

Dear brothers and sisters,

God has been with me to Botswana and back. It took four bus days to reach Shakawe, Botswana through Zambia and Namibia. The journey went better than I expected. In Africa it's difficult to plan, as online information is scarce. Each new place I had to ask people for help to find my hotel or the next bus. One time, I waited in a police station until 2 am to catch a bus. This was a mercy because outside it was 45°F. I also took shared taxis to and from the border multiple times-- this is a lot like hitchhiking. God is giving me experiences to make me more comfortable with Africa.



Romanos, Paulus and Christian worked on the Thimbukushu recordings with me "Frog", the friendly police border man

Our recordings of 196 bible stories in the Thimbukushu language took two weeks to complete. The scripts had already been translated, but we made adjustments along the way. One of our readers, Romanos, told me about how the Hambukushu people have no Old Testament, and how the New Testament they have is full of errors. Some false doctrines have arisen because of these errors. For example, when Jesus' baptism is described, their bible says he was baptised "with" water, and not "in" water, with the water as acting agent. So one church teaches that each new convert must baptize himself or herself, alone. During our recordings, we looked up greek and hebrew words to avoid making a similar mistake.



Paulus, Romanos and Christian were passionate helpers, reading old testament stories in their mother tongue for the first time. We worked 8am – 7pm, and it was hard to get them to take breaks. **Pray** for Paulus, who is a pastor and tireless shepherd. **Pray** for Romanos and Christian, who are farmers by trade and witnesses in their communities. These two weeks were a meaningful period in their lives-- may they bring home new energy and peace.



The Le Roux missionary family I stayed with. **Pray** God blesses them for their hospitality. Also **pray** for their work in translation, on the Thimbukushu bible project as well as other projects.

At night I could hear the grunting of hippos in the river (they liked to come up and graze outside our cottage). During the day monkeys made a racket in the trees, and we had to chase them off to preserve quality recordings.

**Thank** God especially for all he did on this trip. Everyone involved was touched in some way. God will do even more in the future through the recordings. **Pray** for skill in editing and fruit from the finished product.

**Pray** for FTS back in Malawi, and our upcoming events. Next month we plan to do bible quiz child-outreaches in Nkhoma, and more discipleship classes on the lake in Nkhotakota. These are the same events I took part in last year. May God do even more in these communities this year.

May God bless all of you back in America and abroad who continue to stand with these ministries in prayer. You are responsible for the impact here even more than I am. In heaven I believe we'll be able to look back and see how God used our small gestures to make his beautiful masterpiece. All of us will be together, every tribe and tongue, patting each other on the back and thanking God for completing us with his love.

In Christ,

Joel Juedes