



Far Trekkin'



News from Rob and Eshinee Veith

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GCOMM

by Rob

I had the privilege of attending the Global Consultation on Music in Missions (GCoMM) for a week in July. The event gathered music ministers from all over the world to

- dialogue about the roles and functions of “heart music” in the lives of all Christians;
- form personal friendships and organizational partnerships;
- discuss resources, strategies, and models that others have found useful in various contexts;
- identify current challenges and opportunities;
- encourage further communication and networking

I went to the conference with fairly high expectations, thinking I would be able to summarize the high points in this newsletter. But the event hit “pinged” my highest expectations and never really took a dip, so it is difficult to pull out salient points. I’m reminded of a Bible college friend of mine who highlighted his whole Bible because “it’s all good.”

Old friendships were rekindled, new ones were forged. Contacts were made and ministries were discussed. And great music was sung for God’s glory!

Beyond the “end of the road”

by Rob

Opuwo means “end of the road.” This city in the north-western part of Namibia is significantly more rustic than Windhoek, where I had been for the preceding few weeks.

More people dressed in traditional clothing, such as the Dhimba folks in the photograph above.

LBT missionaries Judy Olson and John Strasen are part of a team working on a



Rob records a song newly composed by Dhimba young people. The lyric is Mark 13:35: “...keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house will return...”

Dhimba new testament. LBT ethnomusicologist Kedra Larsen has recorded Dhimba Scripture songs in the past.

We set up a mini-songwriting workshop. Peter (to my

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Sharing the ἀγάπη

by Eshinee

When I decided to be a T.A. (teaching assistant) for Summer Greek this summer, I primarily wanted to be sure that I would have a solid foundation in the Greek language before actually being involved in translating the New Testament in Namibia. I had been told by last summer’s T.A.’s that teaching Greek is the best way to make sure that you actually learn Greek. I am pleased to report that this seems to be true. It’s one thing to be able to look at a word, recognize it, parse it and then translate it. It’s a whole different story



Eshinee writes on the board for her students.

when you have to listen to how someone else has translated that same word differently, determine if their translation is possible, figure out how they got their translation (if it isn’t correct) and then show them

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DHIMBA

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left in the picture) wrote some passages from the recently completed book of Mark on the chalkboard and a group of students from one of the literacy classes developed two new songs which I recorded.

Kedra travelled to Angola to conduct media survey work the week before. She found some Kwambi—a group related to the Dhimba—who had acquired a copy of the old Dhimba Scripture tape some time back. They were excited to discover they could put Scripture into their own language and music style and had composed songs which they sing in their church.

It is exciting to find people empowered to worship God with the music closest to their hearts! I hope to eventually travel back to this community and make recordings so that more folks in this language group have access to these compositions.

A special thank you to all those who have financially supported our ministry and prayed for me while I was there; you made this trip possible.

So, what's next?

We would like to relocate to Namibia as soon as possible. At this time, we're still short of funding. Of the approximately \$5,000 a month we need to cover expenses overseas, we're hovering at \$2,500 per month. We will not be approved for departure to Namibia until we are fully funded. This means that by the time you read this, we'll be en route to Washington state where we will resume speaking in churches, seeking those called to financially support this ministry. For those of you in that area: we look forward to seeing you in person as well!

To schedule us to speak at your church, small group, backyard barbecue, or any other event email us or contact our scheduling volunteer Peg Seitz at 1-800-532-4253.

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Eshinee teaches summer Greek students at an afternoon study session.

SHARING

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how to get to the right one by redirecting their thinking patterns. The more I explain how Greek works to others, the more grounded I become in my own understanding of Greek. Faith isn't the only thing that comes by hearing, I guess.

Secondly, I intend to be teaching linguistic principles and/or Greek to mother tongue Bible translators sometime in the future, potentially (and eventually) working us expatriate Bible translators out of the picture. So, I needed to know if the ability to teach was something that I have been gifted with. It's hard to be objective when assessing my own ability as a teacher. I was encouraged when one of my students commented that she loves it when I say, "Here's a trick that I use to remember this..." because my tricks actually do help her. I'll take that as a good sign.

Finally, I wanted to share my ἀγάπη (love) of translating the Greek New Testament with future pastors and ministers in the Church. To be fair, they're a pretty self-motivated bunch and my job

has been made easier by their enthusiasm. But I hope that, by being a person who is not on the pastor-track at seminary, I have conveyed that knowledge of New Testament Greek is also being used for things other than sermon preparation and academic papers. Who knows? Maybe some of them will find themselves being bitten by the Bible translation bug once they've gotten some years of pastoral ministry behind them. Wishful thinking on my part, I know. But that's the thing about love; when you love something, it's hard not to impose those feelings on everyone around you and harder still to understand why others don't automatically share your "love target." I just have to remind myself that Jesus says that loving him means doing what he asks me to do... and that he asks different people to do different things. So, if we're each loving Jesus by aiming at our individual "love targets," I guess the love is being shared, and more fully.

Deeper comprehension? Future intention? Shared vision? Mission accomplished!

