub videos such as "Jesus" into local languages. And putting scripture on tape is a big part of what I'll be doing as well. However, the really interesting part of vernacular media is finding ways to use the existing media forms—that is, the traditional media—to present the scripture and the Gospel message.

For example, I think of myself as pretty open minded about what you can have in a worship service—I like liturgy, I like free form. I like hymns and contemporary music. I've participated in services where praying meant everyone speaking simultaneously in

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tongues and others where everyone read the words printed in the bulletin.

But I recently realized I still think of worship in terms of singing songs, listening to sermons, and corporate prayers. My definition may be too narrow. What about people's "heart art"? Dance, sure. Drama, okay. I can imagine these as part of church. But what about pottery? How about embroidery? I read something recently

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the show.

As we still have quite a way to go in order to reach our monthly support goals, we're in the planning stage for a partnership development trip, hopefully hitting the road in September. Part of being with Lutheran Bible Translators involves recruiting a team of prayer partners and financial supporters. If your church is open to having us come to talk about the work of LBT and our role in it, be sure to let us know soon so we can plan our route most effectively. We're looking forward to seeing people that, given constraints of time and space, we just don't get to see often enough.

However, if you are planning on supporting us financially or in prayer, you don't have to wait until we come to your church to start. As we're planning on living and attending school in separate states this summer,

about cultures which, having a tradition of tattooing, begin tattooing Christian symbols onto themselves, post-conversion. Now, tattooing, in and of itself, gives me the heebie jeebies. But can I deny it as a potential act of worship? How can I, as a Vernacular Media Specialist, encourage the arts outside my limited paradigm? How can the arts that have been a part of a culture for millennia be used to teach the scripture, inspire more powerful worship, and present the Gospel in an appropriate way?



Above: Eshinee brainstorms a media plan for a language group in Africa with teammate Mary Kim.

Below: Rob jams with Paul Closius, creating transition music for a class project radio program.



our monthly expenses will double for that time. So, we need to have our plucky team of partners in place from the start on this next leg of the trek.

And for those of you who have already begun to rock... we salute you.

Grace and Peace to you,

ROB AND ESHINEE

What is Lutheran Bible Translators?

Lutheran Bible Translators is committed to the Scriptures as God's primary means for bringing about life-changing encounters with Jesus Christ. To be effective, the Word of God must be accessible in a language and media that people most readily comprehend. These core beliefs shape our vision:

- People around the world are meaningfully engaged by the message of the Scriptures. The translations are accurate and faithful to the original texts, beautiful in their use of the receptor languages, and clear in expressing the Biblical message.
- The Scriptures and related materials engage the users by addressing their day-to-day needs and concerns—leading to transformed lives.
- International partners have the vision and capacity to carry out all possible aspects of Bible translation projects. National churches are motivated and fully equipped to use vernacular Scriptures in their ministries of Christian growth and outreach.
- LBT personnel and international colleagues work together in a spirit of Christian love and partnership—in an atmosphere in which each person's contribution is valued.
- A well-equipped, empowered and encouraged LBT team is recognized for professional competence, innovative approaches in Bible translation and facilitating the development of effective programs for using God's Word.

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