



By Richard and Renee Cook

Sharing the Hope!

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God's Strength in Our Setbacks

"Don't worry, I'll be fine" Richard said, as he sent Renee and John off to Gaborone, about an hour drive away, to a chemistry tutoring session for John, followed by a home schooling mothers' meeting for Renee.

Richard had experienced a peculiar lower abdominal pain just moments before their departure at 8 am. Since an intestinal flu had been going through the village, he thought he just had a touch of that. By 11 am, his temperature was 101 degrees and the pain had localized to his right lower quadrant. The final signs of nausea and vomiting at noon confirmed his suspicions that this was his appendix acting up.

Hurray for cell phones! Richard was able to track

Renee and John down in Gaborone. [They were just setting out on the quest for a special Sunday beef roast and gift for the next day, Father's Day.] Sarah was in the US at the time for her cousin's wedding, and John and Renee were the only other licensed drivers in the family. Richard needed them home to transport him to the hospital.

By 2:30, Richard was hobbling into Dr. Sham's office. She touched his abdomen and the tenderness over his appendix was undeniable. "That's the right spot!" he moaned. She sent us scooting right out the door to Gaborone Private Hospital.

It had only been two months since Renee's surgery, so she was very familiar with what needed to be done for admission, including prepaying the bill since the hospital did not recognize our insurance company. The surgeon stopped by the room at 5:30 and, after he poked around to find that tender spot, confirmed the diagnosis. By 6:00 pm,

Richard heard the anesthetist saying, "You're going to sleep now".

With a laparoscopic procedure, he was ready to head home the following day by 2:00 pm. If it had not been for a minor post op infection, recovery would have been smooth sailing.

Once again, Richard was reminded that his body is not that of a 20 year old any more. He has had to slow down a little, but quiet time is good for catching up on reading and spending some time with God. God has always been close at hand, as He was again this time in giving us strength in the midst of this additional setback.

Our lives are getting back to the routine again, and we are catching up in the activities that we all missed due to this second unplanned surgery.

We thank the Lord for His strength and His protection in our lives. He is our strength and portion both now and forever. ☺

My flesh
and
my heart
may fail,
but God
is the
strength of
my heart
and my
portion
forever.

Ps 73:26

Please remember
In your prayers

☸ Praise ☸

the Lord for the
success of Richard's
appendectomy

the Lord for the
dedication of
educators willing
to develop
educational
materials for the
minority languages
of southern Africa.

☸ Prayer ☸

for the plans of the
!Xoo survey as we
gather the necessary
data to move ahead
in the development of
the language

for the Beckendorfs
as they settle and
adjust to the new
languages and
cultures of Botswana

for all translation
and Scripture Use
projects that they
advance to bring
God's Word to people
in need of the
Good News of
Jesus Christ

*Prayer
Requests*

The Work Makes Progress

Even with the surgery setback, the work of bringing God's Word to the peoples of Botswana made progress.

On May 21st, Dr. Chebanne held the first orthography workshop with the Subiya in the village of Satau with over 70 participants. The vehicle traveling north was full and without a 4x4 vehicle Richard was not able to attend. However, the bookmarks he had prepared with the Lord's Prayer in Subiya worked well for evaluating the alphabet.

The first of June, Dave and Ginny Long, translation advisors to the !Xoo, along with Pastor Abithini arrived at our home for the Mother Tongue Education Conference. Presenters from all over southern Africa told their challenges and successes in implementing



Photo by Lydia Ramahobo

mother tongue education among the minority language groups in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. In addition to his presentation, Richard chaired several sessions and assisted in the final summary of the conference, a report sent to the Botswana Ministry of Education. We pray for continued progress toward the goal of mother tongue education for all.

In the first week of July before Longs returned to their home in the Kalahari Desert, Dave and Richard were able to begin plans for a language survey among the !Xoo speakers. We need more data about

On the second day of the Mother Tongue Education Conference, Pastor Abithini and Ginny Long listen attentively to the presentation.

The Subiya celebrate the progress made on their alphabet.

the number of speakers, the dialects of the language spoken and the vitality of the language in comparison to the data collected 10 years ago. Another planning session will take place in August before the September survey. We thank the Lord for the Longs work among the !Xoo. Pray for success of the survey.

Scheduled for arrival in Botswana on Friday, July 15, Tim and Lisa Beckendorf will be in orientation as you read this prayer letter. Stay tuned to our next prayer letter as we update you on their progress toward work with the speakers of Khwedam and Shiyeyi.☸

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