



By Richard and Renee Cook

Sharing the Hope!

Volume 13, Issue 2

Dateline June 7, 2007

The Foundation Is Laid

In 1996, Richard arrived in Botswana with the duty to initiate new language and Bible translation projects. Of the 27 languages in the country, ten had New Testaments or complete Bibles, and two groups had projects in process, leaving 15 languages groups needing assistance. Those 15 groups were Richard's target.

In his 11 years, Richard has worked with eight of those groups initiating work in seven. The eighth began efforts last month under the attention of RETENG, the national language coalition with whom Richard has worked intimately the last 3 years.

The remaining seven groups fit into two classes:

- in transition to using the language of a larger group
- or have a minority of speakers in Botswana, but would benefit from work in neighboring Namibia.

As a foundation crew lays the forms for construction, Richard has plotted out the initial work for those eight groups. Now is the time for others to come and finish filling the "forms" of the projects.

RETENG will carry on some of the effort in tutoring the groups through set up of the necessary government documents required for development efforts in Botswana.

Certain key faculty of the University of Botswana will carry on the linguistic work in documenting grammars and orthographies.

The Bible Society of Botswana will be responsible for advancing Bible translation efforts.



Richard working with Tate Sakudse on the Shiyeyi Jesus Film script in 1999.

Lutheran Bible Translators is still needed to provide trained exegetes and literacy specialists to bring the efforts to full fruition. Some of these needs are urgent. The Bakgalagari, the Chikuhane and the Tsoa are ready to have personnel now.

Please pray that the Lord brings forth the literacy and translation consultants that have a compelling passion for productivity to bring these projects to culmination. ☸

A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. Prov. 16 : 9

In our hearts, we sense finality to our years of service in Botswana. Not that the work is completed in bringing God's Word to all the people but that our part of that mission is accomplished. The Lord now moves us on into a new field for service. He has not yet revealed that venue to us, but we do sense His guidance. Where He leads is His decision. My plan is to follow. ☸

Please remember
In your prayers

✿ Praise ✿

For faithful
supporters as you and
look forward to the
opportunity to see
you again

For His faithfulness and
trust in His guidance
for our future

For 11 years of
opportunity to serve
for you in Botswana

✿ Prayer ✿

That the Lord brings
forth the literacy and
translation consultants
who have a passion to
bring the projects to
completion

For peace and
understanding as we
close our ministry and
leave Botswana
on August 5

Prayer
Requests



Stepping Into the Unknown

- 1986— vicarage, Superior, WI*
- 1987— Sem IV year back in
Fort Wayne, IN
- 1988— first call to Willmar, MN
- 1993— move to Rolla, MO
- 1994— linguistic school Dallas, TX
- 1996— Thamaga, Botswana *

That list is all the times I, Renee, have packed my bags to move into the unknown with Richard and the family. In each case I moved into a house I did not know in advance and sometimes even into a city that was new to me. The times marked with the * were moves in which I only took the clothes in my suitcase, my paring knife and my granny fork.

Here I am in 2007 packing my bags again to move out into the unknown again. Yes, I still have my paring knife and the same granny fork along with my clothes. I do get to take a few other things from my kitchen of the past twelve years. At least this time I will be stepping into a house and community I am familiar with since we are initially staying in the missionary apartment building we were in during our 2004 furlough.

But what comes ahead? I know we will be finishing some obligations with LBT until the end of December. Beginning in January we will have three months on LBT financial support for repatriation (severance)

time in which we will seek the Lord's will for our future, both in ministry and in location. That takes us through March, 2008, and into the promised new unknown.

I trust those steps are guided by the Lord and I know that our future is in His hands. ✿

Travel Schedule

Our tentative schedule for closing up our time with LBT is as follows:

Sept. 9 – 12	Minnesota
Sept. 24 – 28	Southwestern Missouri
Oct. 1 – 14	Northeastern Indiana
Oct. 15 – 18	Northwestern Ohio
Nov. 10 – 16	Central Missouri

As this is our farewell tour, we will not have a presentation with singing and slides or a power point production as in our previous visits. As we write this prayerletter we are beginning to set up a series of open houses in locations around the country.

We deeply desire to have time to visit with you and express our gratitude to God for you and your support for our ministry over the past 12 years. More details will come in our next prayerletter. ✿

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Lutheran Bible Translators
Box 2050
Aurora, IL 60507-2050

Designate to the following:

Website: rcook.org
Email: rcook@botsnet.bw

CORRESPONDENCE:

Richard & Renee Cook
Private Bag 11
Thamaga, Botswana

Cook Ministry/Botswana

