

Entebbe, Uganda, Feb 2010.

Dear Friends,

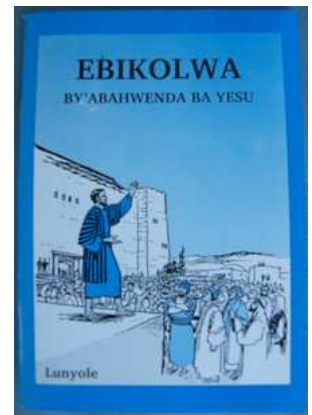
Happy New Year to you all! We hope your new year has got off to a good start. We are grateful to you for your prayers and support during the past year and thank God for His faithfulness to us all.

Since our last newsletter Gift has revisited the Kwamba people in Bundibugyo, close to the Congolese border in Western Uganda, travelling by bus (9hrs) and grateful for God's protection on the winding mountain roads. This time he met the newly formed Bible translation committee comprising representatives from several church denominations they nominate the translators and literacy workers to work on the Kwamba project team. He attended a Writers' Workshop where people learned how to write their language using the recently developed orthography (writing system). Five potential translators were identified by the translation committee from the workshop participants. Gift then interviewed them to see which of them should be recruited as translators.

At the beginning of January the three identified candidates travelled the 400 km (240 miles) to Entebbe to go through the recruitment and induction process and receive computer training. Gift showed them how to use computer software called Adapt-it which will help speed up the translation process. It will enable them to use translated books of the Bible in a closely related language, Bwisi, to produce first drafts in Kwamba. Sadly one of their new laptops was stolen while they were travelling through Kampala, but thankfully someone has offered a second-hand laptop to replace it. The translators Wilson, Smith and Hannington are now drafting the Gospel of

Mark. Literacy work will begin soon too. Kathryn helped produce an Alphabet Chart - a poster with a word and picture for each letter of the alphabet. These will be availed to people to put up on the walls in their homes and schools. It will be the first time many of them have seen their language in print.

The Banyole people are now preparing for a celebration on 27 February when they will dedicate the recently translated book of Acts. We told some of you about this event last August before leaving the UK. The printing of the book was delayed so the dedication was postponed. We hope to attend the celebrations in the Banyole area, near Mbale in south-eastern Uganda, 262 km (157 miles) from Entebbe.

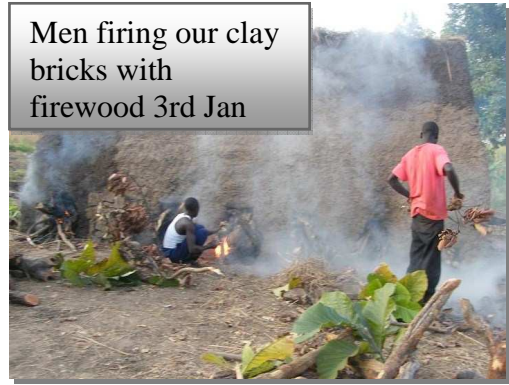


The existing translation projects are making good progress. Last November translators from Aringa, Bagwere, Lubwisi and Lunyole languages came to Entebbe for a workshop about how to translate Paul's letter to the Colossians. Two very experienced translation consultants from the USA, John and Joy Anderson, travelled to Uganda to teach and mentor the translators. During the two weeks of the workshop the translators drafted Colossians and are now working on their second drafts after testing their translations with people in their communities.

**Family News:** We travelled to Arua on 18 December to stay in our house there for Christmas and New Year. Our compound was a hive of activity as young men dug out the soil and made bricks to finish the perimeter wall. In one day up to 1,500 bricks could be hand made, with the help of neighbouring women, Gift's sister and cousins fetching water from the nearby stream. The bricks have to be laid out in the sun, covered with grass to prevent them cracking in direct sun heat, then turned after a few days to allow all sides to dry. On our last night, the pile of bricks was fired by burning firewood in tunnels underneath the bricks, clay having been applied to the outside of the pile to retain the heat. The firing takes all night and has to be closely monitored to ensure the fires remain stoked with wood and don't burn out. In total approximately 14,000 bricks were made.

We enjoyed being with family and visiting friends in Arua. James enjoyed his cousins coming to play with him and his lego! On Christmas Eve we sang Christmas carols in different languages with other missionary friends around a huge Christmas tree beautifully decorated with coloured lights. On Christmas Day we celebrated Jesus' birth with friends at St Phillip's Church, followed by a meal for about 20 people in our garden. I was glad that I didn't have to cook for so many as Gift's sister and cousins did the cooking and the washing up.

Men firing our clay bricks with firewood 3rd Jan



Also during our time in Arua we had opportunities to speak to the church congregation about what we had been doing since we were last there as a family at our commissioning service on 1 February 2009. It was good to reconnect with friends who pray for us and support us, to encourage them and keep them informed.

Just before we left Arua, James finally got the confidence to walk on his own. He is now enjoying his new-found mobility and independence!



James started walking on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2010.

Since we returned to Entebbe on 4 January, Gift has been busy getting the Kwamba project established. He is now working with someone from the Ruruuli language to help them set up their Bible translation and literacy project. It is hoped they will receive funding and training to enable them to translate the Gospel of Luke into the Ruruuli language and then record the script to provide a voice-over for the Jesus film.

Meanwhile, I've been working mostly at home while Gift has needed time at the office. I have been working on a Bible Study Guide in the Bwisi language to accompany a storybook about HIV/AIDS. I have also produced a numbers chart in the Gungu language. I'm enjoying the opportunity to support the literacy work

going on in the language communities by producing literacy materials on the computer. I'm looking forward to hearing how the books and charts are used and received.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for us and the work, with love from Gift, Kathryn and James

#### **Praise points:**

- For the safe arrival of our "new" car from Japan.
- For James now walking, that he eats very well and brings us joy.
- For God's provision as our financial support has increased.

#### **Prayer Points:**

- For God's protection as we travel to the Lunyole Acts dedication on 27<sup>th</sup> February and for the event itself to be successful in raising awareness of the translation and literacy work in that area in encouraging the people to read the translated scriptures.
- For continued good health for all of us and wisdom as parents of James
- For God's guidance for Gift as he advises and supports the new translation projects.
- For the newly formed Kwamba translation team: for encouragement, God's protection on them and their families and for wisdom and a learning spirit.

**How to make a donation towards our work and living expenses:** In the UK, send a cheque made payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators, to Wycliffe Bible Translators, Horsleys Green, HIGH WYCOMBE, HP14 3XL. Please include a note to say it is for the support of Gift and Kathryn Asiku. If you would like to support us regularly and give by standing order, please download a form from the Wycliffe website or ring 01494 682268 for details. You can make your gift worth more by using Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer. Forms are available on the Wycliffe website or ring 01494 682268 for details. You can also make an on-line donation on the Wycliffe website.

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