

The Rupprecht Email Update and Prayer Letter

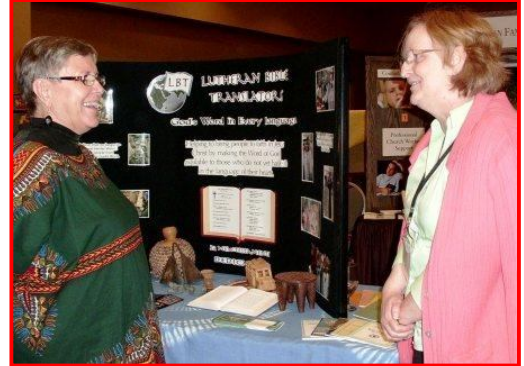
June 14, 2012

Scripture Use Ministry to Nigeria and beyond!

Vol. 8 No. 1

On the Move Again

Conventions! Seven LWML and District conventions will have been visited by the end of July. We are currently guests at the Northern Wisconsin LWML Convention in Appleton, WI, (Iowa East LWML was last week in Dubuque IA, Wisconsin South District in Mequon, WI was earlier this week, next week we are on to MN South LWML in Mankato, then to MN North LWML in Breezy Point (sounds interesting and . . . cold) ending with Indiana District on the 29th in Fort Wayne). July will find us at the Michigan LWML Convention in Dearborn.



We are encountering so many good friends and prayer partners of LBT (and us!) who have partnering with us over the years. We are seeing a lot of interest in missions and are even hopeful of recruiting some for mission service. It is truly a privilege to be able to share our own lives and experiences in this way. *We pray for stamina, energy and safety as we travel and spend long hours on the convention floor.*

We are not the only ones on the move

Kim, Paul and family moved to northwestern Wisconsin, near Duluth, MN, last Fall, where Paul is a flying instructor (and consultant) for Cirrus Aircraft. They are settling nicely into a new school district (kids are doing well) and a new church. Having to deliver planes all around the US and working with pilots in all those places, has Paul out of the area a lot. *We pray for safety for Paul in his extensive travels and blessings for the family as they make new friends and relationships.*



Paul, Noel and their family also have made the big move. They are trading in their snorkeling beach shoes for snow boots. Paul started at his new position as Assistant Port Director in Sault Sainte Marie, MI with Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). They left the tropics of Saipan and moved to the *cold* wilds of northern Michigan at the beginning of June. We thank God for safety in travel (including the cat) to their new home. *We ask for God's blessings as they start newly: a home, church, school, friends, work.*



Since both of our children's families have insisted on moving NORTH, we of the SOUTH and WARMTH will have to work through this preference crisis. (OK, so Chicago is not particularly south or warm but it is a mental thing) AND we do hope to go further south during those times when that becomes necessary (like from November to March).

Hotel Again

Once again, now that our home is 'up and running' we can make our home a place for missionaries (and others) to stay while they are visiting our LBT headquarters in Aurora. It seems like the Federwitz family is 'hoarding' the opportunity at the moment. Guests have included Dave and Valerie Federwitz (Ghana), brother Paul (also Ghana) and will later include brother Jonothan (Papua New Guinea) and family for starters. Many more to come.

Note: We LOVE visitors and hope that when *you* come to Chicago you plan to stop by (with a little luck, we might even be home). *We thank God for the home God has provided for us so that it too can be a resource for ministry and rest.*



At this very moment...

The recording of the Jesus Film is going on at this very time. Are we excited? You bet! A recording team is presently in Ogoja recording the Ukele and Ekajuk languages for the Jesus Film production. The Bokyi and Yala languages are already recorded and the Bete and Bekwara languages are yet to go later this month.



We expect that later this year or early next year the productions will be completed and available to the people. Now talk of excitement!?! [The pictures show the recording team working with the voice actors of the Bokyi and Yala languages in the recording studio that was improvised in our Iboko house.] *Thank God for the arrival of the lost recording equipment so that the Ogoja recording could proceed. Pray for the successful recording of the Jesus Film for all six Ogoja languages. Pray for the success of the post-recording production and duplication process*



A Surprise Phone Call

"Hello, my name is Njong. I know that you lived and worked in Nigeria with the Mbe language and people. I am from Mbube. (pronounced 'mmm-boo-bay') I live in New York."

That is how the conversation started when I picked up the phone a couple weeks ago. We had known for long that many people and languages from Nigeria were living in the US, but Mbe? We are truly curious what will develop from that conversation. We have since found out that there is an organization of Mbe speakers within the US with the goals of writing the Mbe language and sustaining the Mbe culture. I asked her if she knew about the *MbeLangCom*, the Mbe Language Committee in Nigeria. She didn't. I informed her of the common goals and objectives of the two organizations and strongly suggested that the two organizations need to communicate with each other, coordinate and cooperate with each other.



