



Far Trekkin'



News from Rob and Eshinee Veith

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Greener pastures Orientation in Windhoek

by Eshinee

By early May, it became clear that a stall in the visa process meant that we were not going to make it to Namibia by the end of

May. That would mean no time for me to be oriented to the Khoekhoegowab translation project with Rev. Shawn Boylan, current translation advisor for the project. LBT and the Bible Society of Namibia (BSN) decided that it was important enough that I have some on-the-job training to fly me over there for a week on-the-job with Shawn. So, on May 9, I began the long flight to Windhoek, Namibia, arriving on May 11. I was fast asleep by 3PM but woke again before 7PM. I would continue to sleep only in 4 hour chunks for the next few days.

The next morning, Shawn took me to meet Rev. Bar-



Eshinee and Rev. Barnie van der Walt, the general secretary of the Bible Society of Namibia.

nie van der Walt, general secretary of the BSN. We discussed some of the BSN's plans for Bible translation projects in Namibia and how I might fit into those plans. For the rest of the weekend, my task was more mundane. The Boylans took me around to different stores (grocery, pharmacy, clothing) so that I could get a feel for what basic household upkeep will entail in terms of availability of products and pricing relative to U.S. prices.

Monday morning was my first day at the BSN office. We arrived at 8AM and went to the main office area, where

Continued as PASTURES, next page.

On God's timing

by Rob

God's timing. I've heard this one a lot: "God does things in his own time." Usually, this is in the context of, "Not when you or I want things to happen." Whenever I feel like I'm waiting for something to happen and it's taking too long, I run down the list of my Biblical heroes: Abraham: 25 years (from the "father of many nations" promise to Isaac), Moses: 40+ years (from "Let my people go" to sight of the Promised Land), David: 40 years (from God declaring him king to the time he actual began to rule).

We're entering year four from the time we decided to become involved as missionaries in Bible translation ministry. People sometimes say, "Oh, when did you get back?" As if we've left, accomplished translating the Bible into all of the minority languages of Africa and are now back in the US to resume "normal life."

It's rare that we see God's bigger picture. We just sigh and say to ourselves, "God does things in his own time."

In the last few weeks, though, I have seen clearly the hand of God delaying our relocation to Namibia. We were housesitting two doors down from my parents when, as many of you know, my father was diagnosed with a rare arterial aneurysm.

Eshinee and I were "supposed" to be in Namibia at this time. Instead, we remained here to drive Mom and Dad to and from the hospital, to field calls and emails from friends and family, and to take care of their pets and plants. I didn't do much, really, but to have me here during a family medical emergency has been a great blessing to them; how can we not thank God for delaying our relocation to Namibia at a time like this?

Thanks to all of you who have kept my father in your prayers at this time.

Pray for us

- 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
- for *Rapid Approval* of our Namibia visa applications.

PASTURES

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all BSN workers gather to begin their day with devotions and prayer. After prayer, I went with the Khoekhoegowab team to the office that they share and the day's work continued. Shawn had structured the week so that I would participate in as much of what my job will entail as possible.

Monday: going over the translation reviewer's report and making modifications as necessary

Tuesday: reviewing the scripture portions that would be discussed in upcoming radio broadcasts

Wednesday: exegetical review of the first half of Romans 1

Thursday: Ascension Day (national holiday); I spent much of the day preparing for Friday, when I would be leading the exegetical work

Friday: exegetical review of the last half of Romans—my first day as an official exegete!

It was great to finally be using the skills that I've honed over the years. It was also an encouragement to see such a direct map between the training and the practice. For example, our exegetical review sessions greatly resembled the small group sessions of the Pauline Studies course I took last spring. The only difference was that, on Friday, I got to lead the session... and I did just fine.

With the hands-on portion out of the way, I spent Saturday as a real rest day. On Sunday, I took a cab to Inner City Lutheran Church in West Windhoek. The service

was great and I felt welcomed. The best part was that Rev. Petrus #Khariseb, one of the Khoekhoegowab translators,

was the guest preacher for the day. Hearing him preach confirmed to me what a gifted team I was going to become a part of.

The last 3 days in Namibia were for me to orient myself to the city and test my ability to get myself around. On Monday, I set out on foot and managed to make it all over downtown Windhoek in 4 hours. Stops included the visa office, the museum and various shops of household goods. By early afternoon, however, I realized that I had twisted my left leg somehow and it was becoming increasingly difficult to walk. I made it back to the guesthouse but that was the end of my walk-about plans. Thankfully, the guesthouse provided wireless internet access and I was able to get information by email from some of the places that I had been planning to visit on foot. Tuesday was spent with my leg elevated while the rest of southern Africa struggled with the unusually cold weather, cold even for that time of year. While there was certainly no form of heating in my room, I only needed to add socks and a sweater for comfort. I was shocked to read in the paper the next



At the Bible Society offices, with the Khoekhoegowab team.

day that there had been 17 weather-related deaths on Tuesday as temperatures went to freezing. Wednesday was much warmer and my leg was feeling much better. I took Petrus, Valerie and Josef (the Khoekhoegowab translators) out for lunch at an Indian restaurant just down the street from the Bible Society. We spent a good 2 hours getting to know one another, laughing and enjoying one another's company. I look forward to working with these talented, passionate and welcoming people as soon as possible.

So, I left sooner than I would have liked. It was great to finally be there, to finally "get my hands dirty" with a little bit of translation. I had a chance to sink my grubby fingers into completeness and I will hold onto that feeling until God sees fit to fully plant us there in his time.

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