



Far Trekkin'

News from Rob and Eshinee Veith

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Reviewers Trip Success

by Eshinee

“From 16-24 February 2017, the translation team of the Wayeyi Bible Translation Project conducted a reviewer orientation in 6 villages: Maun, Gumare, Ikoga, Seronga, Gunotsoga, and Jao.

More than 100 reviewers both received training in review skills and contributed to the quality of the Shiyeyi Bible translation by reviewing the early chapters of Matayiwo (Matthew). These chapters are now ready to be checked by a United Bible Societies consultant at the end of March. By the grace of God, we hope to have all of Matayiwo ready to publish in 2018.”

So went the update that I posted on the Wayeyi Bible Translation Project Facebook page at the beginning of March. The best part? For the last half of this trip, I wasn't even there; I drove back home to Maun after



Reviewer orientation at the kgotla (traditional center of authority) in Seronga. Photo by Motswasele Motswasele.

the orientation meeting in Ikoga, leaving the translators to catch a bus to Seronga for the last round of meetings in Motswasele's home area. In fact, during the orientations in the first three villages, I still did precious little, intentionally. My goal was to set up a review system that the translators could implement on their own. So, after each of the first 3 orientation sessions, we had a meeting together to discuss how things went, to see what could be refined and improved. During the sessions themselves, I would simply observe and take note of what I was seeing happen as the session progressed.

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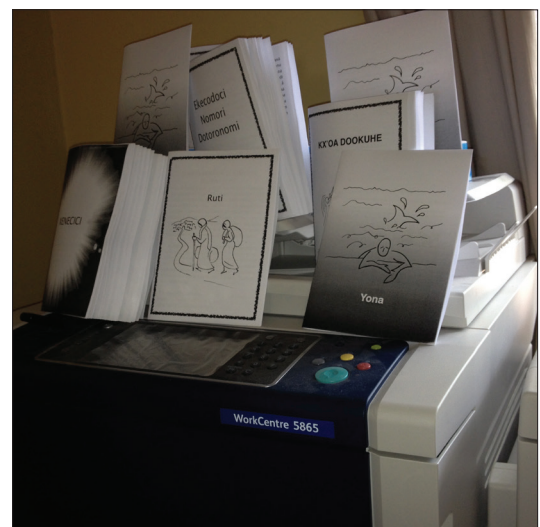
“Just in Time” Printing and Audio Recording

by Rob

In 2015, LBT Southern Africa purchased a printer with a grant from the LWML National Convention. Up to this point, the translation projects in Botswana have had two options: 1) wait until the project is complete and print the whole New Testament, or 2) print smaller runs of individual books with local printers. The translation projects on the field have been unhappy with the quality and prices available locally. As with most print shops, one saves a lot of money per copy by making a lot of copies. This leads to the problem of having to print a lot of books in order for the price per copy to be cost effective, even though that might lead to generating a lot more inventory than we can move in a reasonable period of time.

Our machine enables us to do “just in

Continued as TIME.



Our new printer allows us to print a few books at a time, like these seven Biblical books for the Khwedam project.

Trip

continued

Were the sessions perfect? Of course not; we were trying to do something that we had never tried before. We had only seen something like it done before, at a Kalanga reviewer's workshop a few years back. And we were adjusting what we had seen done to accommodate what we felt would work best in our context, culture, and area of the country. It was gratifying to see how Motswasele and Keene were able to reflect on what had happened in each session, identifying areas that could be improved and thinking of how that could happen even by the next session.

It brings to mind John 3:30, which Motswasele just drafted in Shiyeyi in April. While this has not been checked by the rest of the team yet (including myself), I was interested to see how he had intuitively put it. The direct English translation of his Shiyeyi draft version is, "It should be that he is the one who is-critically-needed greatly, but me I should lack being-critically-needed." Let's just say that this recent reviewer orientation experience has made me pretty happy to lack being-critically-needed.

Time

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time" printing of Scriptural materials. "Just in time" means that we can print only the copies we know we can distribute. So, if one language program thinks they can move a dozen copies of a Gospel at an upcoming event, I can make 12 copies of that book. The books can be immediately utilized for Scripture engagement, Bible study, and literacy efforts in the community.

We are applying the same "just in time" philosophy to audio Scripture as well. There are many examples of people who can speak their language, but struggle with reading it. Back in September I recorded the Gospel of Luke in Shekgalagari to accompany the printed Gospel. The project coordinator, Rob Hilbert, told me that the translation committee has lots of great ideas about how to use it.



The !Xoon band rehearsing before a recording session.

Report: !Xoon songs warmly received

by Rob

Last year, Eshinee and I helped birth new Scripture songs amongst the !Xoon people.

David and Ginny Long, the SIM missionaries who organized the workshop, told me how they went to visit a sick woman to pray for her. David said he brought only his ghetto blaster and a memory stick. "We played two of the Scripture songs from the workshop album and pretty soon several adults and quite a few children gathered to listen. As the songs played, they began to hum and sing along. Then we played portions from Luke 1 and 2. They listened and gave verbal

response to what they heard. Often when meeting in a yard the children are boisterous or the chickens or noisy or a drunk shows up, but it was very quiet." They prayed with those present and promised to return with more next week; the promise was very warmly received. "We are so very thankful to have the Word and now music in !Xoon to share with folk!" Praise God that he has been using these songs to communicate His truth and His love to the !Xoon people!

You can listen to some of the songs at https://ethnocloud.com/_Xoon_Music_Project