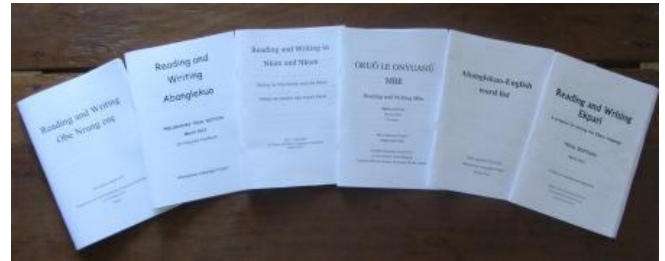
We have now been invited to a Chicago meeting of the Mbe Association USA at the end of the month. We are particularly excited because Mbe is one of the languages that is a member of the Luke Partnership Project. *We pray that this new discovery of an organization of the Mbube people in the US will promote the process of helping write the Mbe language and the translation of the Gospel into the Mbe language.*

Luke Partnership Project is Launched

Yay!! Five Ogoja languages met in a workshop format in April. Their goal was to begin analysis of the grammar and phonology (sounds) of their languages. Already the Mbube, Nkim/Nkum, Ekpari, Obe East, and Abongleku languages have developed literacy materials to test orthography and alphabet issues. Within three years they will develop and



finalize a tentative alphabet, analyze a



tentative grammar, write reading materials for literacy, translate the Gospel of Luke and produce the Jesus Film.

It has been a joy to hear reports of teams of language translators, like the Mbube team pictured, working together to write their languages for the FIRST time and so that their language can have the basic Gospel

message. We are truly looking forward to the time when these languages will have the Gospel message in written and visual form. The hope is that after these materials have been developed that these same languages will have the resources available to continue on to a full translation project so that they could have the whole New Testament or the whole Bible in their languages. *Pray for the travels and logistics involved to bring together the next Luke Partnership Workshop slated for July. Pray for the translators who are testing and developing preliminary materials for the next workshop.*

Thank You Partners

'Thank you' just doesn't seem to cover it! Your prayers and your gifts have been more than a 'support' to us. They have been our life and our sustenance spiritually and physically. The gifts, many given sacrificially, have provided the means to carry out the ministry. Without such support, God's work could not have been accomplished. *May God provide a special measure of love and grace to the many of our partners in mission and ministry.*

Gifts:

Since our relationship with LBT will continue on a part time basis, gifts to the *Rupprecht Ministry* will continue to be accepted by LBT. In our role with LBT we will be privileged to represent LBT to churches, schools, other public relations and recruitment events.

For those who have been part of our gifting ministry, we want to encourage you in your ministry. We do want to make a huge point. **We like Lutheran Bible Translators as a ministry.** We delight in the fact that we continue in the legacy of the translator and pioneer Dr. Martin Luther. There is no greater or more important ministry than translating and communicating the Scriptures in the heart

language of the people. There are still over 3000 languages in the world that need translations—of those, over 300 are in Nigeria! We strongly encourage you to continue supporting the ministry of LBT!

Continued Concerns for Ministry in Nigeria and the U.S.

1. Pray for God's blessings for the participants of the Jesus Film recording sessions underway at this time in six Ogoja languages, Bokyj, Yala, Ukele, Bekwara, Ekajuk and Bette.
2. Pray for God's blessings as the Luke Partnership Project continues with the second workshop in July. Pray for the participants from the 5 languages that will be participating. Pray for the consultants as they travel and develop relationships.
3. We give praise to God the hundreds of faithful donating partners and the praying partners for our ministry over the last years. Without that partnership our ministry could not have happened.
4. We thank God for the protection that has been granted to missionary workers in Nigeria and specifically work related to LBT.
5. Pray that peace can return to Nigeria and that the issues between the conflicting Christian and Moslem elements can be resolved.
6. For safety in travel and for our public relations ministry as we participate in 7 conventions in June and July.
7. Thanksgiving that both of our children moved safely to new homes and jobs. Pray that they find good church homes and friends.
8. We thank our faithful prayer and supporting partners. Without you, our work would not be possible.
9. Pray that God will be glorified and many will hear the Gospel and come to faith through the Jesus Films.
10. Pray for the health needs for Wilma's Mom, Ed's Aunt Marie, Ed's brother Bob and so many friends and relatives stricken with cancer. (We are amazed at how many were recently stricken!) Pray for healing and God's Will.

Blessings in Christ,

Ed & Wilma

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3. Are unable to (or would prefer not to) receive attached pictures in the future.
4. Would otherwise like to communicate with us.

The Rupprecht Email Update and Prayer Letter

May 2, 2011

Scripture Use Ministry to Nigeria!

Vol. 7 No. 3



Home

It is hard to believe. We're home! All we remember is a blur. Farewells, late night finishing of two publications and a trip to the printer on the way through Ogoja on the way out, quick farewells to friends in Jos, quick change of tickets, election and internal



travel concerns (thankfully unfounded as it turned out), Digby concerns, (it turned out it was easier getting our pup INTO the US then it was getting him OUT of Nigeria). We arrived in the afternoon of Tuesday, April 26 and were welcomed by my Wilma's sister Millie. Very nice, very welcome. **We give thanks for good and safe travels. For easy transit through airports, even for Digby.**



How does one say 'good bye'?

