



Far Trekkin'



News from Rob and Eshinee Veith

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May, 2006

Two Months in Africa

by Rob

On May 16, 2006, I will leave for Namibia. It's very exciting, after all this talk about what we hope to be doing once we get to the "field," to actually have field experience in sight!

Kedra Larsen, a Chicago-based missionary ethnomusicologist with Lutheran Bible Translators will be involved with several projects throughout southern Africa. I will join her mid-May.

From May 22-26, I'll be assisting Kedra in conducting a song workshop with the Naro people of Botswana. Kedra is a veteran at this, but I'll be brand new. We'll see how well my training serves in the real world.

The Naro Choir has been around since 1989. They have a unique, exciting singing style which draws on their own musical traditions while incorporating other African and Christian styles.

From May 30 through

June 2, we plan to conduct a media survey amongst the Khwekhwegowab people. Kedra has been doing these surveys in order to discern which type of media (such as tape, CD, or video) would best serve that people group and what kinds of programing they need (sermons, dramas, songs, etc).

From June 5 to 9, we'll be part of a song and drama workshop with recordings made for a local radio program. I have a recording made in this region last year. It mixes Scripture reading, vocal songs, and instrumental music.

New Scripturally based, locally styled songs will be collected and recorded at both workshops. The songs are recorded with tapes or CDs distributed to churches and radio stations. The hope is to create materials which can be played at home or on the radio to facilitate Scripture

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Eshinee takes her oath of citizenship. She's now a US citizen!

Citizen Sni!

As most of you know, Eshinee is a Canadian citizen who grew up in Newfoundland. Most people think that if a Canadian marries an American, she can automatically become an American citizen. We thought that too. Actually, the process is long, complicated, and expensive. Eshinee only became eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship in January of 2006, after we'd been married nearly five years. She decided to apply for two reasons:

First, if she left the U.S. for any length of time as a *permanent resident* (the status she previously had), she would void her residency and would have to apply all over again upon returning to the U.S. (we know at least one person who was temporarily jailed for returning to the States after a permanent resident visa expired).

Second, if anything happened, such as civil unrest, while we were overseas, we

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Pray for us

- for *Travel Safety* as Rob travels to southern Africa and Eshinee travels to southwest Washington
- That we may do *Good Work* with *Integrity*, wherever we find ourselves
- for *Opportunities* to share our ministry and the *Ability* to clearly articulate the vision the Lord has given us
- for *Increase* in our level of financial and prayer support

If you would be interested in receiving a sort-of-weekly prayer email, contact Rob at REVeith@LBT.org.

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learning, or learned in church for worship.

In mid-June, Kedra will head north to Opuwo and southern Angola to carry out a media survey amongst the Dhimba. Meanwhile, I may



LBT Ethnomusicologist Kedra Larsen with two students at a recent songwriting workshop.

be involved with recording an AIDS awareness project in Windhoek called, "The 2000-year old Vaccine," which calls people to Biblical principles of sexual fidelity. The United Bible Society of Namibia hopes to have these materials

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wanted to be able to report to the same embassy.

Last month, the immigration office called her to appear for her Naturalization Interview on April 18 in Seattle. The timing corresponded to a trip we needed to make to the Chicago area anyway in order to meet with the LBT head office. So we were able to add an extra "leg" to our trip and Rob was able to be present in the waiting room while Eshinee interviewed.

Eshinee took her oath on

available in six Namibian languages.

I'll be back in South Carolina again for just over a week in early July, before I head off to GCoMM, the Global Consultation on Music and Missions, which is the conference for those around the world working to encourage indigenous forms of worship. But I'll be writing more about that as the event gets closer.

While I'm away in Africa, Eshinee, will complete her studies of New Testament Greek and will begin her time as a teaching assistant at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC.

the same day. Rob's parents drove in from out of town with only a few hours notice. Some of our local friends came as well (we believe Eshinee had the largest group of well-wishers in attendance that day!).

Eshinee has a much more detailed story of the day on her blog (<http://eshinee.blogspot.com/>), including an audio blog phoned in right after the interview and more pictures.

The Good News... the Bad News

Last newsletter, we talked about our prayer and financial needs in order for us to begin our full-time work in Namibia. We recently met with LBT directors in Chicago. Analyzing our current support situation, they determined that (here's the bad news) unless our financial support level changes miraculously we'd have to postpone our relocation to Namibia. Now, while we believe that God works miracles, when dinner-time rolls around, we don't serve up a plate of gravel and stare at it expectantly. Instead of leaving in October, 2006 as we'd originally planned, we're shooting for an early 2007 departure date.

The good news is that we'll be able to spend at least part of the time between September and January back in our Northwest homeland. The ELCA Synod of Southwest Washington is a partner synod of Namibia. Eshinee has been invited to appear at the Synod assembly in May. We hope to make contacts with congregations that already have an interest in ministering to the people of Namibia. LBT has brought Peg Seitz onto our "team." Peg is a former LBT missionary who volunteers her time to help book speaking tours for missionaries like us.

In the meantime, we continue speaking in churches and raising support in the Columbia, South Carolina area.

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Us having dinner with Pastor Russ of Grace Lutheran church, one of several churches we've met with in the Columbia area.

