

# The Asikus' News

Entebbe, Uganda

September 2010

Dear Friends,

Since our last newsletter we have done quite a lot of travelling and we thank God for safe journeys and good health. James has had several new experiences: going in a swimming pool, visiting Kenya, riding on a boda-boda (motorbike taxi) and having malaria (twice). Gift has been very busy with a project proposal for six minority languages to be involved in an exciting new initiative – more of which below. Meanwhile, I, Kathryn, have stopped working four mornings a week and have started my maternity leave. We are looking forward to welcoming a new member into our family in the next few weeks.

## Family News

On 16<sup>th</sup> July we returned to Entebbe from our organisation's annual retreat and conference at Malindi on the Kenyan coast. It was encouraging to meet with 75 colleagues working in Uganda and Tanzania and their families. We were a very international group with 11 nationalities represented. Other activities of the conference included worship times, a speaker, business meetings, fun and games and children's activities. Also, each member gave a short report about the highlights and challenges they had faced in the past year.



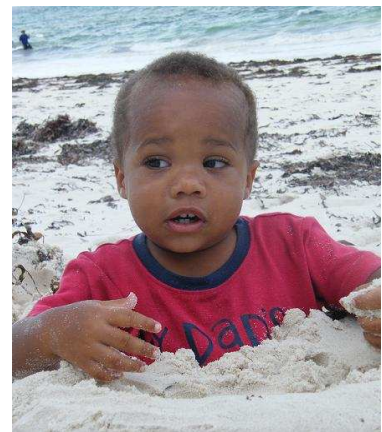
Kathryn, James and Gift Asiku at the Beach

There was also time to relax on the beach, paddle in the Indian Ocean, swim in the pool and chat to colleagues. The theme of the conference was “Remembering God’s Works and Making them Known”, taken from Psalm 105. We celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Uganda-Tanzania Branch and gave thanks to God for the progress of Bible translation and literacy in East Africa. (Wycliffe’s work in these countries has been going on longer than 10 years under a different organisational structure.) For the celebrations I collected photos of present and former members and produced a PowerPoint slideshow. It is amazing how many people have played a part in helping minority groups to develop their languages, in bringing God’s Word to people in a language they can understand and in facilitating literacy.

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## James

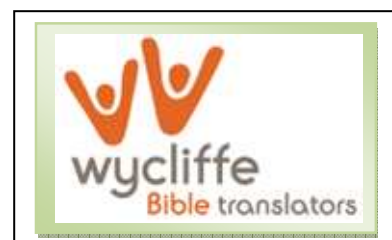
James continues to learn and develop, love books and come out with new words. We are learning to see the world through the eyes of a child, which is refreshing. We are grateful for access to medicines and doctors in Entebbe and for James' good recovery from two bouts of malaria in May and June.



James enjoying the beach!

## Kathryn

I have recently prepared two books for printing in the Aringa language: a short story book for new readers and a pocket-sized alphabet picture book to help learners to learn the letters, sounds and tonemarks used for writing Aringa. Before our conference I was also assisting the Uganda Director with administrative tasks. I have spent the last three weeks sorting through books left over from the school I worked in until July 2008. I have also enjoyed unpacking, and re-organising a small library at the office for missionary families, which includes books and resources to supplement homeschooling. As I previously worked as a librarian, this task was “right up my street”! I am now on maternity leave.



# Our work and travels

## May: Trip to Arua, Moyo & Adjumani

In May we spent a week and a half in our house in Arua with our friend and colleague Lydia. On the way there we stopped for a picnic just after crossing the River Nile at Karuma Falls. We were closely watched by a large male baboon, whom we kept at bay by tossing him mangos which we had bought by the roadside on our journey.



Baboon watching Kathryn, James & Lydia picnicking

During our time in Arua Gift and colleagues drove up to Moyo, a town NE of Arua, to meet with Ma'di church and community leaders to discuss how our organisation may be able to help them develop their language and to find out what interest there is in having the Bible in that language. They also crossed the Nile by ferry to Adjumani for another meeting. These discussions confirmed that there is a desire among the people to have a Bible they can read in their own language. On our way home to Entebbe Gift and a colleague also met with representatives from a much smaller language group, Ndrupa, living on the Uganda/Congo border west of the town of Nebbi. These people had also expressed an interest in developing their language and exploring the possibility of translating the Bible. We thank God for safe travel and successful meetings and thank you for your prayers.



Gift driving off the River Nile ferry, Moyo

*You can be involved in the work by giving and praying.* How to make a donation towards our work: You can donate on-line [www.wycliffe.org.uk/memberfundraising](http://www.wycliffe.org.uk/memberfundraising) or send a cheque payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators, to the Wycliffe office (address below). Please include a note saying it is to support Gift & Kathryn Asiku. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the Wycliffe office: *Wycliffe Bible Translators, Horsleys Green, HIGH WYCOMBE, HP14 3XL.UK. 01494 682268 Website: [www.wycliffe.org.uk](http://www.wycliffe.org.uk) E-mail: [askus@wycliffe.org](mailto:askus@wycliffe.org)*

## July: Trip to Kisoro

In early July Gift travelled to Kisoro in South West Uganda, close to the Rwandan border, to meet representatives of the Bafumbira people. They have already started writing their language and even printing some books and are interested in translating the Bible into their language.

### New initiative

These meetings are part of preparations for a new initiative in Uganda to help people who speak some of the remaining unwritten languages to develop their languages. This will involve analysing the sounds and other linguistic features and developing a writing system for each language. This would lead on to training for translators to translate the Gospel of Luke and the script of the Jesus film. Literacy materials will also be produced. The initiative is called The Luke Partnership and will hopefully involve working with six different language groups. Gift's role involves contacting and meeting community and church leaders who have expressed an interest in Bible translation and/or requested help to develop an orthography (writing system) for their languages. He is very busy at the moment writing a project proposal and researching the situation of each people group to provide as much information as possible to the organisation which hopes to fund the project.

*Thank you for your continuing support, love and prayers,*

*Gift, Kathryn and James Asiku*

### Praise God with us for:

- encouraging meetings with representatives from several minority language groups
- Safe travel in the last few months
- James' good recovery from malaria
- Kathryn's good health and the good progress of her pregnancy

### Please pray for:

- wisdom for Gift as he manages the Luke Partnership initiative, liaising with the funders and the language groups
- unity and motivation among the churches and communities involved in the initiative
- wisdom and strength for colleagues taking on new roles in our Uganda office
- the safe delivery of a healthy baby (due on 12<sup>th</sup> September)
- our adjustment to having a baby in the family and wisdom as parents