A very difficult time was had by all. We feel so blest, by the many well wishers from our mission coworkers and mission family to our friends and coworkers in so many languages and so many churches. Indeed the



many friends were more than kind. We do hope that there will be a way to return for a visit some time in the future. **We thank God for the many friends that have blessed our lives over the years while in Nigeria. We pray**



God's blessings on them as they continue in ministry and pray that our friendships will endure.

In Pictures: Yala Language Council; Mission family; Mbe Clan Head; Best Friend Josephine; Roman Catholic Bishop and Lutheran Bishop

Did someone say 'work'?

Till the night before we left, Ed was still working on an 'Order of Worship' for the Kukele Lutheran Church. The final proof was returned to him just two days prior to our departure date. Ouch! We were able to drop it and the Yala Transfer Primer at the printers on our way through Ogoja on our trip to Jos. **We give thanks that by God's Grace almost all the documents that we had committed to finish for printing were completed. We pray that Ed will be able to finish the remaining documents using email capabilities.**

Almost Peaceful Elections

We think we really know how to pick travel times. NOT! Well, it was not our plan to keep moving the election period so that they would coincide with our travel plans. Elections, Local, State and National were to have been held over three weekends and to be completed in February. As it turned out they were postponed until the end of April. We give thanks for minimal dislocations and violence, although there was some. In Ogoja, people could hardly believe that their vote actually counted. So many people were not going to vote, so we really encouraged them to do so. They (and we) are grateful that they did.



Presenting a fairwell gift, communion ware, to Pastor Matthew Wonah, Superintendent of the Yala Circuit. The Communion Ware is a gift from the youth of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Addison, IL

There was some concern that the borders, including State borders might be closed for the final week of elections. That prompted us to move up our travel days—and we actually got the dates. The plane from Nigeria was jammed so we figure we must have gotten the last seats. **We thank God for credible elections in Nigeria and pray for God's blessings on the elected leaders. We pray for peace as the leadership charts new directions for Nigeria.**



And One More Huge Blessing

As it turned out, with travel plans, etc, etc (AND by God's design) we were able to be in Jos for Easter AND the baptism of Wilma's most recent namesake. Wilma Egbang Ayugha was born by C Section last November 4th to our good friends Rev. Kierien and Charity. Rev. K is also a huge supporter

of the Bokyi language work and a scholarship student in linguistics and Bible Translation. **We pray for God's blessings on Baby Wilma and entrust her to God's care and the care of her parents. We pray for Rev. Kierien as he continues his preparation to return to language and translation ministry.**

Now the tough question. . .

. . . now what? We recognize that our physical limitations will prevent us from continuing our ministry in Nigeria. We are, however, seeking God's leading and guidance in continuing in some kind of ministry with LBT. It looks like it will be on a part time basis and will probably have something to do with sharing the fabulous story and ministry opportunities of translating the Holy Scriptures. We consider such an opportunity a huge blessing. Mainly because there is no better story to tell. And there is no better organization to be associated with. This also means that we really still need and desire your partnership, your prayer, your gifts, your support.

We also recognize, that we need to and WANT to spend more time with our children and grandchildren. (THAT will NOT be a hardship assignment!) We pray for guidance and wisdom in determining future directions for ministry. We pray that God will guide us in determining our status, whether we call it 'retirement', 'retreading', 'redirecting' or . . .

Continued Concerns for Ministry

1. We give thanks for safe travel and pray for God's guidance in determining future ministry opportunities for us, now that we will be resident in the US.
2. Give thanks for increased responsibility for funding in the Yala and Ukele Old Testament language projects and committees:
3. Give thanks for the print projects completed, the Kukele, Bokyi and Yala Transfer Primers and the Ekajuk, Kukele and Yala Orders of Worship for the Lutheran Church. We pray that the Ekpari Catechism and Order of Worship can be completed and that the Yala and Kukele Dictionary Projects can be continued.
4. Pray for the six languages that will undertake the Jesus Film Project in the next few months. May God guide them through the scripting and production phases.
5. Thanksgiving for the huge success of the Scripture Use/Engagement Workshop that was conducted in March, that it went smoothly and that the participants are invited to repeat additional workshops for other clergy and church workers in the area.
6. Pray that God would prosper the literacy efforts that can now proceed in Yala, Bokyi and Kukele since the Transfer Primers have been completed
7. We thank all our praying and financially supporting partners for providing the resources necessary to accomplish the work here in Nigeria.
8. Pray for continued peace and reconciliation in Jos and the Northern parts of Nigeria among the Muslim and Christian communities.

Blessings in Christ,

Ed & Mirna



Please TALK to us!!

The Electronic Rupprechts

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Find us on Skype

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Please send any personal mail to the LBT address below - do not send any mail to Nigeria.

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